

"Last of the Lancasters"

2378

16th October 1956

Cornwall: She stood on the tarmac while the R.A.F. said farewell - "the last of the Lancasters"

Her pilot, Wing-Commander Brooks (~~he had been the last Lancaster~~ <sup>AND HIS CREW WENT ON TO</sup> ~~and crew, went aboard~~ - and Lancaster "D-Delta" took off - not on ~~a daring bombing raid~~ <sup>SOME NEW MISSION -</sup> but for the breakers' yard.

At St. Mawgan, R.A.F. veterans watched her go - the last of a famous line of four-engined heavy bombers, <sup>They</sup> recalled how she made the ~~block-buster~~ "block-buster" raids of World War Two - and won immortal fame as a "Dam Buster".

From March 1942 onwards, the Lancaster flew 156,000 sorties - and in a memorable raid on a Norwegian Fjord sank the German battleship "Tirpitz". <sup>MANY OF THE FORTY-TWO LANCASTER SQUADRONS DROPPED</sup> The Lancaster (there were forty-two squadrons) ~~in~~ <sup>dropped</sup> over half-a-million tons of ~~high explosive~~ <sup>BOMBS - HIGH EXPLOSIVE</sup>, and 51½ million incendiaries - many in mass saturation raids.

But perhaps those ~~wartime~~ <sup>LONG</sup> crews will remember the Lancaster ~~for~~ <sup>STURDY</sup> ~~its~~ <sup>WAS ABLE TO</sup> ~~sturdy construction~~, which, <sup>SO OFTEN -</sup> despite heavy punishment, ~~limp~~ <sup>R.A.F.</sup> home...to safety. Farewell Lancaster - a great name in ~~aviation~~ <sup>aviation</sup> history.