



Captured Wimpy #1

Vickers Wellington mk.IV Z1277



ED 48030

ED 72030

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Vickers Wellington Z1277

8/9 November, 1941 - this was one of the worst nights for the RAF. Out of 267 planes, only 143 flew over their targets. 37 did not return. That night, Berlin and Mannheim were bombed. 17 Polish crews flew over Berlin, 15 over Mannheim.

Wellington Z1277 GR Z was hit by flak over Mannheim. On the way back, the planes encountered unpredictable, very difficult weather conditions - strong northerly winds, total cloud cover, icing, and a magnetic storm. Many planes had trouble returning to bases due to running out of fuel.

Wellington Z1277 GR Z landed at a German airfield in occupied Belgium due to lack of fuel (apart from a damaged radio, they also had problems with the compass).

The Germans, convinced that one of their planes had lost its way in bad weather conditions, lit up the airfield to make landing easier for the Polish pilots... Of course, after the plane stopped, there was a surprise on both sides. The entire crew was taken prisoner. The Germans repainted the plane and sent it back to the *Reich* on 11 November.



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