

56 Ormly Rd., Ramsey,
Isle of Man. IM8 3LJ
31st. July 03

Dear MARGARET and GAY,

I thought you would be interested to know that I received this accompanying invitation for having been over Hamburg on that particular night of 24th. July 1943 when "WINDOW" was first put into operational use.

This was the 'code-word' for a very ingenious anti-radar device, in the form of short lengths of paper (approx. 1"x8") black on one side, aluminium on the other, which we dropped in bundles, so that thousands fluttered down and confused the defences on the approach to our objective.

The invention was so very successful that in a modified form, as minute as a human hair, in the name of "CHAFF" has a very important international use today.

There were twenty-one ex-Bomber Command 'old-timers' altogether, none of whom I had known before. However, by the time we had spent a night in London, travelled to Portsmouth for a conducted tour round the Chemring factory, lunch, then back to London for an evening champagne Reception, we were no longer strangers.

One person who came continually to mind throughout this talk of searchlights, bullets and shrapnel was, of course, your own dear father. He was the best pilot any crew member could ever have wished to fly with !!

Earlier this year I visited "Bobby" Thomas, Tommy the navigator's widow. She lives alone in Hatch End, London doing all her own housekeeping, papering and decorating, repairs and gardening. Her home is absolutely spotless, the lawn and flowerbeds immaculate. She's a most remarkable person and apparently works non-stop andShe's Ninety-four!

Before going to London, I phoned 'Dickie' the Flight Engineer in Cheltenham and learnt that his poor wife is now confined to a wheelchair.

The rest of the Lancaster boys are all gone, their wives too.

I appreciate how incredibly lucky I have been to still be alive, especially with a very charming partner Marian to care for me.

Kindest thoughts to you both.....

Deary Sean

DATE	DATE 1943	HOUR	AIRCRAFT TYPE AND No.	PILOT	DUTY	TIME CARRIED FORWARD:—	
						195.05	104.45
						FLYING TIMES	
						DAY	NIGHT
						REMARKS (Including results of bombing, gunnery, exercises, etc.)	
3	July 22		LANCASTER R. 704	F/SQT. CANT.	AIR BOMBER	1.00	NIGHT FLYING TEST.
3	25		R. 704	F/SQT. CANT.	AIR BOMBER		OPERATION NO. 5 <u>HAMBURG.</u> "Newest raid in history" 1 x 4,000 lbs. HIGH CAPACITY BOMB. 3 x 1,000 lbs. MEDIUM CAPACITY BOMBS. 48 x 30 lbs. INCENDIARY BOMBS. 560 x 4 lbs. INCENDIARY BOMBS. Operation moderate, smoke rising to over 20,000' at target. 6/10
	27		U.	F/SQT. CANT.	AIR BOMBER	1.00	NIGHT FLYING TEST
	27		U	F/SQT. CANT.	AIR BOMBER		OPERATION NO. 6. <u>HAMBURG.</u> 1 x 4,000 lbs. HIGH CAPACITY BOMB. 3 x 1,000 lbs. MEDIUM CAPACITY BOMBS. 48 x 30 lbs. INCENDIARIES. 600 x 4 lbs. INCENDIARIES. This is first existing enemy coast, near target. Several engines injured but we escaped on 7 successful bombs. Target destroyed. Loss in bomb load. 5.50
						197.05	TOTAL TIME.... 116.45



THE CHAIRMAN & DIRECTORS
of
CHEMRING GROUP PLC & CHEMRING COUNTERMEASURES

invite you to a
RECEPTION TO CELEBRATE the 60TH ANNIVERSARY

of the
FIRST OPERATIONAL USE OF 'WINDOW' (CHAFF)

to be held at

THE RAF CLUB, 128 PICCADILLY, LONDON

on

THURSDAY 24TH JULY 2003

6.30pm to 9.00pm

RSVP:

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