

Lady Gowrie  
lies in  
Lancaster

# Ace bomber is "always scared in raids"

Ace bomber pilot Flight-Lieutenant Peter Isaacson, DFC, DFM, who piloted the Lancaster from England, interviewed in Sydney last night, confessed, after 44 night raids on Europe, that he never ceases to be scared.

"It is not a sudden panic, but a constant uneasy feeling of tension and fear," he said.

"The night is full of fear. You cannot see the enemy and never know where danger menaces you. You look at every patch of dark cloud that may not be just cloud at all, but a lurking enemy.

"You feel like a little boy walking along a dark street, fearful that every shadow may hide someone waiting to pounce out on you.

"Apart from that, you have no feeling. You go dead. You have an instinctive urge for self-preservation. You want to bomb the target and, above all, to get home again.

"You have no feeling for the people you may be bombing. It is just like bowling at a wicket or throwing darts at numbers. There is a target to hit, and you concentrate on hitting it.

"You're told to bomb a certain object, and you do. If people are in the way, they're just unlucky.

"Anyhow, it's the only way to save your own people.

## War end forecast

November next year will see the end of the war with Germany, according to Isaacson's forecast. German resistance will crumble gradually, as it did in the last war, when German victories no longer hearten the people. Japan, he thinks, will take another year to beat after Germany is out of the war.

Tactics which brought them through the enemy's defences in their raids on Germany were described by members of the crew of the Lancaster.

The crew attributed their escapes to their pilot, but he was equally enthusiastic praising the teamwork of the crew.

To his crew, Flight-Lieut. Peter Isaacson, is "tops."

Pilot-Officer Bill Copley, DFM, of Perth, said of him:

"We've come out of it because Peter is an expert weaver, and knows how to get the plane out of trouble, and we struck plenty over Germany."

"Some people might call us a lucky crew," said Flight-Lieut. Bob Nielsen, DFM, "but we owe our long run of 'ins' to the skill and coolness of Peter as a pilot. He's a wonder, and throughout the RAF he has a reputation second to none."

## "An old team"

Isaacson is very reticent about himself, but has plenty to say when praising the boys of his crew.

"Many of us have been operating as a team for a long time, and have been over Germany and Italy at least 40 times," he

SUN (SYDNEY)  
6.6.43



Governor-General and Lady Gowrie chat with Flight-Lieutenant Peter Isaacson, captain of the giant bomber which arrived in Sydney on Friday. In the background, Air Minister Drakeford and Army Minister Forde are visible. The Air Minister Forde enjoyed a short flight in the bomber.



Proposed by radio-phone from Canada. Flight-Lieut. Peter Isaacson, DFM, a member of the crew of the bomber which arrived in Sydney on Friday, is seen with his fiancée, Miss Jean Bracken, of Bellevue, during an inspection of the bomber yesterday.

# hero proposed radiophone

The Governor-General and Lady Gowrie chat with Flight-Lieut. Stewart Peter Isaacson, captain of the giant Lancaster bomber which arrived in Sydney on Friday night. Minister for the Army Forde is in the background. Lord and Lady Gowrie, Air Minister Drakeford and Army Minister Forde enjoyed a short flight in the bomber.



He proposed by radio-phone from Canada. Flight-Lieut. Alan Vickery Ritchie, DFM, a member of the crew of the Lancaster bomber which arrived in Sydney on Friday night, with his fiancée, Miss Jean Bracken, of Bellevue Hill, during an inspection of the bomber yesterday.

## Air hero proposed by radiophone

FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT Alan Vickery Ritchie, DFM, of Canberra, yesterday met his fiancée for the first time since he proposed to her by radio telephone from Canada 18 months ago.

Flight-Lieut. Ritchie is a member of the crew of the Lancaster which arrived in Sydney on Friday night.

His fiancée is Miss June Bracken, of Drumalbyn-road, Bellevue Hill.

The day after Miss Bracken accepted the proposal she bought the engagement ring, with the aid of her fiancé's brother, Flight-Lieut. David Ritchie, RAAF.

But Alan told his bride-to-be yesterday that he intends to buy her another to celebrate his home-coming.

Miss Bracken said that she and Alan had known each other for the past eight years.

"He proposed to me be-

fore he went away to Canada to finish his training, but I would not give him an answer then," she said.

"The next I heard about it was when he reached Canada.

One night I got a phone call from overseas. His voice came through as clear as a bell. After discussing general matters, we were warned that the time had expired.

"Alan immediately asked for a two-minute extension, and it was then he proposed.

"I said yes, which was the right answer, judging by his jubilation at the other end of the line."

Miss Bracken said no date had been fixed for the wedding. "But we hope it will be as soon as he gets some leave."

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Describing a flight on which Isaacson captained a bomber on their first raid on Berlin, Flight-Lieutenant Nielsen said:—

"We had just unloaded our bombs when we collected a packet of incendiaries from a plane above us. The top turret was wrecked and other parts of the plane were damaged.

"Soon afterwards we were attacked by night-fighters, and Peter dived the plane from 18,000 feet. We flattened out at 4000 feet and flew about 100 miles, when, having climbed again to 10,000 feet, we were caught in the searchlights.

"To dodge them Peter took the plane down to 900ft., and it was a clever move. Not only did we get out of the searchlights, but the ack-ack guns that were firing at us before could not depress to a low enough angle to hit us.

"Peter brought us home, the plane crippled, but still in fair trim."

**TLA WED**

**P.M.'s WIFE FLIES  
IN LANCASTER**



MRS. CURTIN, wife of the Prime Minister, made her first plane flight when she flew over Canberra in the Lancaster bomber yesterday. She is photographed thanking the captain of the plane, Flight-Lieutenant Isaacson, after the landing.

# Thousands Watch Big Bomber Fly Over City

Thousands of people in Sydney yesterday watched the giant Lancaster bomber flying low over the city for 15 minutes.

The plane swooped within 100ft. of the roofs of some of the city's tallest buildings.

The Lancaster is being used to assist the Fourth Liberty Loan drive.

The public will be permitted to inspect the plane at Mascot aerodrome from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Amounts subscribed to the loan by people who inspected the bomber during two-hour inspections at country towns include: Benalla, £21,000; Milurra, £18,000; Wagga, £26,000; Dubbo, £11,000; Parkes, £3500.

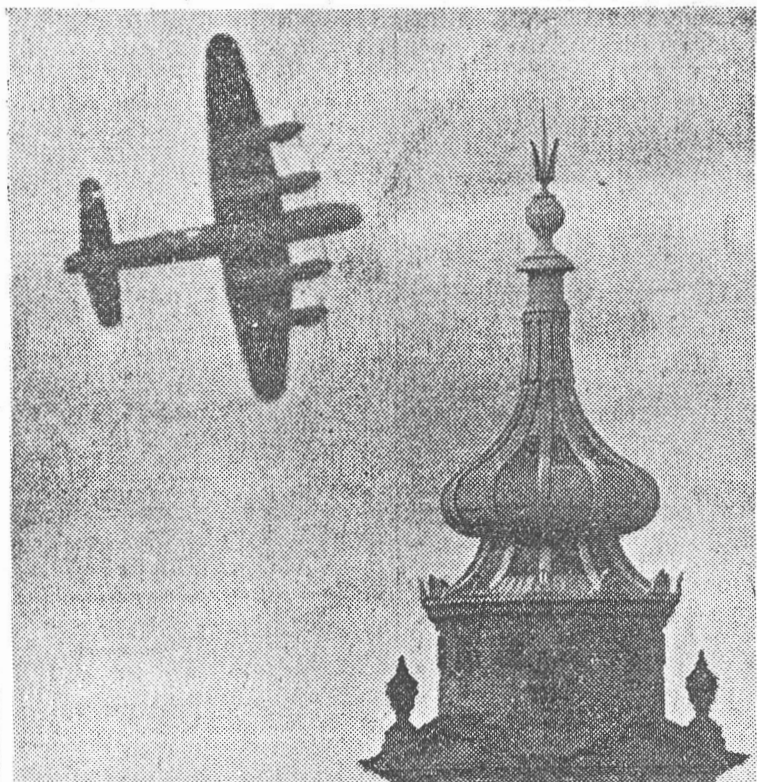
## Navigator's Task

Busiest man in the plane is the navigator, Flight-Lieutenant Bob Nielson, who has the job of finding each of the small country towns to which the Lancaster must call exactly at the times laid down in the official schedule.

He will take time off in Sydney today to marry Sister Joyce Annetts, of the R.A.A.F. nursing service.

Today the bomber will be inspected by the Air Force at Richmond.

## LANCASTER BOMBER OVER SYDNEY



# FEW PEOPLE WELCOME BIG BOMBER

Only a few people welcomed the Lancaster bomber when it reached Canberra yesterday, on an official tour to aid the Fourth Liberty Loan.

When the Lancaster reached Wagga on Monday, it was welcomed by a band and hundreds of people, who had been given a holiday from work.

Manager of the plane's tour (Captain G. W. Holland) said that at Wagga 200 people subscribed £11,000 to the loan within a few minutes.

By the time the plane left, contributions had risen to £30,000, he added.

Canberra transport facilities were inadequate to cope with demands, and hundreds of women and children waited all the afternoon for buses to take them to the aerodrome.

The buses did not arrive.

Canberra school children were not given a holiday.

## "Not Stunt Flight"

At the aerodrome yesterday the Minister for Air (Mr. Drakeford) told the people that the crew had flown the bomber to Australia to demonstrate what could be done with the cash Australians provided.

"The task of the crew is not a stunt," he added.

"The men are showing a specimen of what is being done with Australians' money."

Captain of the plane (Flight-Lieut. Peter Isaacson) was cheered as he introduced each member of his crew.

He said: "Right at this moment there is probably more than one Australian bomber crew struggling to get their battered aircraft back to Britain and with dead or wounded men on board."

"They will need a new aircraft the next night to carry on their job. They will probably get one, but only because the people have provided the money for it."

This afternoon the Lancaster will leave for Richmond, flying over Sydney about 3.30 p.m.

DAILY TELEGRAPH (SYDNEY)  
19.10.43

# BIG BOMBER'S VISIT Flight Over City To-day

The Lancaster bomber which is touring New South Wales to stimulate interest in the Fourth Liberty Loan will fly over Sydney at 3.30 p.m. to-day on its way from Canberra to Richmond.

It will be on exhibition at Mascot at the week-end.

About 50,000 people inspected the bomber in Melbourne, and it is expected that there will be an even greater crowd in Sydney.

Arrival of the bomber at Kingsford Smith aerodrome, Mascot, on Friday, will coincide with an Air Day function in Martin Place.

Leaving Richmond at 9.20 a.m. on Friday, the bomber will be over Bankstown at 9.40 a.m. and will land at Mascot where there will be a reception to the crew by the Mayor of Mascot, Alderman Finney.

At the rally in Martin Place, Flight-Lieutenant Peter Isaacson, commander of the bomber, and his crew will speak on the need for the loan. A march of members of the R.A.A.F. from the Mitchell Library will precede the rally. In the afternoon the bomber will make a flight, carrying Press representatives.

## PUBLIC INSPECTIONS

For the public inspections at the week-end, the bomber will be placed at the extreme east of the aerodrome on the vacant area near the entrance, between Old Botany Road and Ross Smith Avenue.

Hours of inspection will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Persons travelling from the city are advised to use Bay Street, Botany, or Matraville trams, and to alight at either Hollingshed Street or King Street, Mascot, and walk along the same streets to the aerodrome. Residents of Kensington, Kingsford, and Brighton-le-Sands travelling by motor buses should alight at Ascot Avenue. Loan applications will be received on the grounds.

The bomber will leave Mascot at 10 a.m. on Monday. It will fly over the city five minutes later, and will then set out to complete the New South Wales itinerary by Tuesday afternoon. After passing over Newcastle and Singleton, it will land at Tamworth and then fly over Moree, Tenterfield, Grafton, Lismore, and Casino, landing at Evans Head before crossing into Queensland.

SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

20.10.43

Monday's itinerary will be: Depart Mascot 9.30 a.m.; circle city of Sydney, 9.35 a.m.; over Katoomba, 9.50 a.m.; over Lithgow, 10 a.m.; over Bathurst, 10.10 a.m.; over Newcastle, 11 a.m.; over Singleton, 11.15 a.m.; over Gunnedah, 11.30 a.m.; land at Tamworth, 12.15 p.m.

On Tuesday, the last day of the N.S.W. tour, the Lancaster will leave Tamworth at 9.30 a.m.; over Moree, 10.10 a.m.; over Tenterfield, 11 a.m.; over Grafton, 11.30 a.m.; over Lismore, noon; land at Evans Head, 12.20 p.m.