

SHORT STIRLING



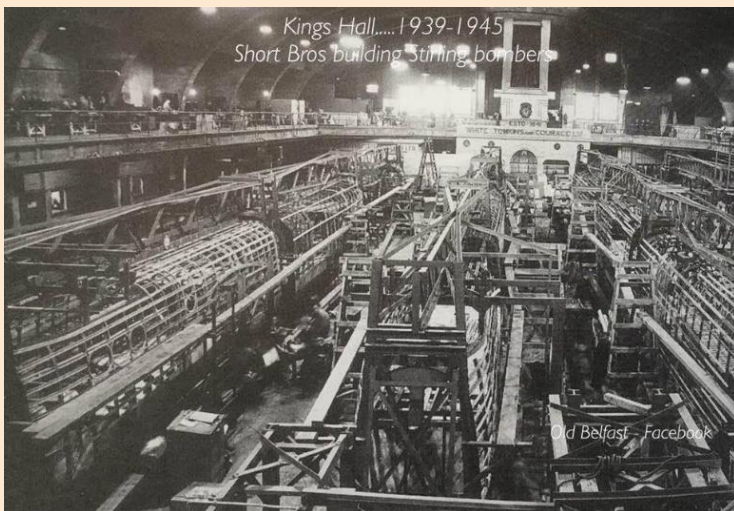
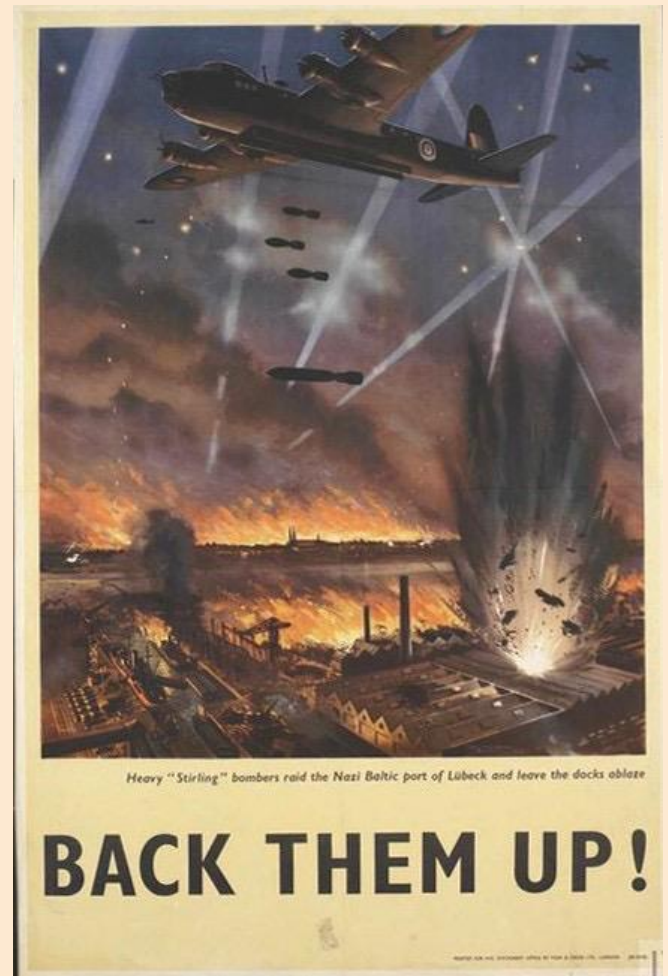
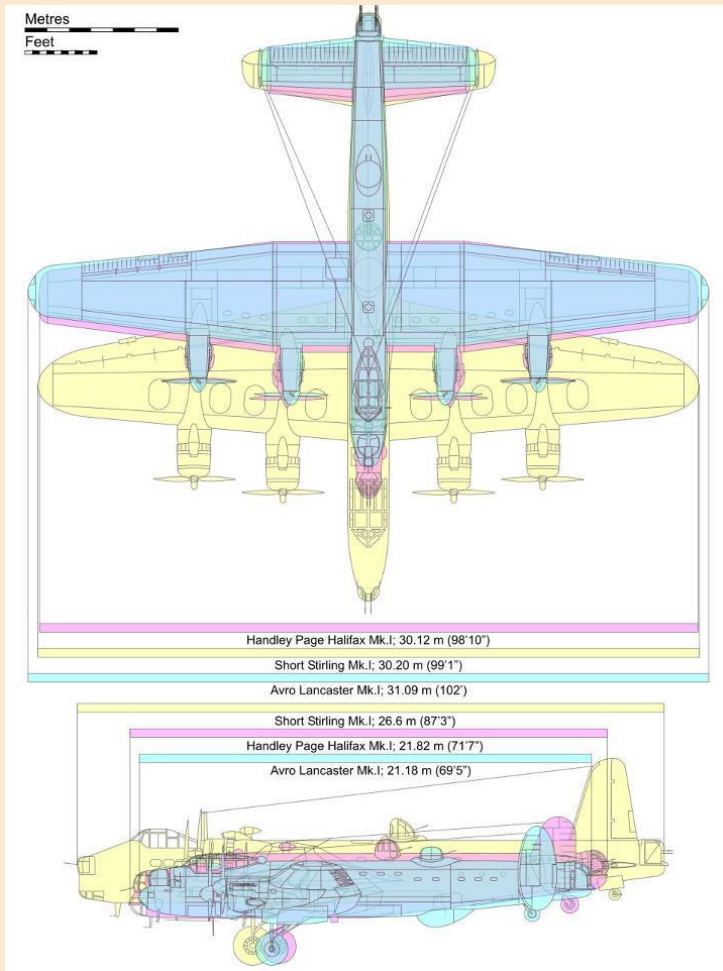
The Short Stirling was the first of the four-engined bombers to fly, the prototype taking to the air in May of 1939. However, its undercarriage collapsed on landing and it was not until February, 1941 that the aircraft flew its first operation against the enemy.

The largest of the British built heavy bombers of the war, the Stirling towered to a height of almost twenty-three feet with 6,600 horsepower being provided by its Bristol Hercules radial engines. The Stirling rendered great service and was said to have been second to none as a sturdy and dependable aircraft.

Tragically, the aircraft was needlessly limited at its conception. The engineers at Short's were faced with the restriction that the wingspan had to be less than one hundred feet so that it could fit into the standard RAF hangars of the day. This resulted in poor high altitude performance and a low ceiling. At low altitudes however, the Stirling was the fastest of the heavy bombers.

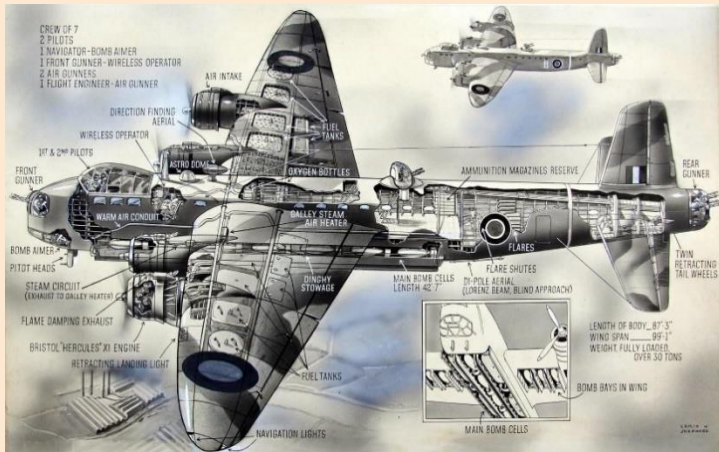
During the autumn of 1943, the use of the Stirling as part of Main Force operations began to decline as the loss rate was much higher than either the Halifax or Lancaster. The aircraft was removed from bombing operations early in 1944. The remainder of Stirling operations within Bomber Command would be mine-laying, electronic countermeasures, and agent/supply drops over Europe. It also continued to serve as a transport and glider tug until the end of the war.

CAPTIONS PROVIDED UNDER PHOTOS WHERE AVAILABLE





SHORT'S STIRLING PLANT, ROCHESTER, KENT BOMBED 15 AUG 1941



90 SQN RAF



149 SQN RAF 1943



199 SQN RAF



7 SQN RAF



7 SQN RAF



149 SQN RAF



STIRLING LK589 RAF IN MALTON, ONTARIO ON NAVIGATION EXERCISE, FROM UK 1943



Short Stirling B Mark I bombers of No 7 Squadron RAF, lined up at Oakington, Cambridgeshire.





199 SQN RAF STIRLING EX-B, LJ-514



7 SQN RAF



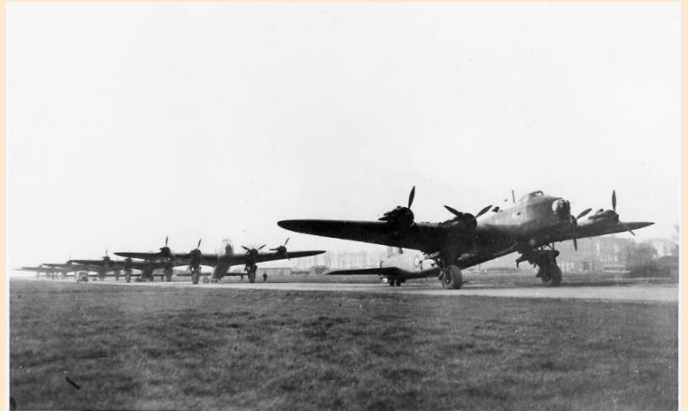
107 SQN RAF



186 SQN RAF



RAF SQN



149 SQN RAF



LOADING EQUIPMENT FOR THE RESISTANCE



295 SQN RAF



218 SQN RAF



218 SQN RAF



7 SQN RAF



7 SQN RAF



305 SQN RAF



75 SQN RAF1943



218 SQN RAF



1654 HCU







A CANADIAN AIRCREW



15 SQN RAF STIRLING N6086 NAMED "MACROBERT'S REPLY" AFTER LADY RACHAEL MACROBERT WHO DONATED 25,000 POUNDS TO THE PURCHASE OF A BOMBER TO HONOUR HER THREE SONS WHO WERE KILLED WHILE WITH THE RAF



7 SQN RAF





305 SQN RAF- CIAPEK THE DOG DID OPS



214 SQN RAF



299 SQN RAF (SPECIAL OPERATIONS)



TWIN TAIL WHEELS ON STIRLING



STIRLING EH957- 1654 HCU



STEWART ROBERTSON'S STIRLING

CREW





STIRLING INTERIOR NF-093



STIRLING AT ST PAULS BOMBED OUT AREA



15 SQN RAF PJ956 IN INDIA



199 SQN RAF



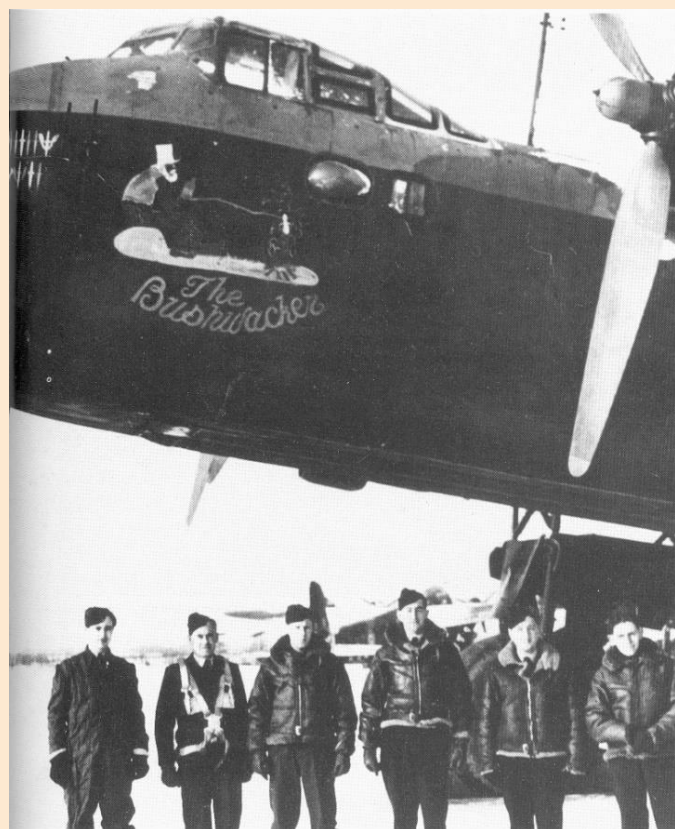
STIRLING B MARK IIIS OF 15 AND 149



SQNS RAF

7 SQN RAF OAKINGTON





295 SQN RAF AUSTRALIAN CREW



**7 SQN RAF
HARWELL**



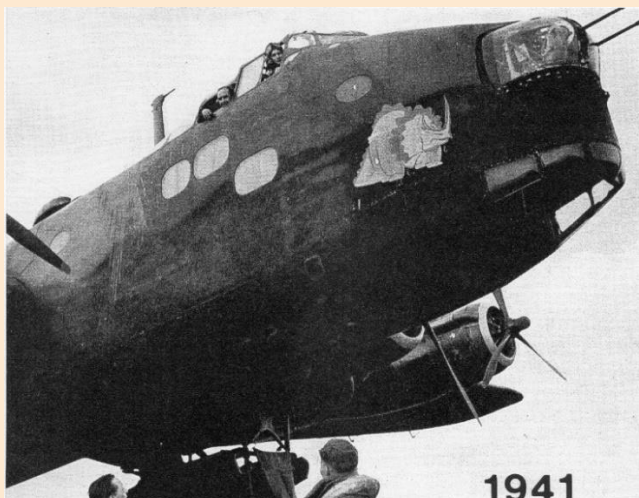
STIRLING LK137 8E-N 295 SQN RAF



199 SQN RAF



61 SQN RAF



STIRLINGS LINED UP ON THE TAXIWAY OF A BRITISH AIRFIELD JUST PRIOR TO D-DAY



Allied Prisoners of War walking to Royal Air Force aircraft which flew them to the United Kingdom.



Allied Prisoners of War waiting beside a long line of Royal Air Force Stirling aircraft drawn up on an airfield in Belgium.

299 SQN RAF



15 SQN RAF 1941



149 SQN RAF



149 SQN RAF



199 SQN RAF LAKENHEATH 1943



214 SQN RAF



622 SQN RAF



15 SQN RAF



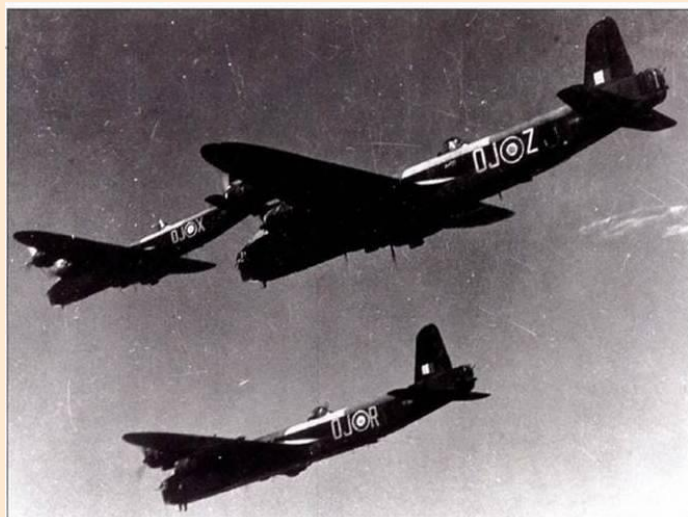
218 SQN RAF DOWNHAM



CHURCHILL AND 7 SQN RAF STIRLING



1651 HCU



149 SQN RAF



149 SQN RAF



15 SQN RAF

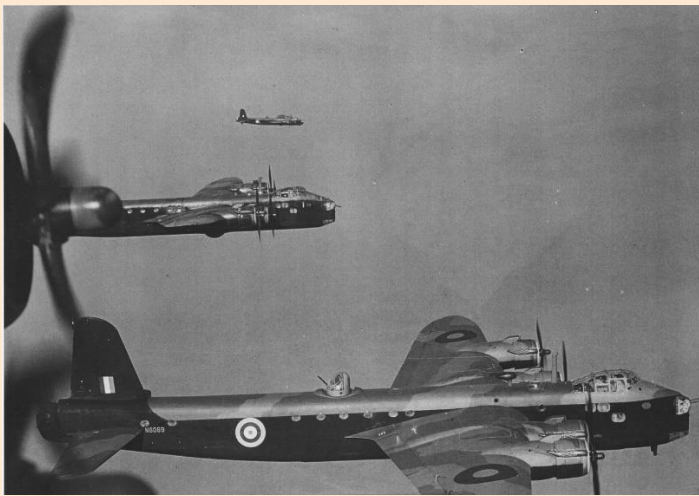


15 SQN 1941





7 SQN RAF





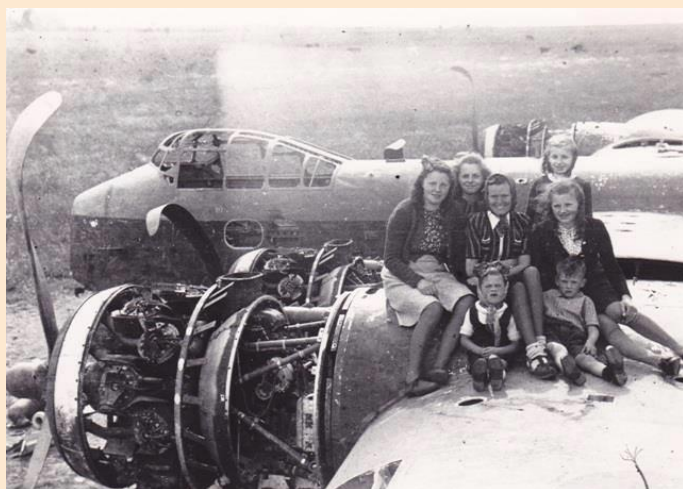
STIRLING TOWING A HORSA GLIDER



216 SQN RAF-AUSTRALIAN CREW

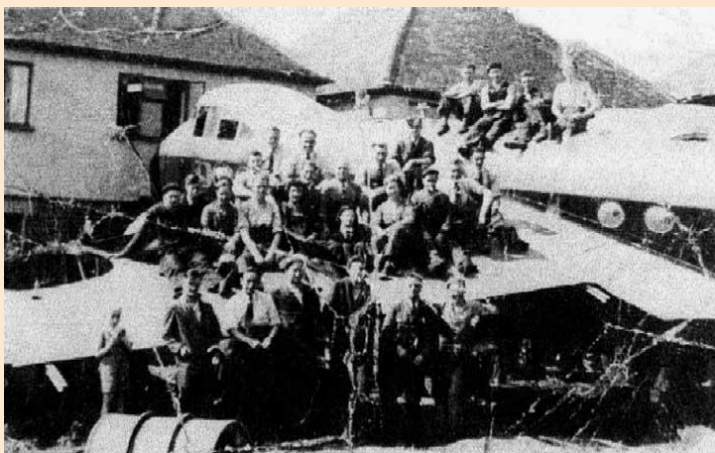


218 SQN RAF DOWNHAM MARKET



218 SQN RAF DOWNHAM MARKET





STIRLING AT BROADSTAIRS



199 SQN RAF



RAAF FLT SGT RON MIDDLETON, VC, 149 SQN RAF ON HIS 29TH MISSION 29 NOV 1942



Short Stirlings parked on Maghaberry airfield in 1947 awaiting scrapping.

