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## Careful Check Made When Plane Reported Downed

### British Air Ministry Leans To Understatement When Claiming Successes.

By J. F. Sanderson  
Canadian Press Staff Writer

LONDON, Aug. 14.—(CP Cable) — When the Air Ministry announces that the Royal Air Force has destroyed 78 German machines and lost 13 itself, or some other figures which may seem disproportionate, I for one am prepared to believe them, because I know checks and double checks are made before the figures are released.

If the Air Ministry errs at all it is on the side of understatement, because it insists that all enemy losses must be authenticated or they don't count in the official records. If a German plane has been damaged so seriously that its return to a home base is almost impossible, it will never find its way into the air ministry bulletin.

It has to crash or break up in the air before the R.A.F. will recognize it as a machine shot down.

In the early days of the war the R.A.F. had a rule an enemy plane would be listed as destroyed only if two pilots saw it crash. In the type of dog fight now going on over Britain that rule cannot be enforced, so corroboration has been dropped. In its place has gone a rule that the pilot must be prepared to pledge his word that he has destroyed an enemy plane. It will be listed to his credit provided he saw it crash or break up in the air.

All through the R.A.F. it is now a point of honor not to claim destruction of an enemy plane unless

all doubt has been removed. Only Germany knows how many planes British fighters and anti-aircraft gunners have shot down, but the number damaged so badly that they failed to reach home may often be as high percentage of the number destroyed.

When the R.A.F. had a record bag of 78 German planes Aug. 13 it is quite possible another 25 or 30 were hit so severely by machine-gun bullets or high explosive shells that they failed to get home. But they did not count in the R.A.F. records because no British pilot saw them crash.

Since Aug. 8, the R.A.F. has shot down 289 planes and lost 74 of its own. What is the explanation of the R.A.F.'s superiority?

The first reason is the superiority of the Spitfires and Hurricanes that carry eight machine guns tucked in their wings and fire at a rate of 9,600 rounds a minute. These fighters are extremely manoeuvrable and have a top speed not far from 400 miles an hour.

Another reason is the better system of training R.A.F. pilots over German pilots.

A third reason is the vulnerability of the big and comparatively slow and cumbersome bomber against the small, fast streamlined fighter. This factor is double marked in the case of the German bomber which, unlike the British bomber, has not the power-driven gun turret.

Finally there is the psychological factor of the fighter pilot defending his own country and the strength and daring that comes from that consideration, particularly when the fighter pilots know the whole future of their country depends on their efforts.

## AP Newsman Tells Story Of Raids He Saw

By ROBERT E. BUNELLE  
Associated Press Staff Writer

A SOUTH COAST ENGLISH TOWN, Aug. 14.—(AP) — War as I saw it from a more than 100 miles away, bombers can wage it, came back like an avalanche to Britain's new coastal defences today.

I saw a lightship literally blown out of the water and sunk, her seams ripped open; I peered from a shelter while barrage balloons plunged in flames from the sky, their churning cables falling almost at my feet; I saw a melee of perhaps 150 raiders and defenders surge through the clouds and in my ears all day dimmed the crash of anti-aircraft and the dull thud of bombs behind me—inland.

My colleague, Taylor Henry, coming in from London, said incendiary bombs were dropped around his train, crawling cautiously through the green downs of mid-summer England.

The biggest cloud of German raiders—I counted about a hundred plainly visible, with others dotting the sky uncounted—roared across the coast this forenoon from France, to be met by 27 British fighters. The British fighters singled them; then, one by one, dived on them. One vast, wild jamboe of twisting, flame-spitting planes developed.

Four planes, then another, then others, rocketed, burning into the sea.

A low-flying German bombed one seafront near us, killing a home guard soldier, wounding several civilians and wrecking three houses.

In another town, a Messerschmitt fighter circled a railway station with machine-gun bullets. Shelters saved the civilians there.

I talked to survivors of the lightship crew after the vessel, never directly hit, had foundered stern first with seams torn open from the bombs that dropped all around her. "We had to lay to by her, and watch two poor blokes drown," said one of the crew, picked up from his lifeboat by a British speedboat. "They machine-gunned us before we sank."

**UPHOLDS SUNDAY WORK**  
YORK, Eng.—(CP)—In an article in The York Diocesan Leaflet, the Archbishop of York justified Sunday labor in wartime. He wrote "when our duty to God and man demands that for a period we should do without the weekly rest, there ought not to be any hesitation on religious grounds."

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## P.W.C. Class of '38 Hold Banquet

The 1938 Graduating Class of P.W.C. at Dalhousie University, along with a number of invited friends, held a most enjoyable banquet and luncheon at the Queen Hotel Tuesday night.

After an enjoyable dinner, during which happy college friendships were renewed on all sides, a number of the class was called upon to give a two-minute account of its past year's activities.

Prizes were laid for the formation of a new Prince of Wales College and a Committee set up to carry out the organization as soon as possible.

It was decided to send in the price of one War Savings Certificate as a contribution from the

class, to assist Canada's War Effort.

An enjoyable item of the program was the presentation of a beautiful piece of Wedgewood to Bruce McConnell, first member of the class to take unto himself a bride.

The class consists of:  
William Gaudet, Law Student at Dalhousie.  
Norbert Grant, Medical Student at Dalhousie.  
George Denar, Medical Student at Dalhousie.  
Bruce McConnell, Medical Student at Dalhousie.  
Doug Black, Medical Student at Dalhousie.  
Doris Simmons, Science Student at Dalhousie.  
Kay Bagnall, Household Economics Student at Acadia.  
Haldane Scott, Science Student at Acadia.  
John Carson, Theology Student at McGill.  
Lloyd Henderson, Theology Student at McGill.

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| Smoked Picnic SHOULDERS, Lb. | 24c | Seedless Small Size GRAPEFRUIT, 7c Ea. 4 for | 25c |
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| ROUND STEAK, Lb.             | 21c |  |     |

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## Rampaging Rivers Bring Destruction To Four States

ASHEVILLE, N.C., Aug. 14.—(CP)—Rampaging rivers brought death and destruction today to four Southern States.

Abnormally heavy rainfall in the wake of a hurricane that battered the South Carolina-Georgia coast Sunday, sent the swift streams swirling out of their banks, destroying lowland crops and causing millions of dollars damage to industrial plants along their banks, and driving hundreds of persons from their homes.

At least 15 deaths were attributed to the floods.

North Carolina counted two drownings and four deaths in landslides. Two drownings were reported near Galax, Va., three near Elizabethtown, Tenn., and three near Augusta, Ga. A negro woman near Augusta died of a heart attack when she learned that the flood waters were approaching her home.

A 100 foot washout of Asheville's principal water main forced this tourist's mecca of 5,000 to use sparingly water from a single reservoir. In North Wilkesboro, industrial plants along the flooded Yadkin river, which rose to record height, swept over streets and damaged 14 industrial plants. Two burned as the water rose about them. The town, isolated, was without water, light or telephone facilities.

Property damage there was estimated at \$2,000,000, and Mayor R. P. McNeil said for Wilkes County as a whole it probably would reach \$10,000,000. He said 500 were homeless and 2,500 out of work. The water was last receding tonight.

Landslides blocked highways all over the mountain area.

Witnesses said the raging torrents in some places picked up buildings and tossed them about like matchboxes in a gutter. Hundreds of bridges were swept away.

Galax, in the southwest corner of Virginia was isolated last night, and about 700 were reported to have fled their homes.

The Watuga river engulfed a residential district of Elizabethton where 200 to 300 persons lived, forcing them to clamber to nearby hills, rooftops and tall trees for refuge.

ATHENS — Pro-British Greece, object of furious Italian press campaign over alleged denunciation of Albanian patriot, believed getting defences ready for possible Italian attack. Premier Metaxas holds long conference with army chief of staff and cabinet.

OTTAWA—Air Minister Pownall announces Newfoundland's land and sea airbases bases at Garfield Lake and Botwood, guarded by Canadian troops since early in war, to be strengthened by Canada's expenditure of close to \$1,000,000 in near future.

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