

DETAIL OF WORK CARRIED OUT
By No. 86 Squadron.

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(7472) Wt. 24229/1650. 180m. 8/40. P.L. 51-7751.

FOR THE MONTH OF February 1942.

DATE	AIRCRAFT TYPE & NUMBER	CREW	DUTY	TIME		DETAILS OF SORTIE OR FLIGHT	REFERENCES.
				UP	DOWN		
2.2.42.	Beaufort II "B" 217 Sqdn.	P/O. Firmin Sgt. Jolliffe Sgt. Walker P/S. Stretch	A/S Patrol	12.50	15.45	Position ZJPM 3203 sighted 2 armed trawlers & 1 tanker on course 070 degrees T speed 10 knots. Pilot altered course away from C.V. climbed to cloud base at 1400 ft. and continued circling to port until A/C on starboard quarter of tanker. Flak did not open up until a/c was about to attack. 2 X 500 lb. M.C. and 4 x 250 lb. G.P. (11 sec. delay) were released in shallow dive from 1400 ft. down to 50 ft. and were estimated to have straddled the ship which altered course about 20 degrees to starboard. Rear gunner fired 170 rds at tanker. As a/c flew away, rear gunner saw bows of ship enveloped in cloud of steam or smoke just after splash had been observed 5-10 yards from port bow, as if bomb had passed right through ship. Avoiding action taken and later pilot saw ship, which appeared to be down by the head.	STE/04/2/2 PL/G3/6/2
" " "	Beaufort II "G" AW.273	Sgt. Brookhouse Sgt. Musker Sgt. Knill Sgt. Draper	Strike	16.55	18.55	A/C G/86 flew in formation with "A" & "Q". In position 4558 a tanker estimated 5000 tons escorted by 2 armed trawlers was sighted approx. 4 miles ahead on westerly course at 3 knots. A/C continued formation for 30 secs then broke and attacked. A/C "G" released torpedo from 70 ft., 900 yards from target and took avoiding action from Red Flak, all ships having opened up just prior to attack. A/C "Q" was observed by rear gunner to fall into sea in flames. "A" was last seen on Northerly course far ahead of "G" flying normally. A/C "G" landed at base at 18.55. A/C "A" failed to return and crew are missing. A/C "Q" failed to return and crew are missing.	STE/06/2/2 PL/G8/2/2
" " "	Beaufort II "Q" AW.247	P/O. Woodhouse P/O. Jones Sgt. Holt Sgt. McMillan	Strike	16.53	----		
" " "	Beaufort II "A" AW.253	P/O. Khan Sgt. Donham Sgt. McLarty Sgt. Turnbull	Strike	16.54	----	For details see above.	
3.2.42.	Beaufort II "R" AW.272	P/O. Esler Sgt. Linford Sgt. Ackerman Sgt. McDevitt	Special Target	07.15	09.50	A/C "R" airborne on Special Target operation, but landed at Portreath with nothing to report at 09.50	STE/03/3/2 PL/G1/3/2
" " "	Beaufort II "Z" AW.250	P/O. Drymael Sgt. Narracott Sgt. Gibbs Sgt. Brand.	Special Task	07.26	----	A/C "Z" detailed for Special Task. This A/C failed to return and the crew are missing.	PL/G1/3/2 1

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				UP	DOWN		
3.2.42.	Beaufort II "K" L.9854	Sgt. Tuffin Sgt. Dickinson Sgt. Frith Sgt. Horn	Brest Sweep	09.33	12.24	A/C "K"/86 with crew of 217 Sqn and A/C "W"/86 airborne on Brest Sweep, but landed at Chivenor with nothing to report.	CHI/01/3/2 PL/G3/3/2
" " "	Beaufort II "W" W.6537	Sgt. Corble Sgt. Roberts Sgt. Moss Sgt. Jones	do.	09.33	12.24	As above.	
" " "	Beaufort II "D" AW.241	Sgt. Chippindall Sgt. Lowing Sgt. West Sgt. Sarone	Special Target	09.24	12.34	In position ZJFM 1006, sighted 3 small vessels on course 270 at 6 knots 3 miles apart in line astern. In position ZJFM 0808 sighted 2 small vessels on course 270 2 miles apart and one painted white, which opened fire including a smoke signal which burst at 300 ft. above vessel giving appearance of barrage balloons.	STE/04/3/2 PL/G1/3/2
4.2.42.	Beaufort II "G" AW.273	P/O. Evans Sgt. Lock P/S. Straughan Sgt. Barlow	Rover	12.02	18.00	A/C "G", "U" and "Y" airborne on Rover Patrol. In position WDAA 5038 sighted 4 fishing vessels, course N.W. with nets overside and French markings. Returned with nothing else to report.	STE/07/4/2 PL/G1/3/2
" " "	Beaufort II "U" AW.248	P/S. Lawrence P/O. Watson Sgt. Stone Sgt. Bailey	Rover	12.02	18.00	As above.	
" " "	XXXXXXXXXX Beaufort II "Y" AW.276	Sgt. Daly Sgt. Dunn Sgt. Little Sgt. Pettman	Rover	12.02	18.00	As above.	
5.2.42.	Beaufort II "D" AW.241	Sgt. Bushby Sgt. Kitching Sgt. Wadham Sgt. Spalding	A/S Patrol	06.46	12.55	In position BFUP 0090 sighted 250 ft. M/V on course 300, speed 5 knots. M/V had black Maltese cross in white circle on funnel. Attack was made and torpedo dropped from 80 feet at 1000 yards range. A/C then flew ahead of bows of M/V and rear gunner fired some good bursts at long range. Result not visible due to bad visibility.	STE/020/5/2 PL/G1/4/2

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				UP	DOWN		
6.2.42.	Beaufort	W/Odr. Flood	Biscuit	16.40	18.30	A/C "V", "Y", "X", "G", "E" and "B" carried out Biscuit operation. All returned to base with nothing to report.	STE/012/6/2 PL/05/5/2
	II	F/O. Durrant.					
	"V" AW.284	Sgt. Green. J.T.					
		Sgt. Levy					
" " "	Beaufort	F/O. Firmin	do.	16.41	18.30	As above.	
	II	Sgt. Dunn					
	"Y" AW.276	F/Sgt. Stretch					
		Sgt. Walker					
" " "	Beaufort	Sgt. Corble	do.	16.43	18.33	As above.	
	II	Sgt. Roberts					
	"X" AW.285	Sgt. Jones					
		Sgt. Moss					
" " "	Beaufort	S/Ldr. Mathewson	do.	16.46	18.49	As above	
	II	F/O. Stephens					
	"G" AW.273	Sgt. Young					
		F/S. Howett					
" " "	Beaufort	Sgt. Chippindall	do.	16.45	18.54	As above	
	II	Sgt. Lowing					
	"E" AW.251	Sgt. West					
		Sgt. Sarene					
" " "	Beaufort	Sgt. Brockhouse	do.	16.44	19.02	As above	
	II	Sgt. Musker					
	"B" AW.279	Sgt. Watkins					
		Sgt. Neal					
" " "	Beaufort	P/O. Roper	A/S Patrol	08.30	17.45	A/C carried out A/S Patrol and sighted about 100 fishing vessels from position JDWQ 3045 to JDUF 3010, majority heading towards coast. Returned with nothing else to report.	STE/018/6/2 PL/01/6/2
	II	Sgt. Codd					
	"M" W.6536	Sgt. Checketts					
		Sgt. Miles.					

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				UP	DOWN		
6.2.42.	Beaufort II "D" AW.241	S/Ldr. Anstead F/Sgt. Day P/O. North F/Sgt. Brown	A/S Patrol	08.30	17.45	A/C carried out A/S patrol and sighted about 100 fishing vessels from position JDW 3045 to JDUF 3010, majority heading towards coast. Returned with nothing else to report.	STE/013/6/2 PL/G1/6/2
8.2.42.	Beaufort II "V" AW.284	F/O. Firmin Sgt. Jolliffe Sgt. Walker F/S. Stretch	A/S Recce	14.50	17.30	A/C "V", "U" and "W" completed patrol and returned to base with nothing to report.	STE/09/8/2 PL/G2/8/2
" " "	Beaufort II "U" AW.248	Sgt. Corble Sgt. Roberts Sgt. Jones Sgt. Moss	do.	14.50	17.30	As above	
" " "	Beaufort II "A" W.6537	Sgt. Lawrence P/O. Watson Sgt. Brain Sgt. Roberts	do.	14.50	17.30	As above	
10.2.42.	Beaufort II "X" AW.285	P/O. Esler Sgt. Linford Sgt. Ackerman Sgt. McDevitt	Shipping Search.	12.36	14.10	A/C "X", "U" and "B" completed patrol and returned to base with nothing to report.	STE/04/10/2 PL/G4/10/2
" " "	Beaufort II "U" AW.248	Sgt. Bushby Sgt. Kitching Sgt. Wadham Sgt. Spalding	do.	12.37	14.12	As above	
" " "	Beaufort II "B" AW.279	Sgt. Jennings Sgt. Driscoll Sgt. Pettman	do.	12.38	14.14	As above	

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(7472) Wt. 24229/1650. 180ms. 8/90. P.I. 51-7751.

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				UP	DOWN		
12.2.42.	Beaufort II "V" AW.284	W/Cdr. Flood P/O. Durrant Sgt. Levy Sgt. Green	Strike	16.06	20.32	A/C arrived over Coltishall at 17.04 hrs. left coast and set course without escort. Message received in clear "Battle cruisers may be 30 miles or more S. of given position and forces have split". In position HLYX 5820 commenced search back southwards along Dutch coast. One JU.88 seen in distance on Southerly course and 1 Wellington on Easterly course. Sighted 3 M class minesweepers in position HLA 1032 on Northerly course and A/C sent first sighting report. Minesweepers fired 3 star Red challenge. 2 unidentified twin engined A/C seen circling at 2000 ft. above vessels, own A/C at 150-200 ft. No attack made.	SECRET SECRET TI/05/12/2 CH/03/12/2
" " "	Beaufort II "Y" AW.276	P/O. Firmin Sgt. Jolliffe Sgt. Walker P/S. Stretch	Strike	16.00	19.22	Arrived over Coltishall and circled until 17.07, no fighter contacted so set course for position HLYX 5825 and patrolled coastwise. Nothing sighted except 3 M class minesweepers in position HLYX 1502.	CH/025/12/2
" " "	Beaufort II "X" AW.285	P/O. Roper Sgt. Howell Sgt. Checketts Sgt. Miles	do.	16.00	19.35	Details as for "Y" above.	
" " "	Beaufort II "D" AW.241	Crew of 217 Sqdn. names not available	Strike	17.15	18.00	Primary Target Scharnhorst & Gneisenau. Task abandoned owing to illness of Observer.	
" " "	Beaufort II "U" AW.248	Sgt. Corble Sgt. Roberts Sgt. Moss Sgt. Jones	Strike	15.57	19.25	A/C flew via Coltishall on course of 098 degrees with eleven other Beauforts in formation until leader signalled to break. A/C was then over Dutch coast and sighted 3 small barges less than 500 tons. Nothing else sighted so set course for base. A/C landed at Coltishall.	
" " "	Beaufort II "B" AW.279	P/O. Brice Sgt. Webb Sgt. Samphier Sgt. Bryson.	do.	12.43	20.10	A/C airborne for Thorney Island with 5 other Beauforts and landed 14.05 hrs. Took off for Coltishall and contacting no fighter escort set course for Dutch coast. Convoy escorted by Destroyers was sighted (position uncertain) and escort fired 3 star Red cartridges. Formation broke up and A/C set course for Thorney Island, but landfall was made north of Yarmouth. Landed at Coltishall.	68

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				UP	DOWN		
13.2.42.	Beaufort	S/Ldr. ^{T.I.} Mathewson	Strike	16.10	---	This aircraft did not return and no report is available.	TI/01/13/2
	II	F/O. Stephens					CH/03/12/2
	"G" AW.273	F/S. Howett					
		Sgt. Young					
16.2.42.	Beaufort	W/Cdr. Flood	A/S Patrol	11.36	14.34	A/C "W" "D" and "S" flew in formation on A/S patrol. In position FMS 0555 attack was made on 4 small ships. They were believed to be coasters, one funnel amidships with red band (two subsequently seen to be flying French flag) estimated 150 ft. in length. One seen to have four ventilators, all sailing independently. A/C broke formation and "W" carried out attack from 50 ft. All bombs but one, which overshot, hit the ship amidships which promptly blew up and disintegrated. The A/C was violently shaken and when cloud cleared, only an oily patch and floating debris could be seen. Crew of "D" report that ship appeared first to break in two and both parts were blown out of the water before disintegrating. A/C "D" carried out attack on leading ship from 50 ft. and 1 X 500 lb. and 1 X 250 lb. were estimated as direct hits, the remainder straddling. The forepart was seen to have been blown off and was awash. The ship sank a minute or two later. during run up, pilot fired about 50 rds into the ship and a man in a red shirt was seen diving for cover. A/C "W" sprayed third ship with M.G. fire and A/C "S" attacked from 50 ft. Two bombs undershot and one overshot, remainder estimated to have scored direct hits. A violent explosion took place and a few seconds later the ship was well down by the bows and was awash as far aft as amidships. The crew abandoned ship and pulled away in a boat. As A/C flew away, fourth ship continued on its course. Later in position ZJAA 1550 five unidentified M/V's were sighted, one 4 - 5000 tons with flush decks, 1 funnel 2 masts, and two were between 1 - 2000 tons coasters. Nothing else seen except fishing vessels.	STE/011/16/2 PL/G2/15/2
	II	F/O. Durrant					
	"W" W.6537	Sgt. Green					
		Sgt. Levy					
" " "	Beaufort	F/O. Brice	do.	11.36	14.14		
	II	Sgt. Webb					
	"D" AW.241	Sgt. Samphier					
		Sgt. Bryson					
" " "	Beaufort	Sgt. Brookhouse					
	II	Sgt. Musker					
	"S" AW.199	Sgt. Knill					
		Sgt. Draper					
17.2.42.	Beaufort	F/O. Esler	Shipping	10.30	11.11	Completed patrol and returned to base with nothing to report.	STE/04/17/2 PL/G2/17/2
	II	Sgt. Linford	Search.			Completed patrol and returned to base with nothing to report.	STE/07/17/2 PL/G2/17/2
	"V" AW.284	Sgt. Ackerman					
		Sgt. McDevitt					
" " "	Beaufort	F/O. Firmin	A/S Search	10.30	16.30	Completed Patrol and returned to base with nothing to report.	STE/02/17/2 PL/G2/17/2
	II	Sgt. Jolliffe					
	"Y" AW.276	Sgt. Walker					
		F/S. Stretch					
" " "	Beaufort	Sgt. Bushby	A/S Search	10.30	16.30	Completed Patrol and returned to base with nothing to report.	STE/02/17/2 PL/G2/17/2
	II	Sgt. Kitching					
	"H" AW.340	Sgt. Adham					
		Sgt. Spalding					

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17.2.42.	Beaufort II AW.279	Sgt. Jennings Sgt. Driscoll Sgt. Little Sgt. Pettman	A/S. Sweep	05.50	---	This aircraft crashed south of St. Merryn and burst into flames and bombs exploded killing all members of crew.	FL/G8/17/2
18.2.42.	Beaufort I "K" L.9854	Sgt. Chippindall Sgt. Lowing Sgt. West Sgt. Sarene	A/S. Patrol.	11.54	19.34	In position JDUP 3127 crossed French coast and for 14 mins. searched in vain for target. In clearings in wooded country south of river mouth, estimated position JDUP 3090, two encampments of military type were observed. One consisted of about 8 huts in a row with a fence round it. Nothing else seen except fishing vessels and 2 trawlers.	STE/02/18/2 FL/G2/15/2
" " "	Beaufort I "P" AW.210	P/O. Esler Sgt. Linford Sgt. Ackerman Sgt. McDevitt	A/S Patrol.	11.55	19.26	Position HKPM 4520 sighted convoy of 2 M/V's estimated 3000 tons and 3 or 4 smaller vessels on course 090 speed 6 knots. A/C attempted to bomb M/V 3000 tons 3 Islna type on track 360 degrees T at 30 ft., but bombs failed to release. Intense M.G. fire encountered, no tracer. A/C made second run attempting to jettison bombs on ship, but bombs would not release. Ship was machine gunned with 14 sec. bursts from front guns.	STE/03/18/2 FL/G2/15/2
" " "	Beaufort I "S" AW.199	Sgt. Furphy Sgt. Kay Sgt. Green P/S. Pocock	A/S Patrol.	12.04	19.20	In position JDUP 3227 sighted what appeared to be a concentration camp, a barbed wire compound of about 15 wooden huts, a few men were seen. Nothing else sighted except one fishing vessel.	STE/04/18/2 FL/G2/15/2
19.2.42.	Beaufort I "N" W.6524	P/O. Kellow Sgt. Coates Sgt. Joynstone Sgt. Gibbons	A/S Search	09.04	15.30	In position QMWQ 0000 sighted 5 M class minesweepers on course 230 speed 20 knots. A/C approached to within 1000 yards and was challenged with 4 star cartridge, 1 red and 3 white, and almost immediately all ships opened up with intense and accurate M.G. fire with bright yellow tracer. A/C took violent evasive action, circled and set course for base.	STE/04/19/2 FL/G2/15/2
" " "	Beaufort I "J" AW.239	P/O. Roper Sgt. Godd Sgt. Cheeketts Sgt. Miles	A/S Search	09.04	15.45	Patrol completed and nothing to report except a few fishing vessels sighted.	STE/05/19/2 FL/G2/15/2
" " "	Beaufort I "L" N.1019	Sgt. Boote Sgt. Bridge Sgt. Thomas P/S. Smart	A/S. Search	09.07	16.55	Patrol completed and A/C returned to base with nothing to report except a few fishing vessels sighted.	STE/06/19/2 FL/G2/15/2

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				Up	Down		
21.2.42.	Beaufort	F/O. Brice	Strike	16.02	17.23	A/C "V", "T" & "P" took off in formation, but lost contact	NC/02/21/2
	II	Sgt. Webb				contact in abnormal weather conditions and set course	CH/03/21/2
	"V" AW.284	Sgt. Samphier				individually for base.	
		Sgt. Bryson					
" " "	Beaufort	Sgt. Thompson	Strike	16.02	17.23		
	II	Sgt. Card				As above.	
	"T" AW.361	Sgt. Lawrence					
		Sgt. Shepherd					
" " "	Beaufort	Sgt. Hurrell	Strike	16.02	17.23		
	I	Sgt. Collins				As above.	
	"P" AW.210	Sgt. Hoare					
		Sgt. Parkin.					
" " "	Beaufort	F/O. Firmin	Strike	16.00	17.25	In position RIFE 2232 A/C developed engine trouble, torpedo	NC/07/22/2
	II	Sgt. Jolliffe				was jettisoned and A/C landed at Catfoss. Nothing to report.	CH/03/21/2
	"Y" AW.276	Sgt. Walker					
		F/S. Stretch					
22.2.42.	Beaufort	P/O. Esler	Strike	05.00	10.15	A/C set course for Stavanger. In position FTLE 4625 land	LEU/03/22/2
	II	Sgt. Linford				sighted, turned on course of 340 degrees which took A/C	RO/01/22/2
	"V" AW.284	Sgt. Ackerman				across entrance of Fjord. Cloud cover Nil and nothing seen	
		Sgt. McDevigt				so A/C set course for base.	
" " "	Beaufort	Sgt. Chippindall	Strike	04.58	08.22	In position KKRH 4045 A/C ran into abnormal weather	NC/02/22/2
	I.	Sgt. Lowing				conditions and set course for base. Nothing to report.	CH/01/22/2
	"K" L.9854	Sgt. West				Weather, slight snow at commencement of patrol, becoming	
		Sgt. Sarone				worse eastwards.	
" " "	Beaufort	Sgt. Brockhouse	Strike	03.88	08.50	In position KSYX 3200 abnormal weather conditions encountered	NC/03/22/2
		Sgt. Musker				so set course for base. Nothing to report.	CH/01/22/2
		Sgt. WOODS Draper				Weather, slight snow and showers, abnormal sleet and snow	
		Sgt. Knill				increasing eastwards.	