

# Goodwill <sup>Consol Press</sup> Flight By <sup>16/10/44</sup> Lancaster

MONTREAL, Oct. 15 (A.A.P.) —A veteran Lancaster bomber, which has made 90 operational flights over enemy territory and is being flown from England to Australia by a special R.A.A.F. crew, has arrived here.

The Lancaster is called G for George. Its route so far has been: from Prestwick (Scotland) to Reykjavik (Iceland) to Goose Bay (Labrador) to Dorval airport (Montreal).

Aboard the plane is a special Australian Associated Press representative.

He says that in 90 operational flights against the enemy in 16 months of fighting life, G for George has carried 29 different pilots and crews, and brought them all home safely.

The Lancaster will be placed in the Australian War Museum, at Canberra.

### VETERAN FLIERS.

Captain of G for George is Flight-Lieut. E. A. Hudson, D.F.C. and Bar, of Rockhampton, who has taken part in attacks on some of the most heavily defended targets in Germany.

Second pilot is Flying-Officer F. P. Smith, D.F.C., of Newcastle, and the navigator is Flying-Officer W. C. Gordon, of Raleigh (N.S.W.).

Others in the crew are: Flying-Officer T. V. McCarthy, D.F.C., and Bar, of Moss Vale, one of the most experienced bomb-aimers in the R.A.A.F., who has had 13 trips over Berlin; Flying-Officer C. H. Tindale, D.F.C., of Cremorne, wireless operator and airgunner.

Flying-Officer G. B. Young, of Matraville, who was awarded the D.F.M. for his first operational flight, in an attack on the Ruhr; Flight-Sergeant Harry Tickle, of Adelaide, Fitter; Sergeant K. A. Ower, of Telamon, N.S.W., fitter.

### DUKE'S MESSAGE.

G for George left Prestwick in drizzly weather on October 11. Before departure, Flight-Lieutenant Hudson received the following letter from Brigadier Schrieber, Chief-of-staff to the Duke of Gloucester, Governor-General-designate of Australia:

"The Duke of Gloucester has instructed me to wish you and your crew a safe and speedy journey to Australia.

"His Royal Highness hopes that when your veteran Lancaster arrives in Australia, it will be joined by many Australian-built Lancasters, which will help to bring the war against Japan to a rapid and successful conclusion."

16-10-44

# Good After <sup>Consol Press</sup> 90 Raids <sup>17/10/44</sup>

MONTREAL, Oct. 16 (A.A.P.). At each stopping place so far in its flight to Australia, G for George, the veteran Lancaster, has aroused much interest and admiration among aerodrome workers and pilots.

It is the great space on the fuselage on which bombs are painted which catches everybody's eye, says the special representative of the Australian Associated Press who is in the plane. There are 90 of them in nine rows of ten, each one representing a mission over enemy territory.

After each of the first thirteen is a little figure of a man with a halo, commemorating trips made with Flight-Sergeant Saint-Smith, of Sydney as pilot.

Saint-Smith was later awarded the D.F.M. and promoted to Flight Lieutenant.

It was he and Harry Tickle, of Adelaide, who is one of the crew on the present flight, who launched the George on its career. Tickle kept the log on all the plane's missions.

### RECORD OF RAIDS

G for George has taken much punishment in its time, but has always got home.

On January, 16, 1943, on a raid over Berlin, when it carried Keith Hooper as correspondent, it received 13 flak holes in the starboard wing, tailplane and rudder, and lost the use of two engines.

An entry after a raid on November 18th last year reads: Berlin—Caught them with their pants down. No damage.

On G for George's 90th fighting flight on April 16 last, Flying Officer J.A. Critchley, of Brighton (Vic.) as pilot, Tickle's entry reads, "No trouble. Good trip."

The target had been Cologne and everybody was delighted that the grand old plane had finished its operational career over a German city.

Admiring men of the R.A.A.F. decided that the 90 bombs painted on the fuselage were not sufficient recognition and they awarded the veteran the D.F.M., C.G.M., and D.S.O., the ribbons of these awards being painted beside the array of bombs.

17-10-44

# LANCASTER LEAVES FOR FRISCO

MONTREAL, Oct. 17 (A.A.P.) —The veteran Lancaster, G for George, which is flying from England to Australia on a goodwill mission, left Dorval Airport here yesterday afternoon for San Francisco. The Lancaster will be placed in the Australian War Museum at Canberra. It has made 90 operational flights.

G for George has an all-Australian crew, captained by Flight-Lieut. E. A. Hudson, D.F.C., of Rockhampton.

All the crew, of whom four, including the captain, were trained in Canada, have been enjoying the hospitality for which Canadians are famous among the R.A.A.F. men. To them Montreal, with its brightly lit, well filled shops, and lavish window displays, seems a paradise after war-straitened Britain.

A special A.A.P. representative on the plane says that the first sign the crew had that they were approaching the "flesh pots" was at Reykjavik (Iceland), where they had fried eggs and chip potatoes, but what chiefly caught their eye was white bread and generous piles of butter.

When some of the crew saw women in the streets of Reykjavik wearing long black dresses and black caps with tassels, they assumed them to be members of some religious order, but the fact is that this is Iceland's national dress. These women are die-hards who refuse to adopt modern costume.

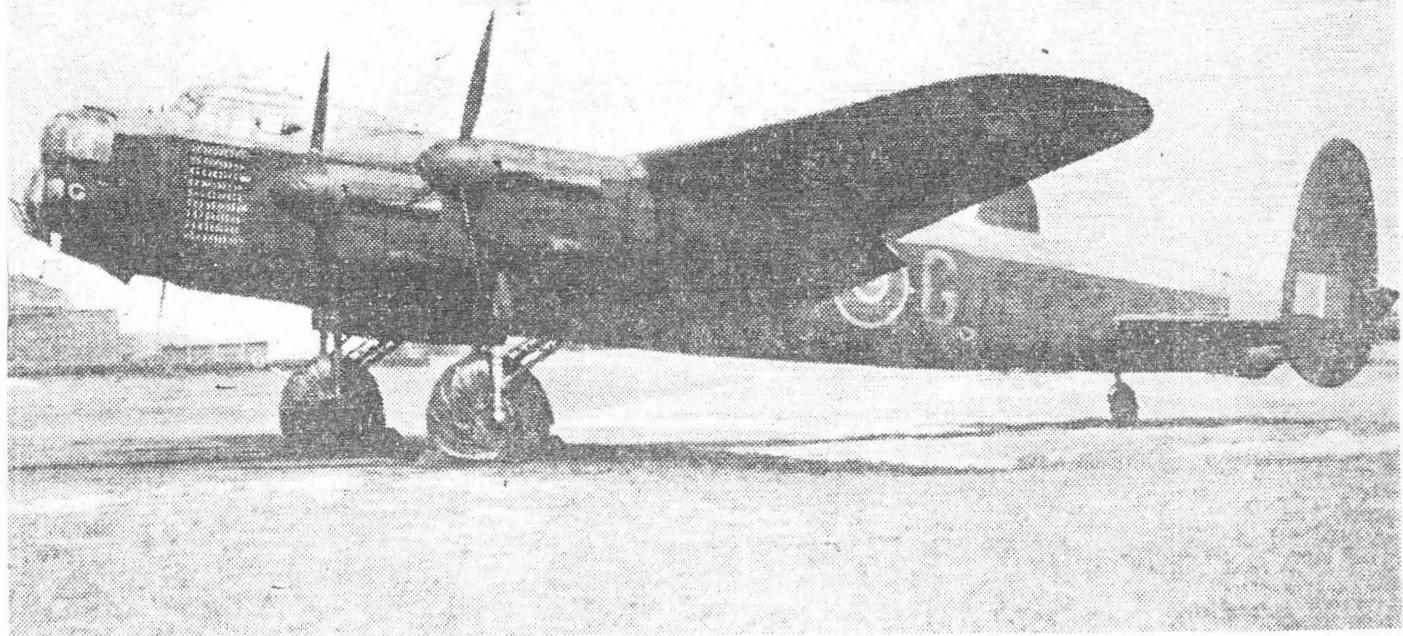
The citizens of Reykjavik were not over-friendly. Shop assistants spoke English well, but executed sales with nothing more than frigid politeness.

The Australian airmen were told that Icelanders regard the British and American garrison troops as invaders; although they showed no signs of hostility, there was no mistaking the meaning of their averted eyes.

SMH 18/10  
SYDNEY MORNING HERALD  
18-10-44

Conrad Press

19-10-44



The veteran Lancaster bomber, "G for George," which is being flown to Australia where it will be placed in the Australian War Memorial at Canberra. In its 16 months of fighting life, "G for George" has carried no less than 25 different pilots and crews and made 90 operational flights over enemy territory.

## G FOR GEORGE NOW AT 'FRISCO

*Conrad B. 20/10/44*  
 SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 19.—Only the Pacific now separates G for George from home.

The continental crossing was broken at Cheyenne, where several soldiers who had been to Australia insisted on entertaining the crew royally.

The plane excited great interest because of the story lying behind the array of bombs painted on its fuselage.

As soon as it landed at San Francisco, crowds gathered as the story of its exploits had been told several times and all wanted to see the veteran.

## "GEORGE" HERE FOR LOANS

*23/10/44*  
 SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 22 (A.A.P.).—The Australian crew of "G. for George," veteran Lancaster now on the way to Australia from England, was introduced to the Australian Minister for Air, Mr. Drakeford, on Friday.

"Australia is awaiting your arrival with great interest," he said. "We hope you will reach home in time to give demonstration flights in support of the Victory Loan."

Flight-Lieutenant Hudson said he was unable to give the exact date of arrival in Australia, but he was confident of arriving before the loan closed.

## "GEORGE" READY FOR PACIFIC

*SMH 23/10.*  
 SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 24 (A.A.P.).—"G for George," veteran Lancaster bomber, which is destined for the Australian War Museum at Canberra, is now thoroughly prepared for its Pacific flight, and will leave for Australia to-day.

Because of the great stream of Lancasters flowing from Canada to England, the flight engineers were able to get all the help they required in servicing the aircraft at Goose Bay, Labrador, and at Derval, Montreal, but here there are few mechanics properly versed in the Merlin engine, so they had to do all the work themselves.

The remainder of the Australian crew have been entirely free for pleasure. They have been eating any food of their choice—there are eating places every few yards in the centre of San Francisco—and the novelty does not yet show any signs of palling. Rather, appetites have been whetted by warnings from persons who have recently been in Australia that they will find the food situation at home has deteriorated since they left.

## LANCASTER MAY ARRIVE TODAY

No official welcome has been planned for the famous R.A.A.F. Lancaster bomber, "G for George."

The Lancaster is expected to arrive in Sydney late today or tomorrow.

The bomber, en route from London and America to Melbourne, is making a fast Pacific crossing by a secret route.

An R.A.A.F. spokesman said yesterday that "G for George" will have only a brief stay in Sydney to refuel.

"It will then fly on to Melbourne," he said.

"These plans, however, may be changed if the plane does not arrive here until late at night."

"G for George" left England on October 11, and cruised leisurely through the United States.

### Seasoned Crew

An All-Australian crew, which is flying the aircraft, is returning from many months of operations over Germany, France, and the Baltic.

Six of the eight members of the crew are from New South Wales.

They are Flying-Officer F. P. Smith, D.F.C., of Newcastle (second pilot); Flying-Officer W. C. Gordon, of Raleigh (navigator); Flying-Officer T. V. McCarthy, D.F.C. and bar, of Moss Vale (bomb-aimer); Flying-Officer C. H. Tindale, D.F.C., of Cremorne (wireless operator-air gunner); Flying-Officer G. B. Young, of Matraville, and Sergeant K. A. Ower, of Telamon (fitter).

After taking part in the final stages of the loan the bomber will be handed over to the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

*DAVY TELEGRAPH 26.10.44*

## 'GEORGE' GROUNDED AGAIN

SPECIAL A.A.P. CORRESPONDENT.  
 ON BOARD "G FOR GEORGE,"  
 Nov. 6.—We are grounded in Fiji with an unserviceable radio, which is all the more galling, seeing we are now less than 10 hours' flying time from home.

The journey so far across the Pacific has been made without notable incident, except that, after leaving San Francisco, "George"—the automatic pilot, not the plane—went unserviceable. But, as one of the crew remarked, "It's time the pilots did a bit of work."

Speaking of work, it should be said that the rest of the crew have been highly appreciative of the hard work done by Sergeant Harry Tickle, of Adelaide, and Sergeant K. A. Ower, of N.S.W., who have had to service the aircraft at various stopping places, and so have been unable to go sight-seeing and otherwise enjoy themselves

## "GEORGE" GROUNDED

SAN FRANCISCO, Thursday.—The veteran RAAF Lancaster, "G for George," is grounded until the wireless transmitter can be repaired. It is uncertain how long repairs will take.—AAP.

*27.10.44*

## VETERAN R.A.A.F. PILOT MISSING

LONDON, Friday.—Flight-Lieutenant James A. St. Smith, of Sydney, is listed missing.

He was the first pilot of the veteran Lancaster, "G for George," now en route to Australia after 90 bombing missions over Europe.—AAP.

*27.11.44*

## "G For George" home today

*late 6/11*  
 The R.A.A.F. Lancaster bomber, "G for George," is due in Brisbane from England and the United States today.

It will fly on to Sydney later in the week.

The bomber is making the Pacific crossing in giant hops.

It took off from San Francisco on Thursday, and reached Honolulu on Friday.

The aircraft left Honolulu for Australia early yesterday.

"G for George" has taken part in 90 operational flights over Europe, and its R.A.A.F. crew has served hundreds of hours on operations.

The plane is to be placed in the War Museum, Canberra.

*DAVY TELEGRAPH 6.11.44*

## "GEORGE" READY TO LEAVE FIJI

SPECIAL A.A.P. CORRESPONDENT  
 ON "G FOR GEORGE."

SUVA, Nov. 7.—The defective radio receiving set on "G for George" has now been repaired and we are ready to resume the flight to Australia.

At the Royal New Zealand Air Force station, at which the Lancaster landed, the crew were given generous hospitality and were taken for a motor tour of some of the surrounding

## "GEORGE" AT HONOLULU

HONOLULU, Nov. 5 (A.A.P.).—The Lancaster bomber "G for George" has arrived at Honolulu, completing the first leg of its trans-Pacific flight.

The bomber is being flown to Australia to be placed in the Australian War Museum.

BRISBANE, Sunday.—It was reported here to-day that the machine would reach Brisbane tomorrow or Tuesday.

*SYDNEY MORNING HERALD 6.11.44*

## G For George Grounded

*Sun 6/11/44*  
 SUVA, Monday.—"G for George" is again grounded with an unserviceable radio.

This time it is the receiving set which is giving trouble. It was a defective transmitting set which caused the delay at San Francisco.

The plane landed yesterday at the RNZAF station at Suva. Mechanics are now making efforts to locate the fault.

When, after the bomber had left San Francisco, the automatic pilot went unserviceable, one of the crew said: "It is time the pilots did a bit of work."—AAP.

*SUN (SYDNEY) 6.11.44*