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# Canada Bomber Group Suffered Heavy Losses

By FRED BACKHOUSE

London, July 5 (CP).—Canada's No. 6 Heavy Bomber Group based in Britain suffered, in two years and four months, one eighth of the total casualties—killed or missing—borne by the entire RAF Bomber Command during the war, it was disclosed today.

An RCAF bomber group statement listed 6,267 fliers killed or missing between the group's formation Jan. 1, 1943 and VE-Day. This bears comparison with the "more than 47,000" bomber command fliers lost in four years and eight months of the European war, as revealed by Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Harris, Bomber Command Chief, in a recent speech.

Figures released today related to the RCAF bomber group alone and did not include casualties among the thousands of RCAF

men flying in RAF bombers. About one-third of bomber command air crew was composed of individual Canadian pilots, navigators, etc.

The Canadian group conducted 40,822 operational sorties during which 126,122 tons of bombs and mines were dropped. Eight hundred and fourteen of the group's Halifaxes and Lancasters were lost on operations.

(Bomber Command lost a total of 9,163 aircraft during the European war, the Air Ministry disclosed recently).

Casualty figures, the bulletin said, still are subject to revision since some fliers long posted "missing" were turning up in England from German prison camps. But with this exception and additions which will be made to the honors and awards total, the statement supplied final statistics for the two years and four months in which the group blasted Nazi targets.

An over-all average of two per cent of the aircraft were missing after operations during the period under review. Percentages showed a striking decrease after 1943. In that year, the figure was 4.6, in 1944 it was 1.48, while the 1945 figure dropped to 1.2.

Operational flying time came to 271,981 hours. On 1,312 occasions heavy bombers encountered enemy aircraft. One hundred and sixteen of these German planes were destroyed, 24 probably destroyed and 92 damaged.

Awards for gallantry to Canadian bomber men totalled 2,222. This figure is complete up to May, 1945, but many other awards have been made since then.

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