

*War Appropriation—Air Services*

The list is of considerable length. I cannot pronounce the names and so I will place it on *Hansard*:

Aachen	Leipzig
Berlin	Leverkusen
Bochum	Magdeburg
Brunswick	Mannheim-Ludwigshaven
Cologne	Mulheim
Dortmund	Munchen-Gladbach
Duisburg	Munich
Dusseldorf	Norden (N.W. Germany)
Esens (N.W. Germany)	Nuremberg
Essen	Oldenburg
Frankfurt	Peenemunde
Gelsenkirchen	Pilsen (Czechoslovakia)
Hamburg	Remscheid
Hanover	Stettin
Kassel	Stuttgart
Kiel	Wilhelmshaven
Krefeld	Wuppertal
France	
Cannes (marshalling yards)	
Foret de Raismes (ammunition dump)	
Le Creusot (Schneider armament works)	
Lorient (sub. base)	
Modane (marshalling yards)	
Montlucon (tire factory)	
St. Nazaire (sub. base)	
Italy	
Milan	
Turin	

The list itself does not tell the complete story, for many of the targets—especially the more important and most heavily defended—were attacked not once but many times. For example, Berlin was visited eighteen times. The persistent heavy attacks on the Ruhr and Rhineland will be recalled, as well as those against the enemy submarine base of Lorient a year ago, when maximum efforts were being made to cope with the then menacing U-boat situation. In carrying out these operations, the Royal Canadian Air Force bomber squadrons flew 11,199 operational sorties, dropping 22,000 tons of bombs, of which 14,000 tons were concentrated on targets in Germany, the remainder on targets in Italy and enemy occupied countries. In addition they carried out a large number of sea mining operations.

Last spring it was deemed expedient to reinforce the bomber force in the Mediterranean theatre. The Royal Canadian Air Force was called upon and cooperated by the formation of a Royal Canadian Air Force bomber wing made up of certain squadrons in the Royal Canadian Air Force bomber group. These squadrons flew their aircraft to the new theatre, selected their airfields and set up operations in a remarkably short time. From these bases they operated under the most trying conditions. In heat and sand-storm they put up an operational effort that

[Mr. Power.]

is surpassed by none. I should like to read a signal received from their commander-in-chief, Air Chief Marshal Tedder:

This wing has done an exceptionally good job of work ever since it arrived and has undoubtedly contributed appreciably to our offensive. The scale of effort, in relation to the size of the force, has probably been higher than has ever been achieved anywhere in the past and included operations on 78 out of 80 successive nights.

Coastal squadrons. The Royal Canadian Air Force squadrons operating with coastal command and India command have carried out offensive operations extending over the north and northeast Atlantic, the North sea, the bay of Biscay and the Indian ocean.

Their duties include searching out and attacking enemy surface vessels, anti-submarine patrols, escorts for allied merchant shipping, naval escorts, and fighter and general reconnaissance patrols.

These coastal squadrons are equipped with Sunderland and Catalina flying boats, Wellington, Beaufighter and Albacore land planes, and in the course of their operations during the period under review flew 25,487 hours.

At this point I should like to say a word of praise for the efforts and patience of our aircrews who are operating for long hours over the sea, keeping a zealous eye for enemy submarines. You must appreciate that the maintenance of the required alertness on these patrols of twelve and fifteen hours and sometimes longer is a very great test of endurance.

The exploits I have just mentioned are indicative of the operational effort of our Royal Canadian Air Force squadrons under the direction of the Royal Air Force, as far as I am able to disclose. But I should like to impress upon you that this effort was carried out by only those Royal Canadian Air Force aircrew who are localized into Canadian units. The exploits of the other Royal Canadian Air Force aircrew who are loaned to the Royal Air Force are part, and a considerable part, of the history of the Royal Air Force.

Decorations. A return brought down in the house last week shows that nearly 1,200 of our young men have been decorated for gallantry in action.

Casualties.—The figures which I now produce indicate the cost in casualties. All told, Royal Canadian Air Force casualties have been, up to February 18, 1944, as follows:—

Dead and presumed dead.....	7,958
Missing, prisoners of war, and interned .....	3,384
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	11,342

Of which 9,667 were overseas.