

Rescued in Time to Join Celebration in England in Honour of Destruction of 100th Enemy Aircraft.

WITH AN RCAF INTRUDER SQUADRON IN BRITAIN—Air raid sirens signalled ten Allied attacks on Dieppe while the Commanding Officer and a navigator of the RCAF City of Edmonton Intruder Squadron paddled their dinghies against the tide a few miles off the enemy coastline.

Wing Commander A. Barker, native of Todmorden, England, who left a brokerage house in New York to enlist with the RCAF and Flight Lieutenant Gordon Frederick, Lindsay, Ont., his navigator, battled the currents for 18 hours after "ditching" their Mosquito in the channel. The aircraft had been holed by anti-aircraft fire and the two had just shaken off an enemy night fighter before they began to lose altitude.

Immediately after "ditching" the pair climbed out the Mosquito and boarded their dinghies. They lashed them together and hoisted a sail. As the sun rose the night breeze died and W C Barker and F L Frederick found they were drifting toward the enemy coastline. As they began to paddle they saw aircraft swarming across the Channel toward Dieppe, at great height—and across the water came the wailing of Dieppe's air raid alarm. The attack lasted about half an hour, and then they heard the "all-clear" but a few minutes later, as they saw more aircraft crossing, the alarm sounded again.

The sounds of the alarms, anti-aircraft fire, bursting bombs, and all-clears were heard all day as the two officers paddled their boats towards England, drifting backwards every time they rested and resuming their paddling when the

enemy coastline came too close.

"About 6.30 that evening we saw two Spitfires searching and managed to attract their attention with distress signals—taking the chance that the flare would be seen by the enemy first. The Spits saw us and circled while they radioed our position," Frederick said.

The two officers arrived back at their station in time to participate in the celebration observing the destruction of the 100th enemy aircraft by this unit.

W/C Barker attended university in the U.S., before his employment in New York. As a result of his training in Canada with the RCAF he remarked "I hope to live in Canada now—that is if I can get a job after this is over."

F. L. GORDON FREDERICK

18 HOURS IN CHANNEL

WHEN PLANE SHOT DOWN