

1941 CALENDAR

- **July 10th, 1941:** 458 Royal Australian Air Force Squadron formed in Williamtown, New South Wales, Australia
- **August 8th:** 39 Groundcrew leave Williamtown for the U.K.
- **September 1st:** Squadron forms at airbase Station Holme-on-Spalding Moor, Yorkshire, United Kingdom
 - Assigned to Bomber Command with Vickers Wellington Mk. IV Aircraft. Attached to No. 1 Group Royal Air Force.
 - The Wellington is the mainstay of Bomber Command from 1939 to 1942. Maximum range from the manufacturer: 2250 miles at 180 miles/hr at 15,000 feet. Crew of 6: Pilot, 2nd Pilot, Wireless Operator, Navigator, Front gunner and Rear gunner
 - The Empire Air Training Scheme and similar Schemes had formed in late 1939 (war declared on Germany on 3rd Sept, 1939) and started training Air Force personnel soon after. Squadron examples: Flight Sergeant Mechanic/Fitter Cecil Percy enlisted/commenced training in November 1939; Squadron Leader Gordon Orchard enlisted/commenced training in October 1940 and Flight Lieutenant Ken Cupper enlisted/commenced training in February 1941
 - Commanding Officer: Wing Commander Norman Mulholland DFC (pictured) - an Australian who had joined the RAF in 1933
- **October 20th:** With 10 aircraft, the Squadron's first bombing operation against Germany: Emden + German occupied Antwerp & Rotterdam; ~6 hrs flying time
- Other night ops targets in **October:** German occupied France: Le Havre, Cherbourg, Dunkirk and German battleships at Brest.
- Other night ops targets in **November / December** were Mannheim, Boulogne, and German battleships at Dunkirk / December: Aachen, Calais, Koln, Ostend, Dusseldorf, Boulogne
- The base had a WAAF Women's Auxiliary Air Force contingent and there were 3 pubs at the village of Holme-on-Spalding Moor three miles away
- **December 8th:** The Allies declare war upon Japan following Japan's attacks on Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong and Pearl Harbour, Hawaii
- **December 11th:** the United States declares war upon Germany
- **December 25th:** A special Christmas dinner was held in the messes



CO: Wing Commander Mulholland



1941: RAAF Williamtown and Wellington



Mk. IV flying over snow covered Holme-on-Spalding Moor, Yorkshire, UK



RLP Crew lost in the North Sea returning from a raid on Emden, Germany 16 Nov 1941: (L-R) W. Goldman, Alex Cox, Captain Ron Furey, H. Duffield, E. Rowland, D. Pepper

458 Squadron: Bomber Command Operations in 1941/1942