

# COLORS OF WAR

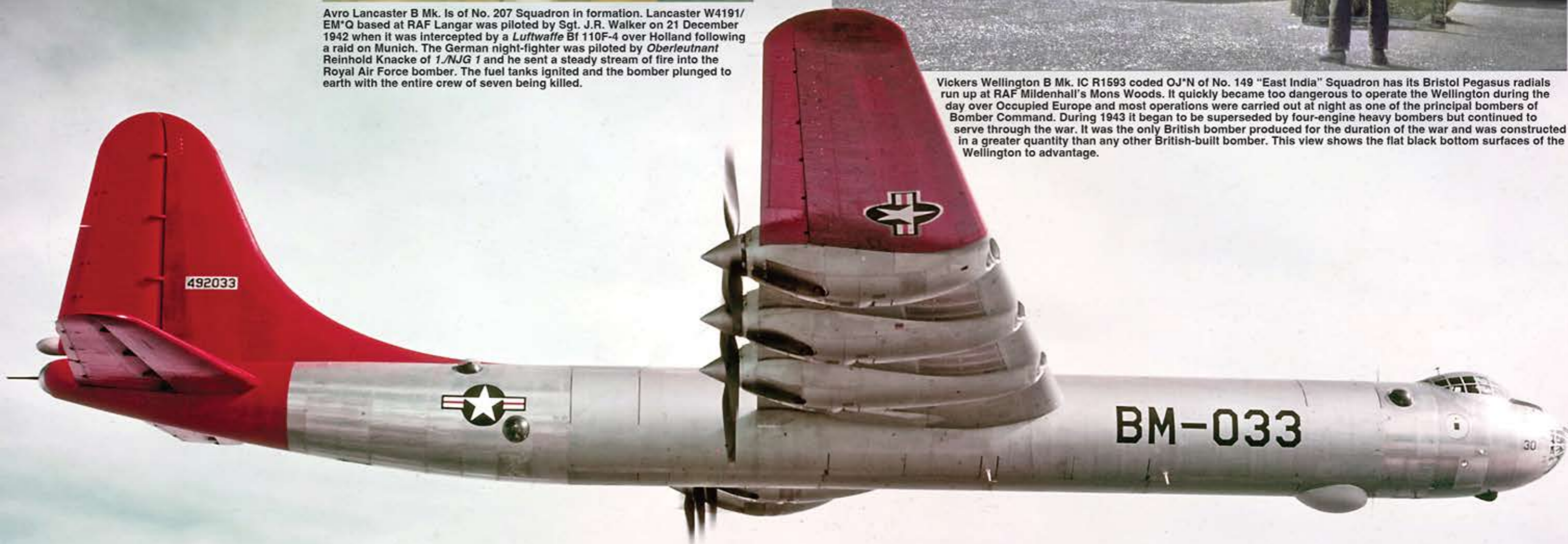
A FURTHER SELECTION OF RARE COLOR AIRCRAFT IMAGES FROM THE CHALLENGE ARCHIVES BY MICHAEL O'LEARY



Avro Lancaster B Mk. Is of No. 207 Squadron in formation. Lancaster W4191/EM\*Q based at RAF Langar was piloted by Sgt. J.R. Walker on 21 December 1942 when it was intercepted by a *Luftwaffe* Bf 110F-4 over Holland following a raid on Munich. The German night-fighter was piloted by *Oberleutnant* Reinhold Knacke of 1./NJG 1 and he sent a steady stream of fire into the Royal Air Force bomber. The fuel tanks ignited and the bomber plunged to earth with the entire crew of seven being killed.



Vickers Wellington B Mk. IC R1593 coded OJ\*N of No. 149 "East India" Squadron has its Bristol Pegasus radials run up at RAF Mildenhall's Mons Woods. It quickly became too dangerous to operate the Wellington during the day over Occupied Europe and most operations were carried out at night as one of the principal bombers of Bomber Command. During 1943 it began to be superseded by four-engine heavy bombers but continued to serve through the war. It was the only British bomber produced for the duration of the war and was constructed in a greater quantity than any other British-built bomber. This view shows the flat black bottom surfaces of the Wellington to advantage.



Few aircraft were as majestic as the Convair B-36 Peacemaker. This example is B-36B-1-CF USAAF 44-92033 that was based at Carswell AFB (also where the B-36 was built) and was photographed heading to Alaska with the 7th Bombardment Wing, hence the large portions of the airframe being finished in red high-visibility markings. The bomber was retired to Davis-Monthan AFB on 19 November 1956 and later scrapped.