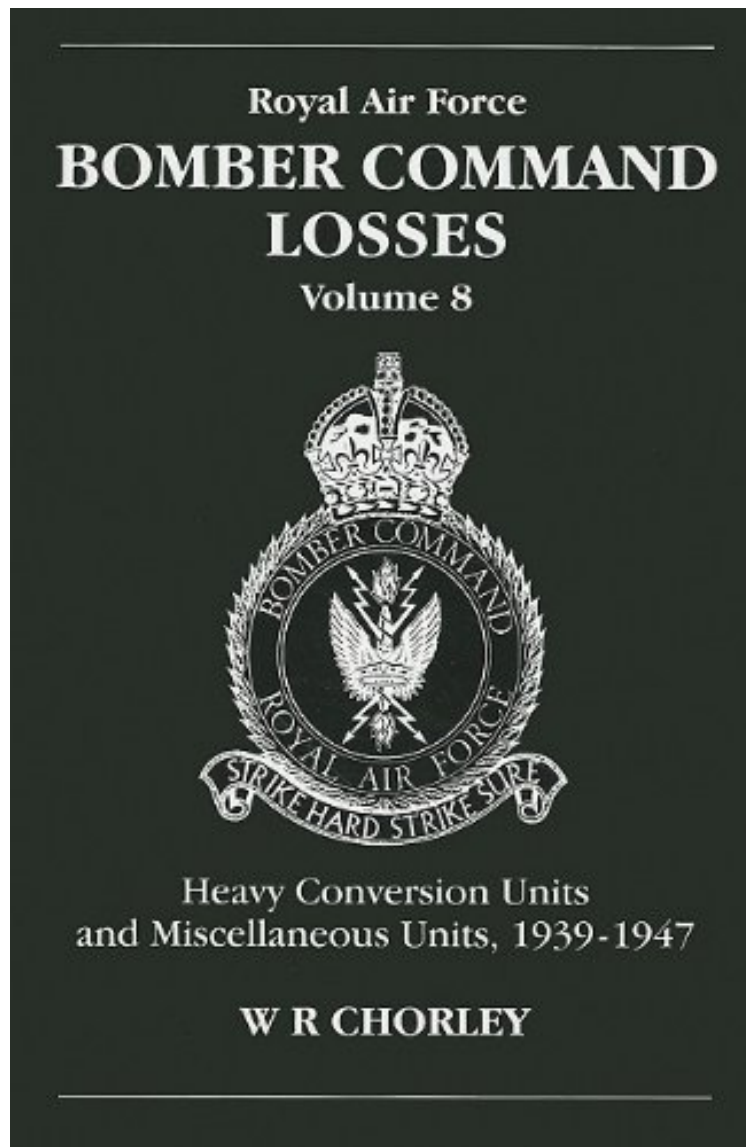


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## RAF Bomber Command Losses: Heavy Conversion Units and Miscellaneous Units 1939-1947

W.R. Chorley

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**W.R. Chorley : RAF Bomber Command Losses: Heavy Conversion Units and Miscellaneous Units 1939-1947** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised RAF Bomber Command Losses: Heavy Conversion Units and Miscellaneous Units 1939-1947:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Counting the Cost...Volume 8!By Mike O'ConnorW. R. Chorley continues his masterful summary of RAF bomber losses with this 2003 volume covering Heavy Conversion Units and miscellaneous units. Whereas volumes 1 through 6 focused on the 1939-1945 period, Volume 8 details losses incurred from 1939 to 1947. As with the preceding volumes, Chorley has brought together enormous amounts of information from a wide variety of sources to produce a concise, admittedly dry yet occasionally poignant accounting of RAF aircraft and aircrew losses. Volume 8 runs to 269 pages. It covers Heavy Conversion Units, Squadron Conversion Flights, Heavy Conversion Flights, Lancaster Finishing Schools, Ferry Training Units and assorted units. To those unfamiliar with RAF organization, Heavy Conversion Units were first created in 1941 when four-engined bombers - Stirlings, Halifaxes, Lancasters and later B-17s and B-24s - began entering RAF service. They helped convert medium bomber crews to the newly-introduced 'heavies' before passing them on to Operational Training Units. Although most of the losses documented in Volume 8 came during training flights, some HSUs did occasionally fly combat and suffered losses to AAA or fighters. No. 1651 HSU, for example, fly 49 ops in 1941, losing five crews. In any case, Volume 8 follows Chorley's established format: a day-by-day listing of losses further subdivided by squadron. Information given includes aircraft type, serial number, crew members/status (KIA, POW, etc), aircraft unit code and a brief summary of the loss. The loss report of the 1653 HSU Lancaster III which crashed fatally on 8 April 1945, for example, states: "Aircraft took off North Luffenham for fighter affiliation. Lost control and crashed at 1515 hours near Scraptoft on the eastern outskirts of Leicester. The six crew were all lost." Though the BOMBER COMMAND LOSSES volumes are obviously intended for reference, Chorley still manages to insert brief personal bits of info in entries that puts a human face on the dry statistics. Paging through the books in this series is a sobering experience. Volume 8, for example, documents over 1,200 aircraft losses which translates to thousands of young men killed. It underlines the sacrifice made by RAF aircrew whether in HSUs or operational squadrons made during World War II. All in all, a tremendous effort on Chorley's part. Recommended.

This series has been of enduring interest over many years, and is still highly sought after. Apart from the obvious interest to aviation historians, many people researching family history find these books invaluable, as so many families had someone in an RAF bomber squadron, who failed to return from active service. With the interest in family history increasing all the time and with many now seeking detailed information about wartime careers of relatives, the series will continue to be used by those seeking to find out more about fathers, grandfathers and other relatives who flew with, and died in the service of Bomber Command during World War 2.

About the Author Since serving in the RAF for six years, Bill Chorley has had a life-long interest in military aviation. He authored the previous volumes in this series as well as other titles concerning the RAF Bomber Command.