

263 Squadron Casualties by Month

Information in this document is taken from the Operations Record Books AIR 27/1547 and AIR 27/1548. All cases mentioned of death or injury to pilots are categorised according to type and footnoted with details from the ORB.

Losses of aircraft not recorded as resulting in death or injury to the pilot (e.g. baled out, crashed but unhurt) are not included.

Details of death or injury to ground crew mentioned are listed separately under the casualty tables, as are pilots who are shot down but evaded capture.

1939

| Month | Killed | | | Wounded | | | Prisoner of War |
|-----------|-------------|--------|------------|-------------|----------------|------------|-----------------|
| | Operational | Non-Op | Non-Flying | Operational | Non-Op | Non-Flying | |
| September | | | | | | | |
| October | | | | | 1 ¹ | | |
| November | | | | | | | |
| December | | | | | | | |

¹ **21 Oct 39** – Sergeant Pilot WATSON-PARKER (741433) met with flying accident in Gladiator aircraft K. 6145, whilst flying in the very near vicinity of the Severn Bridge, Nr. Lydney, Glos. The aircraft wing-tip struck the surface of the water whilst carrying out a turn. Pilot swam ashore and admitted to Lydney Hospital with facial injuries and exhaustion. Aircraft exploded and sunk in 30ft. of water.

1940

| Month | Killed | | | Wounded | | | Prisoner of War |
|-----------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | Operational | Non-Op | Non-Flying | Operational | Non-Op | Non-Flying | |
| January | | | | | | 1 ² | |
| February | | | | | | | |
| March | | 2 ³ | | | | | |
| April | | 1 ⁴ | | | | | |
| May | 1 ⁵ | 1 ⁶ | | 3 ^{7 8 9} | 1 ¹⁰ | 1 ¹¹ | |
| June | 1 ¹² | | 10 ¹³ | | | | |
| July | | 3 ^{14 15 16} | | | | | |
| August | | | | | | | |
| September | | | | | | | |
| October | | | | | | | |
| November | | | | | | | |
| December | | 3 ^{17 18} | | | | | |

Ground casualties:-

17 May 40 – Warrant Officer James, Signals Section, who was in charge of convoy to Bardufoss died as a result of a wound received from the accidental discharge of revolver.

27 May 40 – During the raid on the aerodrome at Bardufoss at approximately 08.00 hrs. a direct hit was made on the disused concrete hanger on top of which 545,400 L.A.C. Jones, R.P. was stationed in charge of a machine gun post. He was blown some distance and sustained injuries from which he died almost instantaneously. In the same raid bombs were dropped near a Barrack Block in front of which 522,985 L.A.C. Hurley, S. was standing. He also was badly injured and died almost immediately.

² **31 Jan 40** – Pilot Officer S.R. McNamara received injury to his hand and was admitted to R.A.F. Hospital, Locking where he was successfully operated on. This injury was sustained whilst the Officer was off duty and cause has not yet been investigated.

³ **29 Mar 40** – The Squadron's sympathies are extended to the relatives of Pilot Officer D.E.D. Milson and Pilot Officer P.J.M. Nettleton whose aircraft collided in the air at mid-day and resulted in both pilots being killed outright.

⁴ **07 Apr 40** – 566,236 Sergeant K.P. Vickery missing presumed killed whilst engaged in formation flying in the neighbourhood of Portishead. The weather conditions had deteriorated during the course of the exercise and Sergeant Vickery losing touch with his colleagues and failing to return, it was presumed that he had crashed into the sea. The presumption appears to have been correct as some days later portions of the fuselage were washed up on one of which was the number of the machine which he had been flying.

⁵ **22 May 40** – Pilot Officer Craig-Adams failed to return and subsequently his body was found in his crashed aircraft a few yards from a crashed He.111 in the mountains East of Salanger.

⁶ **21 May 40** – No. 263 Squadron flew off "Glorious". F/Lt Mills and Pilot Officer Richards crashed in the mountains North of Sorreisa en route as a result of leading Swordfish losing its way. Pilot Officer Richards was killed and Flight Lieut. Mills rendered ineffective.

⁷ **26 May 40** – Riley made a beam attack at No. 2 of the formation, followed by two quarter attacks during which he sustained wounds in the neck and chest.

⁸ **27 May 40** – Shortly afterwards Hull was hit in the knee and head by the rear gunner of another Ju.87 which pulled up sharply in front of him... This officer was taken to Bodo hospital and later to Harstadt after a severe bombing attack on the hospital. He was awarded a D.F.C. for his actions.

⁹ **27 May 40** – Lieut. Lydekker received the concentrated attention of the majority of the remaining hostile aircraft... He received bullet wounds in the neck and shoulder and his aircraft was a complete write-off.

¹⁰ **21 May 40** – No. 263 Squadron flew off "Glorious". F/Lt Mills and Pilot Officer Richards crashed in the mountains North of Sorreisa en route as a result of leading Swordfish losing its way. Pilot Officer Richards was killed and Flight Lieut. Mills rendered ineffective.

¹¹ **14 May 40** – P/O Wyatt-Smith of Air Party to Base Hospital for removal of shrapnel from his leg (wound received in bombing raid whilst aboard M.V. "Delius" returning from the first expedition to Norway).

¹² **02 Jun 40** – On breaking off this engagement Jacobsen found that P/O Wilkie had disappeared and it is now considered that this pilot was shot down during his initial astern attack. (Buried in Narvik New Cemetery)

¹³ **08 Jun 40** – HMS "Glorious" met with disaster when on the 8th June that ship was intercepted by German battleships of the Hipper class and together with its escort of two destroyers was sunk. Hopes were held out that survivors might have been picked up but nothing has since been heard that any of the Squadron's Officers are alive. The Officers and Sgt. Pilots were:- S/Ldr J.W. Donaldson, D.S.O. A.F/Lt. A. Williams, D.F.C. F/O H.E. Vickery, P/O J. Falkson, P/O L.R. Jacobsen, D.F.C.. P/O F.H. Ede, D.F.C. P/O P.H. Purdy, D.F.C. P/O McNamara, D.F.C. P/O M.A. Bentley, Sgt. Russell, D.F.M

¹⁴ **13 Jul 40** – Sergeant Pilot Watson-Parker was killed as a result of a flying accident at Tatfield, Biggin Hill.

¹⁵ **20 Jul 40** – P/O Downer crashed in attempting to make a forced landing. He was extricated from the machine alive and was taken to Military Hospital, Edinburgh, but unhappily he died of his injuries at 0200 hours on 21/7/40.

¹⁶ **24 Jul 40** – P/O Bell was killed as a result of a flying accident while on a course on Blenheims at No. 5 O.T.U.

¹⁷ **12 Dec 40** – F/O Britton was killed this afternoon. He and his section were carrying out firing practice in or near Sand Bay. Apparently the section carried out one attack and all pulled out safely, although one of them, in the words of the Master of a ship who witnessed the affair, "seemed to go through his own spray". F/O Britton then dived to do a second attack: he did not fire his guns and his aircraft was seen to dive straight into the sea. Neither the aircraft nor the body of the Pilot was recovered.

¹⁸ **29 Dec 40** – At 1205 F/Lt. Smith took off with P/O Vine and P/O Kitchener to proceed to St. Eval. Visibility was bad, 10/10 cloud at 200 feet in places. Apparently the section got lost and came down to 300 feet in the vicinity of Bovey Tracey, as P/O Kitchener thinks. He reports suddenly seeing the ground immediately beneath him. He pulled up very quickly and thinks he saw a dull red flash on his right. F/Lt. Smith and P/O Vine had not been heard of since. Sgt. Kitchener returned to Exeter.

1941

| Month | Killed | | | Wounded | | | Prisoner of War |
|-----------|--------------------|--------------------|------------|--------------------|--------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | Operational | Non-Op | Non-Flying | Operational | Non-Op | Non-Flying | |
| January | | 1 ¹⁹ | | | | | |
| February | 1 ²⁰ | | | | | | |
| March | | | | 2 ^{21 22} | | | |
| April | 1 ²³ | 2 ^{24 25} | | | | | |
| May | | | | | | | |
| June | | 2 ^{26 27} | | | | | |
| July | | | | | | | |
| August | | | | | | | |
| September | 2 ^{28 29} | | | 1 ³⁰ | | | 1 ³¹ |
| October | 1 ³² | 1 ³³ | | | | | |
| November | 1 ³⁴ | | | | | 1 ³⁵ | |
| December | | 1 ³⁶ | | | | | |

Ground casualties:-

06 Nov 41 – The Squadron Adjutant F/Lt. Fleet injured his leg in falling from a bus.

¹⁹ **09 Jan 41** – Sgt Morton was killed this afternoon. He was returning in the Blenheim from WARMWELL and passed straight over the aerodrome but appeared not to see it. One engine was “cutting” and the plane crashed a few miles from the aerodrome. Sgt Morton baled out at 100’ and was killed.

²⁰ **08 Feb 41** – P/O Graham did not return from the patrol. A coastguard reported that 2 A/C had crashed into the sea at 0950 three miles off the shore in flames.

²¹ **11 Mar 41** – In the evening P/O Kitchener had a combat with a JU.88 off the Lizard. He damaged the enemy, but was hit in both engines by return fire from the rear gunner. He managed to return to Predannack, but crashed on landing, sustaining serious injuries.

²² **14 Mar 41** – Two Convoy patrols were also carried out. Returning from the latter of these in bad weather P/O Thornton-Brown crashed at Portreath sustaining serious injuries.

²³ **01 Apr 41** – F/Lt Crooks crashed in flames near Helston and was killed. The reason for this crash is not known, but it is assumed that he was shot down by the Dornier.

²⁴ **20 Apr 41** – Flying Officer Howe was killed this afternoon as a result of an accident at Wittering aerodrome.

²⁵ **30 Apr 41** – Pilot Officer Milligan was killed as the result of an accident at Aldermaston.

²⁶ **11 Jun 41** – Sgt/Pilot Pascoe was killed this morning. One engine failed and instead of bringing the machine back on one engine he tried to make a “crash landing” and unhappily killed himself in the attempt.

²⁷ **12 Jun 41** – P/O. Ferdinand was killed this evening. He was coming into land, and appeared to be making rather steep turns when his aircraft stalled and crashed, bursting into flames.

²⁸ **10 Sep 41** – He saw P/O Mason dive straight into the ground. The aircraft did not catch fire: the tail section came off, and the machine turned on its back ending in a foot of water and sand.

²⁹ **29 Sep 41** – Sgt. Hunter called up Elver at 1957. He said he was five miles from the coast and that he was going to bale out as his engines were failing. One minute later he said he would not bale out till he was over the coast, immediately afterwards that he was baling out over the coast. A message passed through Exeter Observer Corps said that a pilot had been seen baling out five miles S.W. of Eddystone Lighthouse at 2005. Air Sea Rescue search was maintained for 48 hours and Home Guards searched Dartmoor, but no trace of Sgt. Hunter has been found.

³⁰ **28 Sep 41** – W/Cdr. Donaldson attacked the same ME. Then his Whirlwind was hit in three places by flak. The coupe was shattered and the pilot’s helmet wrenched off, he was slightly wounded in both arms. However he managed to retain control and he landed at Predannack where he was detailed in sick quarters with slight concussion.

³¹ **04 Sep 41** – Two 109s were seen to attack Sgt. Buckwell just leaving the harbour. It is thought that he did not see them. His starboard engine was set on fire and he was seen to bale out of his machine crashing into the sea 5 miles off Cherbourg... A launch was seen putting out from Cherbourg Harbour, and it is almost certain that Sgt. Buckwell was picked up.

³² **30 Oct 41** – P/O “Davey” Stein was missing after the Rhubarb operation of October 30th; Sergt. Ridley, his No.2. saw him climbing away from Morlaix aerodrome with one engine on fire: thus there is a good hope that P/O. Stein is now a prisoner of war.

³³ **09 Oct 41** – P/O O.J.M. Hoskins killed in flying accident collision with F/Lt. Coghlan.

³⁴ **06 Nov 41** – Sgt. J. J. Robinson, who had been detailed to his first war flight with Sgt. (now Pilot Officer) Blackshaw acting as Section leader for the first time, was missing after the operation in circumstances which, as related on another page, offer very little hope for his survival.

³⁵ **06 Nov 41** – Sergeant Albertini was shot through the eye by a stray pellet discharged during clay-pigeon shooting, and it is feared that he will lose the sight of his right eye and in any case the services of an able and aggressive pilot are lost to the squadron for several months

³⁶ **14 Dec 41** – It is with deep regret that we record the death of Sgt. Pilot D.E.Prior on Dec. 14th. He was engaged on a Searchlight Co-operation flight, flying at 8-10,000 feet. At about 1030 hours he was seen to crash near Coleford in Gloucestershire after a vertical dive; he was killed instantly. It cannot be known whether he lost control in cloud or whether he was the victim of ice-formation.

1942

| Month | Killed | | | Wounded | | | Prisoner of War |
|-----------|--------------------|-----------------|------------|-------------|--------|------------|-----------------|
| | Operational | Non-Op | Non-Flying | Operational | Non-Op | Non-Flying | |
| January | | | | | | | |
| February | | | | | | | |
| March | | | | | | | |
| April | | | | | | | |
| May | | | | | | | |
| June | | | | | | | |
| July | 2 ^{37 38} | | | | | | |
| August | | | | | | | |
| September | | 1 ³⁹ | | | | | |
| October | | | | | | | |
| November | 1 ⁴⁰ | | | | | | |
| December | 2 ⁴¹ | | | | | | |

³⁷ **23 Jul 42** – Blue 2 was last seen with four other aircraft near the French coast. (Blue 2 Pilot Officer Currie, is missing and believed to be killed in action).

³⁸ **23 Jul 42** – Yellow 1, Pilot Officer J. Walker, did not Rhubarb return and is presumed killed in action.

³⁹ **21 Sep 42** – Sergeant Pilot P.A. Jardine crashed fatally from cloud during the afternoon. After about forty minutes of Sector Recco, P/O. King, who was leading Sgt. Jardine, turned to avoid a rain cloud and thereafter saw and heard nothing more of him. He was seen by the occupants of an army lorry to dive out of cloud between Wool and Wareham.

⁴⁰ **07 Nov 42** – P/O Gill's bombs were seen to explode on or near the track by Sgt Abrams who then lost all contact with P/O Gill. This was the last that was seen of P/O Gill. He is missing in circumstances in which, at present, only guesswork can provide any clue.

⁴¹ **07 Dec 42** – Squadron Leader Woodward's aircraft was hit by flak and was seen to make what looked like a prepared ditching about 400 yards from the ships...Warrant Officer McPhail was seen to fly through a heavy flak burst (Probably from Jersey) while making his run-up. His aircraft disappeared straight into the sea. He is therefore missing, presumed killed in action.

1943

| Month | Killed | | | Wounded | | | Prisoner of War |
|-----------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | Operational | Non-Op | Non-Flying | Operational | Non-Op | Non-Flying | |
| January | | | | | | | |
| February | 1 ⁴² | 1 ⁴³ | | | | | |
| March | | | | | | | |
| April | 5 ^{44 45 46} | | | | | | |
| May | 1 ⁴⁷ | | | | | 1 ⁴⁸ | |
| June | 1 ⁴⁹ | | | | | | |
| July | | | | | 1 ⁵⁰ | | |
| August | | | | | | | |
| September | | | | | | | |
| October | 2 ^{51 52} | | | | | | 1 ⁵³ |
| November | | | | | 1 ⁵⁴ | | |
| December | | 2 ^{55 56} | | | | | |

Other:-

23 Sep 43 – “Unfortunately F/SGT G.A. WOOD was shot down by flak during the dive and was believed to have been killed instantly” – **EVADED**

19 Nov 43 – F/O HOLMAN took the M.O. F/O GREEN and CPL HAMER in the Oxford to Biggin Hill...see note 54 (Below)

⁴² **02 Feb 43** – Sgt. D. Williams hit by flak from train and ditched 4 miles off Cap de Carteret. Last seen organising dinghy. Subsequent attempted rescue by Walrus navigated by F/O Harvey had to be abandoned owing to roughness of the sea.

⁴³ **19 Feb 43** – Army transports attacked North of Wroughton aerodrome on Wroughton-Swindon Road. F/Sgt F. Hicks hit a tree and crashed in target area in a field. He was killed instantly.

⁴⁴ **14 Apr 43** – Sgt MACAULAY alone attacked a small fourth ship. Nothing definite was seen of him after his attack, but the C.O. of 65 Squadron heard him say “I am going down now, I am going to land”, so that we hope he may have force-landed safely in the BREST peninsula.

⁴⁵ **16 Apr 43** – Flying Officer EDGAR BREARLEY did not return. Nothing was seen or heard of him after he left WARMWELL. A Vichy radio report of April 19th, suggests that his “Canadian aircraft” (he carried Maple leaves crest) may have crashed at ST. LO. The report states that the pilot was killed.

46 17 Apr 43 – Flying Officer Philip HARVEY, Flying Officer Percy King, D.F.M, and Flying Officer Basil Courtney ABRAMS did not return. “Ordered to recco the HOULGATE – ST MARCOUF area, nothing was heard of him after he left WARMWELL. It is surmised that he may have found and attacked an armed trawler off OUISTREHAM.” (Abrams). “Ordered to look for trains between BAYEUX and CAEN nothing was heard of him after he left WARMWELL” (Harvey). “Ordered to look for trains ISIGNY – ST LO, it is likely that he was shot down by the Airl flak at 2348, see below.” (King)

⁴⁷ **15 May 43** – F/Lt Blackshaw D.F.C. who set out later to attack this convoy returned to crash fatally in mysterious circumstances, near Exeter. He had orbited Exeter, Harrowbeer then Exeter again, without lights and without R/T, and finally seems to have left his A/C a few seconds before it crashed...it is most probable that F/Lt Blackshaw, who had somewhere dropped his bombs, had been concussed by flak from the convoy.

⁴⁸ **26 May 43** – Sgt Simpson was dangerously wounded by a revolver bullet discharged accidentally by Sgt Thould. F/Sgt Simpson was taken to Bovington hospital where he underwent a complex and successful operation.

⁴⁹ **15 Jun 43** – P/O M.T. Cotton DFC bomb splashes were, seen, as usual, amidships. His a/c then received a direct hit, probably from a 40mm shell from a Geleitboote, and there was an explosion in the cockpit. The a/c disintegrated when it hit the sea, and it is not thought possible that P/O M.T. Cotton DFC could have survived.

⁵⁰ **13 Jul 43** – At 2010 hours SGT L.J. KNOTT in coming in to land on the N.E. – S.W. runway stalled from about eighty feet and crashed in the field North of the Watch Office. His aircraft disintegrated completely and caught fire over a wide area, but as had happened before the cockpit remained in one piece and was not telescoped. SGT L.J. KNOT was rather badly burned but now (at the end of the month) is well on the road to complete recovery.

⁵¹ **08 Oct 43** – It seems that P/O SIMPSON who was, next to S/Ldr BAKER, the squadron's most experienced pilot, had engine failure not due to enemy action and that his other engine failed during his run in at Tangmere. He crashed into an anti-landing post a hundred yards from the runway and was killed instantly.

⁵² **24 Oct 43** – F/O MERCER's a/c was hit over the target and it may have been for this reason that he was flying considerably above the formation when they recrossed the coast 3 miles S. of St Vaast. Here his a/c received a direct hit from a coastal flak battery and dived into the sea, disintegrating on impact. It is not thought that he could have survived.

⁵³ **24 Oct 43** – F/SGT GRAY's starboard engine was smoking and he glided down to port from 150 feet, about three miles E.S.E. of CHERBOURG just in the manner of a controlled forced-landing. The country here is fairly open and it is hoped that he may still be alive.

⁵⁴ **19 Nov 43** – F/O HOLMAN took the M.O. F/O GREEN and CPL HAMER in the Oxford to Biggin Hill. The aircraft swung violently at touch down in a cross-wind and F/O HOLMAN attempted to take off again. Unfortunately the propeller of a Typhoon impacted the port flap and tore it off. The Oxford then flew into the top of a building and crashed outside the M.I. Room, and burnt. The three occupants were removed immediately, unburnt but severely injured.

⁵⁵ **24 Dec 43** – Unfortunately F/O Funnell, while dogfighting at 12,000 feet went into a spiral dive, then into a spin and crashed fatally. He baled out at about 100 feet and was killed instantly Smoke and flame came from the engine in the air, but it was not known what was the cause of them, or of the crash.

⁵⁶ **26 Dec 43** – Then F/SGT Handley led F/O Mogg who was following at about 400 yards, into conditions of low cloud and high ground. F/SGT Handley pulled up onto cloud and received vectors back to base. Nothing more was seen or heard of F/O Mogg until midday of the following day, when his body was found still in the cockpit of the crashed a/c near Melbray-Abbas south of Shaftesbury.

1944

| Month | Killed | | | Wounded | | | Prisoner of War |
|-----------|--------------------------|-----------------|------------|-------------|--------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | Operational | Non-Op | Non-Flying | Operational | Non-Op | Non-Flying | |
| January | | | | | | | |
| February | 5 ^{57 58 59} | | | | | | |
| March | | 1 ⁶⁰ | | | | | |
| April | | | | | | | |
| May | 1 ⁶¹ | 1 ⁶² | | | | | |
| June | 5 ^{63 64 65 66} | 1 ⁶⁷ | | | | | |
| July | 1 ⁶⁸ | | | | | | |
| August | 3 ^{69 70} | | | | | 3 ⁷¹ | 1 ⁷² |
| September | 1 ⁷³ | | | | | | |
| October | 3 ^{74 75} | | | | | | 1 ⁷⁶ |
| November | | | | | | | 1 ⁷⁷ |
| December | 2 ^{78 79} | | | | | | |

⁵⁷ **05 Feb 44** – F/O Blacklock was to recco the Alderney – Barfleur area. He reported enemy shipping off Cap de la Hague at 2124 and it was evident from his message “Apples are red” that he was going into attack. Nothing more was heard of him other than an uncertain R/T message at 2125 “I am going into”

⁵⁸ **13 Feb 44** – But at Etampes/Mondeair it was intense and too accurate. F/SGT Williams was seen to go in from zero feet and is believed to have been killed.

⁵⁹ **22 Feb 44** – S/Ldr Warnes abandoned the primary task and began a ship recco to the Eastward. When at zero feet some ten miles W of Guernsey he said he was going to ditch and was seen to do so....F/O R. B. Tuff said he thought the C.O was hurt and was going to bale out. F/Lt Racine told him not to, but it seems certain that he did bale out...Nothing whatsoever is known of what happened to F/O Hunter.

⁶⁰ **12 Mar 44** – At 15.05 hours P/O Smith, R.A.A.F in beating up the aerodrome at Warmwell, attempting a slow upward roll at low height. His engine cut while he was inverted and he was unable to right his A/C before he crashed fatally, in the field S.W of Knighton Wood.

⁶¹ **21 May 44** – F/Lt Bell who has been supernumerary with the Squadron for three months is missing in not very hopeful circumstances.

⁶² **28 May 44** – Morning air to air firing, practise bombing. At 1155 while taking off for this, F/SGT Pringle hit the top of Yelverton Church, and crashed fatally.

⁶³ **07 Jun 44** – We were much hope to see F/O Joe Parent again – but the Huns shooting at him in his parachute will not be forgotten.

⁶⁴ **09 Jun 44** – F/O Bill Heaton is missing in circumstances which offer nothing but guess work.

⁶⁵ **14 Jun 44** – S/L Gonay got direct hits on a T.T.A. off Corbieu Point. His a/c was then hit by flak and made an apparently controlled forced landing on Jersey.

⁶⁶ **24 Jun 44** – Flak was intense and accurate. W/O “Buck” Ryan R.C.A.F. and F/Sgt “Charlie” Charlton are missing (from the first and second attacks) in not at all hopeful circumstances.

⁶⁷ **15 Jun 44** – At 12.20 hours F/O Windeler, R.C.A.F. who had only been with the squadron for six days crashed fatally near Launceston. It is believed that he had engine trouble and attempted a forced landing.

⁶⁸ **07 Jul 44** – F/O Hogson's R/P were thought to have hit the ship (Cat. A). He did not fully recover from his dive and his aircraft then hit the sea in what might have been an attempt at a ditching. It bounced four times and disappeared. F/O Purkis orbited but found only an oil patch.

⁶⁹ **24 Aug 44** – F/Lt H.M. Proctor was hit by flak and went “straight in” on the far bank of the river.

⁷⁰ **25 Aug 44** – P/O S.D. Thyagarajan was hit by flak on one of these operations and announced over the R/T that he was going to force land in a nearby large field. Unfortunately he overshot, crashed into a wood and burst into flames almost immediately leaving very little chance of his getting out alive... F/O Campbell was hit by flak at a height of 7,000 ft. and was followed by his No.1 down to 4,000ft. and was seen to start a steep dive but from then on his No.1 lost sight of him so it can only be hoped that F/O Campbell managed to bale out in time.

⁷¹ **23 Aug 44** – S/Ldr Rutter with F/Lt Hewett and F/L Proctor paid a visit by road to the battle area and in the vicinity of Cabourg ran over a land mine with a result that F/Lt Hewett received multiple injuries and was taken to a Military Hospital. He sustained a fractured leg as well as other very bad wounds. S/Ldr Rutter and F/Lt Proctor sustained slight cuts and abrasions.

⁷² **16 Aug 44** – “F/Lt J.B. Purkis was reported missing. There is a very good chance that he will return as the last heard of him was when he called over the R/T that he had been hit and was returning home. It is felt that he probably baled out and it is hoped that he made friendly territory before doing so.” **FREED BY ADVANCING TROOPS.**

⁷³ **10 Sep 44** – A medium sized motor vessel was sighted in a channel between two islands and was duly attacked. F/O Le Gear was seen to attack and break away but did not rejoin the formation.

⁷⁴ **13 Oct 44** – Johnny Thould. He was flying No. 2 to S/Ldr Rutter the C.O. and was hit by flak whilst in the dive. His aircraft burst into flames and spiralled straight in.

⁷⁵ **14 Oct 44** – On re-forming pulling out of the dive F/Lt D.F. Evans and F/O A. Barr collided in mid air, and were last seen spinning down.

⁷⁶ **24 Oct 44** – F/Lt A.L.S. Hallett is reported missing from this operation. He baled out after stating that his engine was cutting. Germans believed to be shoot at him on way down.

⁷⁷ **18 Nov 44** – F/Lt J. Arkle was hit by flak and forced landed at K5868 or 6888. **CAPTURED AND EXECUTED.**

⁷⁸ **24 Dec 44** – F/Lt L. Unwin who has been with the Squadron since 18.9.43 was hit by flak after this attack and blew up. It is fairly definite that he was killed.

⁷⁹ **26 Dec 44** – F/Lt D.J. Turner's aircraft exploded at about 500 feet and he must have been killed instantly.

Other

13 Feb 44 – “P/O Watkins a/c streamed glycol and he baled out a few minutes later. His parachute opened fully at 1500 feet.” – **EVADED**

31 Mar 44 – “A last light Rodeo of the Ile de Groix found no enemy aircraft. Unfortunately it seems that F/Lt Racine, R.C.A.F was hit by Lorient flak. He is missing. Jerry Racine came to the squadron in October 1943 and took command of B Flight in February, 1944. We very much hope to hear that he is safe.” – **EVADED**

07 Nov 44 - F/O Davies was hit by flak while straffing and crash landed. He called over the R/T and said he was alright. – **EVADED**

1945

| Month | Killed | | | Wounded | | | Prisoner of War |
|----------|-----------------|--------|------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|
| | Operational | Non-Op | Non-Flying | Operational | Non-Op | Non-Flying | |
| January | | | | | | | |
| February | 1 ⁸⁰ | | | | | | |
| March | | | | | | | 1 ⁸¹ |
| April | 1 ⁸² | | | 1 ⁸³ | 1 ⁸⁴ | | 1 ⁸⁵ |
| May | | | | | | | |

Other

⁸⁰ **13 Feb 45** – W/O Points was hit by flak, and although he called up on the R/T to say he was baling out. He was not seen to leave the aircraft and later his body was found quite close to the remains of his aircraft.

⁸¹ **19 Mar 45** – W/O Richardson was hit by flak and baled out, but has not returned to the unit. (22 Apr 45) He was rather badly burned and the Germans had placed him in Zwolle hospital which was later overrun by our troops

⁸² **17 Apr 45** – F/Lt. Woodward's aircraft was seen to crash into the sea approx half a mile from the harbour, believed hit by flak and is reported missing.

⁸³ **17 Apr 45** – Another operation had been laid on and at 19.55 hours the first aircraft was taking off when the port tyre burst causing the aircraft to swing to the left and roll over on to its back. The pilot, F/O C.J. Devey, was rescued from the wreck suffering with lacerations of the scalp and arms.

⁸⁴ **18 Apr 45** – F/O W.H. Ramsey was admitted to Sick Quarters as a result of injuries sustained in a motor accident which occurred when he was proceeding to the 25th British Hospital to visit F/O Devey.

⁸⁵ **26 Apr 45** – During the attack P/O D.E. Morgan was apparently hit by flak and was seen to pull up smoking and he called over the R/T to say he was going to force land. W/O H. Barrie followed him down to 200' and he appeared to make a good landing.