

Appendix C
Dennis Edwards
19th July 44

Had Flying Experience Before the War

Wing Commander Wm. Gordon Welstead, who assumed command of No. 1 Service Flying Training School, Camp Borden, May 16 last, taking over from Group Captain F. C. Carling-Kelly, posted overseas, was actively interested in flying for several years before the outbreak of war.

Born at St. Catharines, he had a Flying Club on his father's farm in 1935, on what is now the location of No. 9 Elementary Flying Training Station. In 1936 he started his flying career at St. Catharines. In 1938 he was instructor at the Orillia Flying Club, where he had several Barrie boys as students. He also conducted a service between Barrie, Orillia and the Muskoka Lakes.

In 1939 he was instructor at St. Catharines. He was in command of No. 12 SFTS at Brandon, in 1942, remaining there until June 1943, when he came to Borden as chief flying instructor and second in command, succeeding W/C. G. A. Hiltz. During the past year he took several senior courses at Trenton and also was assigned to the War Staff College at Armour Heights, Toronto, for a course. Mrs. Welstead and their three children reside in the commanding officer's house at Camp Borden.

Commands No 1 SFTS



WING COMMANDER
W. G. WELSTEAD

Group Capt. Edwards Comments on Raid Over Normandy Front

Heavy aircraft from every squadron of the Canadian bomber group participated in Tuesday's massive air bombardment of German positions in the Caen sector of the Normandy battlefield, which blasted a gap for advancing British and Canadian forces striking southeast in the direction of Paris.

Only three Canadian bombers were lost during the assault. Group Capt. Douglas M. Edwards, A.F.C., Ottawa and Barrie, on returning from the raid, said "It was perfect visibility. The entire coast of France from Le Havre to Cherbourg stretched out below us, although at times the skies seemed black with smoke from the heavy curtain of flak the Jerries were sending up."