
PART 7

ADDENDUM

Page 11 Aunt Tabitha was Grandma Jones' sister.

Page 87 (last paragraph)

There is some doubt about W/Cdr. Langlois' role in the Great Escape from Stalag Luft 111. I have yet to see his name appear in any account of this event.

Ken Blackham - my operational navigator - died in December 1981.

Page 5

My cousin Peter, who shared our home in Newent for many years, died aged 70 in December 1995.

Page 47

To the best of my knowledge the radio aid Oboe was only to be found in Pathfinder aircraft. Radio beams were set to intercept over the target and target indicators and bombs were released at this intersection.

Page 22

Ralph Jennings and Maurice Widows were schoolmates who joined the Royal Air Force about the same time as myself. Both were killed in action.

Page 57

Pat missed out on seven operations with me and was killed on his 22nd. operation.

Peto missed out on five operations with me and was killed on his 26th. operation.

Ken missed one operation with me and completed his tour with another pilot.

Steve, Ron and Jock all completed their tours with me.

Page 42

I took two pilots with me on different operations towards the end of my tour to enable them to gain operational experience.

Sgt. Tudor-Jones (later Pilot Officer)

who survived his tour of operations.

F/Sgt. White who was killed over Germany and is buried in a Hanover cemetery.

F/Sgt. Kirton took me on my first '2nd. Dickie'. It was his 14th. trip. He was killed on his 17th. trip with four members of his crew. The other two became prisoners of war.

F/Lt. Munro who took me on my 2nd. '2nd. Dickie' completed two tours of operations.

(contd)

- Page 67: Hodgkinson was killed with all his crew. Brunt was killed with 5 members of his crew and one became a prisoner of war. Cottingham was listed missing with no known grave and this applied to all his crew. Petty and four of his crew became prisoners of war and two were killed.
- Page 27: The liner Queen Mary collided with, and sank the cruiser Curacoa on 2nd. October 1942. I sailed to Canada in April 1942 and returned in October 1942. Therefore it was on my return to the United Kingdom I witnessed the damage to the Queen Mary and not at the start of my journey to Canada.
- Page 39: Mid-upper Jock Brown did not join the crew at the Lancaster finishing school at Winthorpe, he joined us at Operational Training Unit at Bruntingthorpe. I might be forgiven for this mistake because there was no mid-upper turret on a Wellington therefore when we were airborne Jock must have sat in the vacant front turret. The front turret in the Lancaster was operated by the bomb-aimer in conjunction with his other duties.

DETAILS OF ALL OPERATIONS CARRIED OUT
BY MY CREW IN THE AUTUMN AND WINTER OF
1943/1944. INCLUDING PILOT'S DEBRIEFING
REPORTS.

Letter written by the 49 Squadron
historian to John Whiteley son
of my rear gunner (who was killed
in action). John never saw his
father.

31, Fairlawn,
Hall Place Drive,
Weybridge. Surrey.
KT13 OAY

22nd December, 97.
TEL: 01932 852180

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter of 10th December. I thought that Eric had the full details of his crew on each op, but if he only has his log book, he would not have the names of each man in the crew, so I shall set them out below.

Regarding the crash site, Munster area or Baumholder, I cannot say one way or the other, but the book "Bomber Command Losses 1944" by W. R. Chorley should be out next year. I shall wait and see what he says, as in his books, 1939 to 1943, he lists every aircraft.

I note that you say Eric considered it unlucky to keep a diary, I have not heard of that, but it was considered unlucky to have a crew photograph taken before completion of a tour. However, there is a photograph of Eric and crew, including your father, standing at the rear of their aircraft "K" King. It is in the 49 Squadron Book which has just been published and may be obtained from Tom Gatfield. It is rather dear at £18.50 to Association members, but that includes postage etc: it is, I believe, over 500 pages and gives a fair account of the Squadron 1939 - 1965. My only comment is that the opening is mostly historical, but from then on becomes more anecdotal.

Now for the record:-

13.8.43. Posting in:- (Three crews including your father's)

1432252 F/Sgt Jones E Pilot.

1583574 Sgt Harris R F/E. 1382934 Sgt Blackham H Nav:

989685 Sgt Peacock C W/AG. 1371942 Sgt Brown A/G.

1385195 Sgt Stevenson S B/A. 1004530 Sgt Whiteley H.

In the following ops, they will be referred to as "Original crew" with any replacements named.

OPERATIONS.

Prior to Nuremburg I went on
two 2nd. Dickies (without the
crew). One to Leverkusen in
Ruhr and one to Berlin. (7.25

27/28.8.43 Numberg.

JA 690 "G" Original crew. 2103-0441. Numberg 0052, 20,000 ft, no cloud, good vis: Green T. Is in sights at time of release. Window - 120 bundles. Monica & Mandrel used. Fires well concentrated, town well alight. No enemy a/c seen. Flak very light but s/lights numerous.

30/31.8.43 Münster.

JA 894 "C" Original crew but F/Lt Chandler E. B replaces Whiteley. 2357-0456. Rheydt 0238, 18,000 ft. No red and green T. Is at zero hour. Nowhere near target at ETA so bombed large concentration of fires at Rheydt. Flak light in this area but appeared heavier at Cladbach. No fighters seen nearby.

(These are abbreviations of reports I gave to the de-briefing)
Officer on landing from each operation.

22/23.9.43 Hanover.

LM 306 "F" Original crew but Sgt Little replaces Whiteley. 1905-0040. Hanover 2145, 21,500 ft, vis very good. Bombed centre of 4 greens. Markers seen to cascade. Window - 96 bundles dropped. Monica used. I. Bs jettisoned to keep up speed with concentration of a/c. Raid apparently successful.

23/24.9.43 Mannheim.

W 5010 "K" Original crew but Sgt Carr replaces Whiteley. 1834-0158. Mannheim 2200, 18,000 ft, no cloud, slight haze. Identified visually by shape of rivers and docks also by route markers. Bombing appeared well concentrated around markers. Numerous s/lights S. E of target area. Plenty of fighters in the area.

27/28.9.43 Hanover.

W 5010 "K" Original crew. 1925-0105. Hanover 2220, 19,000 ft, no cloud, slight haze. Bombed estimated centre of 6 green T. Is. Window - 144 bundles dropped. A well concentrated attack. S/lights met with considerable success when co-operating with fighters.

1/2.10.43 Hagan.

DV 166 "H" Original crew. 1820-0001. Hagan 2109, 18,000 ft, 10/10ths cloud at 15,000 ft. Centre of glow of 3 greens in cloud. Monica reacted to window - 96 bundles dropped. Very little flak, no fighters.

3/4.10.43. Kassel.

W 5010 "K" Original crew. 1819-0107. Kassel 2119. No cloud, ground haze. Centre of cluster of greens in sights. Marker seen to cascade. Concentrated bombing. Factories could be seen in light of fires. Large explosion at 2126. Flak moderate. S/lights of little value over target - seemed to be faltering around the sky. Monica used. Window - 120 bundles dropped.

8/9.10.43 Hanover.

JB 305 "E" Original crew. 2249 - 0413. Hanover 0144, 20,000 ft, no cloud, good vis. Marker seen to cascade. Bombing well concentrated around T. Is. Large explosion seen on bombing run. Monica used. Window - 108 bundles dropped. Flak bursting up to 25,000 ft on way in.

18/19.10.43 Hanover.

DV 166 "F" Original crew but F/Sgt Anderson replaced Blackham. 1730 - 2253. Hanover 2023, 20,000 ft. Bombs seen to burst in concentration of green T. Is. Large explosion seen on way in to target. Attack seemed well concentrated as far as cloud would permit. Window - 96 bundles dropped. Monica used.

20/21.10.43 Leipzig.

JB 421 "K" Original crew. 1718-2028. Unsuccessful sortie. Bombs jettisoned safe at 1911 hours at position 53 10N 04 52E. Fuel pump failure in port centre tank.

Note:- The original "K" - W 5010, probably went in for a major service after which it was sent to 9 Squadron, and was missing on 19th February, 1944.

22/23.10.43 Kassel.

JB 421 "K". Original crew. 1808-0001. Kassel 2114, 21,500 ft, no cloud, good vis, very dark. Numerous fires seen, centre of them in sights. Break in clouds just over target. No fighters seen. Window - 120 bundles dropped. Monica u/s. A well concentrated attack with numerous fires seen in target area.

18/19.11.43 Berlin. (8.45 hrs.)

JB 421 "K". Original crew with Pilot Jones E, shown as W/O. 1716 - 0142. Berlin 2105, 21,500 ft, bombed glow of fires below cloud close to cluster of T. Is. PFF markers scattered over a wide area. T. Is did not start going down until 2104 hours. Flak moderate, bursting well above 20,000 ft.

I was promoted to Warrant Officer on 24/10/44

22/23.11.43 Berlin. (7.05 hrs)

"K". Original crew but with Sgt Nelson replacing Whiteley. 1635 - 2341. Berlin - 4th wave, 2029, 22,100 ft. 12 red flares within about 2 square miles at time of bombing followed by several greens. No fighters seen. A much better raid than before.

23/24.11.43 Berlin. (6.45 hrs)

JB 421 "K". Original crew. 1708 - 0001. Berlin 2013, 22,800 ft, 3rd wave, 9/10ths cloud vis above good. 10 very large fires covering an area of about 8 - 10 miles. Well concentrated attack if Wanganui flares were over the aiming point. Flak moderate.

26/27.11.43 Berlin. (7.20 hrs)

JB 421 "K". Original crew. 1724 - 0046. Berlin 2125, 3rd wave, 24,500 ft, no cloud, but ground mist. 2 green T. Is cascading. One large conflagration with numerous fires all round. PFF very good. Fighters seen to be up in strength. A very good show.

2/3.12.43 Berlin. (7.10 hrs)

JB 421 "K". Original crew but Sgt Reid replaces Peacock. 1624 - 2335. Berlin 2020 1st wave, 23,500 ft. 2 green T. Is seen to cascade. 1 Large concentration of fires seen through cloud layer. Attack appeared to be developing on south part of town.

3/4.12.43 Leipzig.

JB 421 "K". Crew as previous raid. 0013 - 0741. Leipzig 0406, 23,100 ft, 3rd wave. Cloud tops 6,000 ft. Vis above cloud good. Wanganui and green T. Is well concentrated. Many big fires going. Flak heavy on bombing run, s/lights negligible.

16/17.12.43 Berlin. (7.50 hrs)

JB 421 "K". Crew as two previous raids and with a Sgt Jones as 2nd pilot. 1617 - 0005. Berlin 2008, 21,000 ft, 10/10ths cloud to 5,000 ft. Centre of 5 green T. Is in sights. Starboard inner engine cutting from time to time. Flak of barrage type.

20/21.12.43 Frankfurt.

JB 421 "K". Original crew but Reid replacing Peacock. 1700 - 2303. Frankfurt 1944, 23,000 ft, 7/10ths cloud, 3rd wave. H.S confirmed green T. Is. Streets could be seen below T. Is. On leaving target area fires were merging into one big conflagration. PFF very late on target.

23/24.12.43 Berlin. (8.15 hrs)

JB 421 "K". Original crew but Sgt Hudson replaced Peacock and F/Sgt Wadia flew as 2nd bomb aimer. 2331 0744. Berlin 0405, 1st wave, 23,500 ft, Horizontal vis: very good. Saw one green T. I fall during run up. Fires spreading on leaving target. Seemed worthwhile raid.

5/6.1.44 Mining in Pomeranian Gulf.

JB 421 "K". Original crew, Hudson again replaced Peacock and Sgt Kennedy was in place of Whiteley. 0008 - 0909. Geranium 1 at 0352, 12,000 ft, Liepe Point on H₂S, then T & D run from there. Oxygen supply not sufficient and crew had great difficulty in keeping awake. No fighters encountered, flak and s/lights negligible.

I was awarded my
commission on 10.1.44
(Pilot Officer)

14/15.1.44 Brunswick.

JB 421 "K". Original crew, but Hudson replaced Peacock and F/Sgt White was 2nd pilot. 1625 - 2211. Brunswick 1916, 22,000 ft, 1st wave. Glow of 2 green T. Is in sights. Raid looked like developing into a successful effort. Fired at enemy a/c twice - once over target and on one south of Hanover which was seen to crash and is claimed as destroyed.

20/21.1.44 Berlin. (7.10 hrs)

JB 421 "K". Original crew. 1618 - 2331. Berlin 1940, 21,900 ft, 1st, 9/10ths cloud. Flares - red and green stars, seen on run in with red T. Is in the vicinity but these went out before bombing. Target therefore bombed on H₂S. Fires starting on leaving. Attack seemed very well concentrated.

27/28.1.44 Berlin. (8.35 hrs)

JB 421 "K". Original crew. 1727 - 0200. Berlin 2044, 21,300 ft, 1st wave. 10/10ths cloud at 14,000 ft. Bombed blind in estimated position. Glow of fires seen through cloud. Before bombs had been released, flares had disappeared. Route O. K. Flak and s/lights negligible.

28/29.1.44 Berlin. (7.50 hrs)

JB 421 "K". Original crew. 0016 - 0806. Berlin 0320, 22,000ft, Wanganui and green T. Is in sights. Load dropped in centre. 40 distinct fires seen and from 200 miles going away. Explosions seen at 0314, 0322 & 0345 all giving orange flashes. Best Berlin effort yet.

30/31.1.44 Berlin. (6.25 hrs) I was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross
on the 15.2.44.

JB 421 "K". Original crew. 1703 - 2332. Berlin 2020, 21,500 ft, 1st wave. Cloud very thick but raid very concentrated and well on markers. Orange glow seen through clouds. Load dropped in centre of three Wanganui flares. Accurate flak encountered near Rostock, presumably from flak ships. Good route.

24/25.2.44 Schweinfurt.

JB 421 "K". Original crew. 2021 - 0420. Schweinfurt 0104, 24,000 ft, (supporter) T. Is punctual and well bunched. Attack appeared to cover all town area and exceptionally well concentrated. S/lights and flak very active. Hardly any fighters along route.

That seems to complete the ops done by this crew, I hope that I have not missed any: I do not want to appear patronising but, in case you are not familiar with some of the terms or abbreviations used, here is a short explanation of some about which you may have trouble:-

Monica. A radar device on the rear turret to detect aircraft.

Mandrel. A jamming device operated by the wireless operator to jam the frequency used by the enemy for conversation between fighter and ground control.

- Window.** Strips of paper with a thin aluminium foil stuck on one side each of which caused a "blip" on the enemy radar screens. They were thrown out in bundles, each of which broke open and dispersed a large number of individual strips which completely "grassed over" the radar screens. There were two types, one for the ground detector devices and another for the screens on fighter aircraft.
- I. Bs.** Incendiary bombs.
- T. Is** Target indicators
- Geranium.** Code name for a particular part of the area where the mines should be planted.
- T & D.** Time and distance run from a particular point.
- 2nd pilot.** A freshman sent with an experienced pilot on an initiation trip. (2nd Dickey).
- Wanganui.** Code name for a system of marking when cloud covered the target area. PFF - pathfinders, from below cloud, located the target and laid "sky markers" which were coloured flares on parachutes, on the clouds. The trajectory of bombs falling through these markers led down to the target area below. Wanganui is the name of a town and river in New Zealand.
- Supporter.** It was the duty of each Squadron every month or so, to fly ahead of the bomber stream and fly around the target area to draw the flak so that PFF could mark the target with less interference.

I am sure that you will have noticed that, on 14/15.1.44, your father shot down an enemy fighter.

All that now remains is for me to wish you and your family well for 1998 and the years ahead.

Yours sincerely,

(L. J. Hay)

OPERATIONS CARRIED OUT BY LANCASTER K KING JB 421
WITH PILOTS OTHER THAN E. JONES.

Date.	Target	Pilot	
18/19th. 10.43	Hannover	K. Barnes.	
3/4th. 11.43	Dusseldorf	R. Brunt.	
10/11th. 11.43	Modane	F/O Bailey. (RCAF)	His 1st. Op.
29/30th. 12.43	Berlin	Tudor-Jones.	His 1st. Op.
1/2nd. 1.44	Berlin	R. Ewens.	
21/22nd. 1.44	Magdeburg	Tudor-Jones.	
15/16th. 2.44	Berlin.	J Lett.	
19/20th. 2.44	Leipzig	" "	
20/21st. 2.44	Stuttgart	" "	
25/26th. 2.44	Augsburg	T Jupp.	
1/2nd. 3.44	Stuttgart	C Roantree.	
15/16th. 3.44	Stuttgart	Tudor-Jones.	
22/23rd. 3.44	Frankfort	R Montgomery	
24/25th. 3.44	Berlin	" "	
26/27th. 3.44	Essen	J Simpson	
30/31st. 3.44	Nuremburg	" "	
18/19th. 4.44	Juvisy	W Appleyard (RAAF)	His 1st. Op.
3/4th. 5.44	Mailly-Le-Camp	W/Cdr. Crocker (New Commanding Officer)	
7/8th. 5.44	Salbris.	A Anderson	His 1st. Op.

K King was shot down on this operation with the loss of the whole crew on their first operation.

Lancaster K King had completed 36 operations when shot down.

<u>Pilots of K King</u> JB 421	<u>Their fate</u>	<u>Ops flown in K King</u> JB 421.
K. Barnes	Killed 27/28.1.44	1
E. Jones	Tour completed	17 & 1 abort.
R Brunt	Killed 26/27.11.43	1
G. Bailey	Killed 22/23.11.43	1
Tudor-Jones	Tour completed	3
R Ewens	Tour completed	1
J Lett	Tour completed	3
T Jupp	Tour completed	1
C Roantree	Tour completed	1
R Montgomery	Killed 26/27.4.44	2
J Simpson	Tour completed	2
W Appleyard	Killed 18/19.7.44	1
M Crocker	Killed 21/22.6.44	1
(Commanding Officer)		
A Anderson	Killed 7/8.5.44	1
(he went down with K King)		<u>36</u>

JB 421 flew to Berlin 16 times.

The next K King NE125 went down on its 2nd. operation
22/23.5.44

The following K King JB714 lasted until 9/10.6.44 going
down on its 5th. operation.

Possibly the last squadron K King ND 683 failed to return
on 21/22.6.44.