

Embraceable "U"

EMBRACEABLE YOU

Words by IRA GERSHWIN

Music by GEORGE GERSHWIN



Mickey
ROONEY

Judy
GARLAND

in Metro-Goldwyn-Mayers

GIRL CRAZY

WITH TOMMY DORSEY & HIS ORCHESTRA

I GOT RHYTHM - 2/- NET
BIDIN' MY TIME - 2/- NET
EMBRACEABLE YOU - 2/- NET

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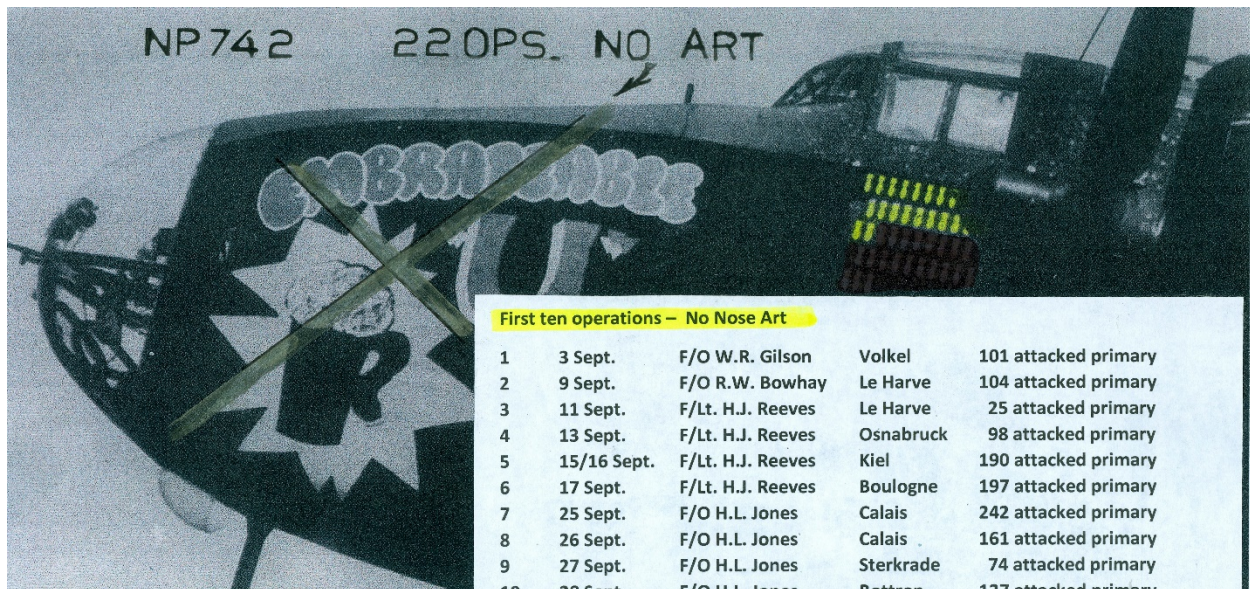
MADE IN ENGLAND

“Embraceable You” is a very popular jazz song, music by George Gershwin and lyrics by Ira Gershwin, written in 1928 but not published until 1930. Performed by Judy Garland in the MGM 1943 film Crazy Girl, and record release by Nat King Cole in the same year, became a huge wartime hit. I prefer the 1944 recording by Billie Holiday, just listen to her voice [online] and it will take you back to wartime 1944. This song title also inspired [Beer] nose art on one RCAF Halifax Bomber in No. 408 [Goose] Squadron at Linton-on-Ouse, England.



RCAF Nose Art on Halifax B. Mk. VII, serial number NP742, No. 408 Squadron, August 1944.

Halifax serial NP742 was manufactured in a Batch NP736 to NP781, 1 August to 9 September 1944 by Handley Page Ltd. Cricklewood and Radlett plant. Arrived with RCAF No. 408 [Goose] Squadron, Linton-on-Ouse, 8 August 1944. Assigned the aircraft code letters LQ-R, the Halifax completed 22 operations with no [known] nose art painting or name. On 18 November a Category "A" accident took place and the Canadian bomber went for major repairs.



First ten operations – No Nose Art

1	3 Sept.	F/O W.R. Gilson	Volkel	101 attacked primary
2	9 Sept.	F/O R.W. Bowhay	Le Harve	104 attacked primary
3	11 Sept.	F/Lt. H.J. Reeves	Le Harve	25 attacked primary
4	13 Sept.	F/Lt. H.J. Reeves	Osnabruck	98 attacked primary
5	15/16 Sept.	F/Lt. H.J. Reeves	Kiel	190 attacked primary
6	17 Sept.	F/Lt. H.J. Reeves	Boulogne	197 attacked primary
7	25 Sept.	F/O H.L. Jones	Calais	242 attacked primary
8	26 Sept.	F/O H.L. Jones	Calais	161 attacked primary
9	27 Sept.	F/O H.L. Jones	Sterkrade	74 attacked primary
10	28 Sept.	F/O H.L. Jones	Bottrop	127 attacked primary

Next ten operations – No Nose Art

11	30 Sept.	F/O H.L. Jones	Sterkrade	15 attacked primary
12	6 Oct.	F/Lt. J.J. Reeves	Dortmund	273 attacked primary
13	9 Oct.	F/O F.V. Barber	Bochum	210 attacked primary
14	14 Oct.	F/O H.L. Jones	Duisburg	238 attacked primary
15	21 Oct.	F/O M.T. Finch	Hannover	101 returned to base
16	23 Oct.	F/O M.T. Finch	Essen	251 attacked primary
17	30/31 Oct.	F/Lt. K.K. Parkhurst	Cologne	237 attacked primary
18	1 Nov.	F/O R.W. Bowhay	Oberhausen	239 attacked primary
19	2 Nov.	F/Lt. K.H. Parkhurst	Dusseldorf	209 attacked primary
20	4 Nov.	F/Lt. K.H. Parkhurst	Bochum	204 attacked primary
21	6 Nov.	F/Lt. K.H. Parkhurst	Gelsenkirchen	
22	18 Nov.	P/O R.B. Stewart	Munster	

18 November, Halifax NP742 was involved in a Category "A" accident major repairs.

After repairs were completed, Halifax NP742 rejoined No. 408 Squadron on 13 January 1945, and flew her 23rd operation [Duisburg, Germany] on 21/22 February by WO1 R.E. Craven R123205. During her repainting, early January 1945, the bomber received the new code letters LQ-U and it is most likely the new nose art painting was completed around this date. Inspired by the hit song "Embraceable You" with a mug of British Ale, the nose art was completed by an unknown artist. The 24th operation was flown 23 February 1945, [Essen, Germany] P/O A.M. Brown J92578, followed by operation #25 on 23/24 Feb., [Pforzheim,

Germany] by the new assigned aircrew of WO1 R. Herringer R169453. This became 'their' aircraft flown on nineteen of her last twenty-one combat operations.

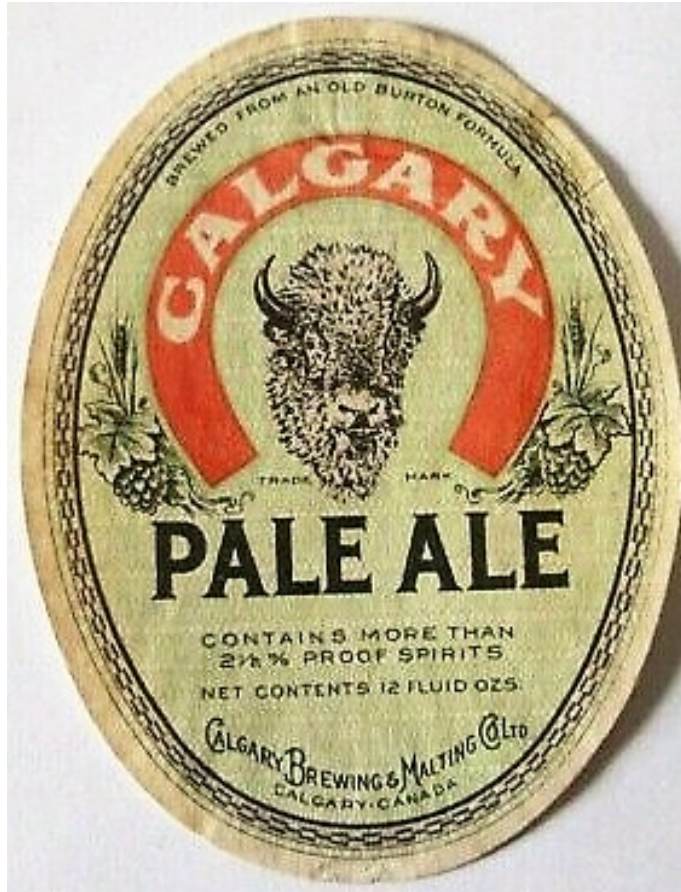


Operations flown by the aircrew of WOI R. Herringer #R169453:

#25	23 February 1945	Pforzheim	50 attacked primary target
#26	24 February	Kamen	108 attacked primary
#27	27 February	Mainz	182 attacked primary
#28	1 March	Mannheim	159 attacked primary
#29	2 March	Cologne	177 attacked primary
#30	11 March	Essen	194 attacked primary
#31	12 March	Dortmund	191 attacked primary
#32	13 March	Wuppertal	97 attacked primary
#33	14/15 March	Zweibrucken	192 attacked primary
#34	21 March	Rheine	80 attacked primary
#35	22 March	Dorsten	96 attacked primary
#36	24 March	Gladbeck	95 attacked primary
#37	25 March	Munster	92 attacked primary
#38	31 March	Hamburg	189 attacked primary
#39	4/5 April	Merseburg	104 attacked primary
#40	8/9 April	Hamburg	184 attacked primary
#41	10 April	Leipzig	188 attacked primary
#44	22 April	Bremen	200 returned early
#45	25 April	Wangerooge	184 attacked primary (Last RCAF operation in WWII.)



Operation #42 was flown by P/O A.J. Cull J92246 on 13/14 April 45 and operation #43 was flown by F/O A.A. Clifford J36136 on 18 April 1945. This unknown crew could possibly be one of the two mentioned, as they posed under the nose art and chalked [not painted] in the words "Calgary Pale" for their Alberta brand of beer [Pale Ale] brewed by the "Horseshoe and Buffalo" Brewing and Malting Co. Ltd. in Calgary, Alberta. Photo from collection of No. 432 pilot Harold Kearn, Calgary.



Calgary Brewing and Malting Co. Ltd bottles had a wide range of Beer labels, however, it was against the law in Alberta to advertise Beer and only soft drinks could appear with the Horseshoe and Buffalo label. Alberta Liquor laws were just weird until 1957, when mixed drinking with men and women was finally authorized and major changes did not really come until the 1970's. [In 1963, the author discovered Quebec was the best place to drink in all of Canada, still is].

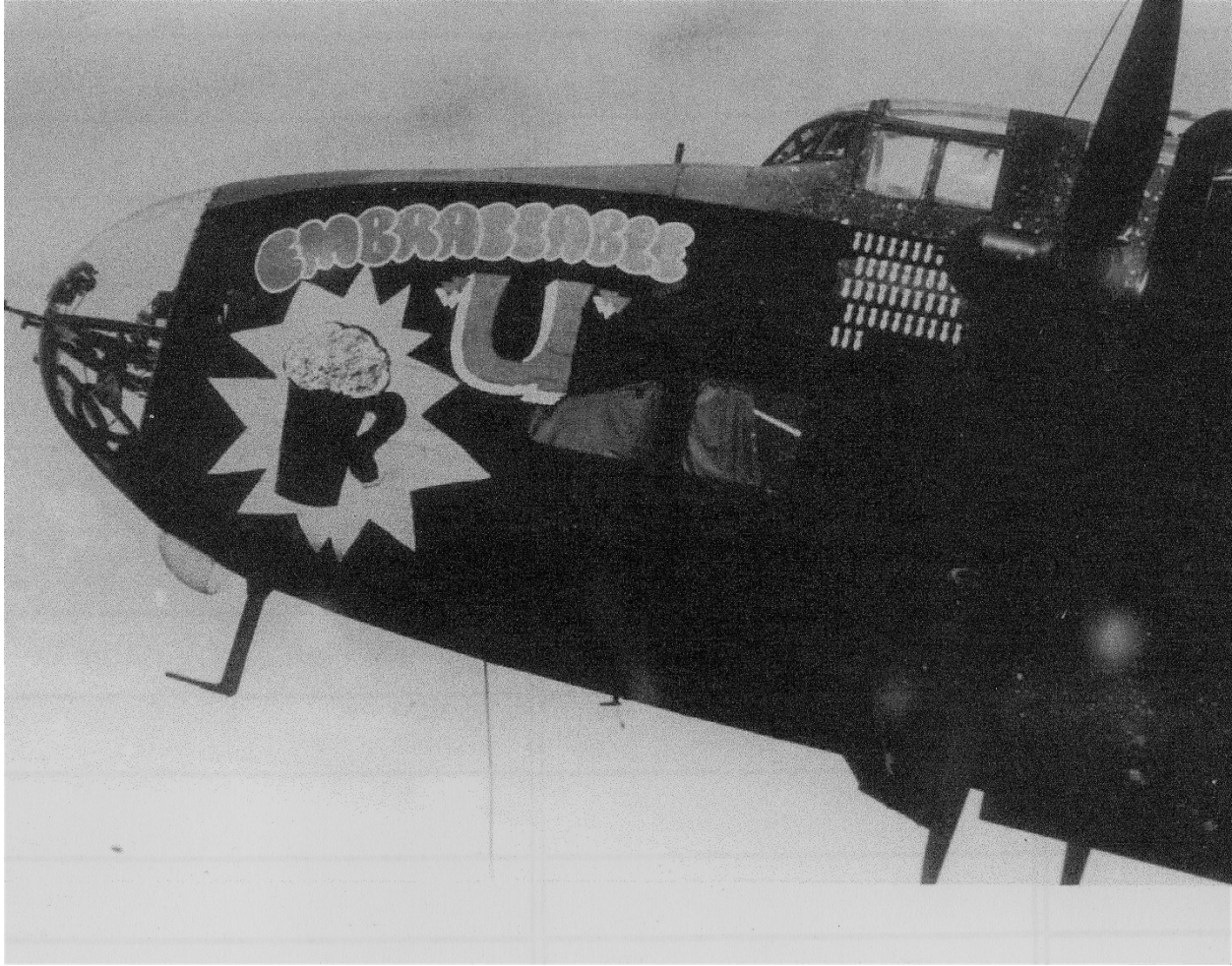
On Operation #40, 8/9 April 1945, Halifax NP742 had an encounter with a new German jet fighter, but no hits were scored on the enemy aircraft.

- | | <u>REAR GUNNER</u> | <u>M.I.D. GUNNER</u> | <u>UNDER GUNNER</u> | <u>FRONT GUNNER</u> |
|---|---|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 19. Name | P/S Harbriak, G. | | | |
| Altitude fired | 200 | | | |
| Opening range | 600 | | | |
| Closing range | 500 | | | |
| Stoppages | 2. Second position | | | |
| Training U.S.S. | No. 9 B & C | | | |
| O.T.U. & H.C.U.s | 21. C. 2111 | 1669 | Com. Unit | |
| 20. Were you able to clear stoppages? | Yes on top left. No for bottom left. | | | |
| 21. Which crew position was searching away from the attack, or in the dark part of the sky? | Mid-space. Other: None | | | |
| 22. Loss of height during the attack | None | | | |
| 23. Mechanical defects or damage previously mentioned affecting combat | None | | | |
| 24. Damage to bomber | None | | | |
| 25. Casualties to crew | None | | | |
| 26. Damage to fighter | Not aware of any. Thought no. 1st A/C on port side. | | | |
| 27. Fighter claimed Destroyed/Probably Destroyed/Damaged | No claims. | | | |

Shortly after leaving target the tail gunner observed a single engine A/C on the port quarter up at a range of 800 Yds. This A/C appeared to have a glow somewhere near the stern position. As the range decreased to 600 Yds he gave instructions to weave and opened fire. His bullets appeared to strike the port side of the B/A which broke away to the starboard quarter down.

GERMAN JET AIRCRAFT
Enemy A/C was not identified.

S. C. W. Harper
(S.C.W. Harper) Flight Lieutenant,
Gunnery Leader,
for Officer Commanding,
No. 408 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.



The proud Halifax bomber was ready for disposal on 16 May 1945, flown to the huge Halifax graveyard at RAF No. 43 Group, Rawcliffe, on 23 May and parked for scrapping. Struck off charge by the RAF on 26 May 45, the aircraft was photographed [above] by F/I Harold Lindsay a few days later. Marked for preservation and return to Canada, the nose art was not saved, reason still unknown.

BATCH NP736 - NP781 - 1 AUG. - 9 SEPT 1944.

HALIFAX VII "R" → LQ-U. BECAME CODE "U" FEB. 1945. NP-742 EMBRACEABLE YOU

HOLDER	ALLOTMENT		F.1623 RECEIPT		F.1623 DESPATCH	
	NO.	DATE	NO.	DATE	NO.	DATE
408 Sqn.	41G/1470	8/8/44	FO	10/8		
CAT. AC	A766	18/11/44				
408 Sqn.						
Dosposal 16/5						
To Handley Page TB847 - 23/5 OP. No. 43 GROUP, RAWCLIFFE. (LINDSAY PHOTO) SOC 26 MAY 1945						

HANDLEY PAGE CRICKLEWOOD + RADLI

→ FLEW 22 OPS. UNTIL ACCIDENT REPAIRS - 19 NOV. TO 13 JAN. 45

FLEW OP. # 23, 21/22 FEB 45 TO "U" 13/1/45
 COMPLETED - 23 OPS. WEARING CODE "U" & NOSE ART.
 LAST OP # 45, 25 APR. 1945.

→ 19/11/44