



1942

On May 31, 1942, 18 Wellingtons from No. 419 Squadron and 17 from No. 149 Squadron at RAF Station Mildenhall took part in the first “1000 Bomber Raid” against Cologne, Germany. In this raid 1,047 aircraft were dispatched to Cologne, of which 868 attacked the main target and dropped 1,455 tons of explosives, two-thirds of which were incendiaries. The city suffered severe damage with about 250 factories and 18,400 houses destroyed or damaged. This was a major effort by the RAF’s Bomber Command, because in May 1942, they only had an average of about 400 serviceable aircraft in the operational bomber squadrons. Finding an additional 600 aircraft meant stripping Bomber Command clean. Most of the additional aircraft came from Operational Training Units with the aircraft being flown by instructors.

A few months later, two more squadrons came to RAF Station Mildenhall. First, No. 75 (New Zealand) (Bomber) Squadron replaced No. 419 Squadron when that squadron moved from RAF Station Feltwell on August 15, 1942. The motto of the No. 75 Squadron was AKE AKE KIA KAHA (Forever and Ever Be Strong). On September 25, 1942, No. 115 (Bomber) Squadron moved to RAF Station Mildenhall from RAF Marham. The No. 115 Squadron remained until November 8, 1942. Their motto was DESPITE THE ELEMENTS.



*No 75 (New Zealand)
Squadron (Bomber)*



*No 115 (Bomber)
Squadron*