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IN 40/98/20

SECRET

FORM "F"

COMBAT REPORT

Sector Serial No. (A) D.1.

Serial No. of Order detailing Patrol. (B)

Date. (C) .. 8.7.40.

Flight, Squadron (D) ~~Flight~~ Blue & Yellow sections Squadron. 54.

Number of Enemy Aircraft. (E) TWO.

Type of Enemy Aircraft. (F) Me.109.

Time attack was delivered. (G) .. 2000 hrs.

Place attack was delivered. (H) Between Deal & Dover off the coast

Height of Enemy. (J) 9,000 feet climbing.

Enemy Casualties. (K) Confirmed . TWO.
 Unconfirmed . NIL.

Our Casualties... Aircraft..... (L) . NIL.
 Personnel.... (M) . NIL.

Searchlights (N) (i) N/A.
 (ii) NIL.

A.A. Guns Assistance (ii) NIL.

Wire from Fighters (P) Range opened 300 yards ; 250 yards
 Length of burst various.
 Range closed 300 yards ; 250 yards
 Rounds fired:- see separate report.

General Report (R)

SECRET

9/20

1/Lt. B.H. WAY.

Range opened	a) 200 yds.	b) 250 yards
Length of burst	a) one short one (3 sec)	b) one long one (6 secs)
Range closed	a) 200 yds	b) 250 yds.
Rounds fired	1088.	

I was leading three sections of the squadron with orders to patrol Dover at 3,000 feet. Whilst orbitting over the coast I was informed by R/T that there were 3 Me.'s at 12,000 feet in the vicinity. I was at 5,000 feet and proceeded to climb. I saw two aircraft behind Green section (which was above and in front of my section): I warned Green section that they might be enemy aircraft and former turned towards the cloud. I continued to climb and the unidentified aircraft began to execute climbing spiral turns. I got right behind them (identifying them as Me. 109s - black crosses and general appearances). They were in "Vic" formation and I attacked the rear one giving it a three second burst from astern at 200 yards. I do not think enemy aircraft could have seen me until the moment of my attack. Glycol began to pour from its port radiator together with a certain amount of black smoke. I left this enemy aircraft and turned to attack the second one (I did not continue pursuit of first as the second one would then have probably got on my tail).

The second enemy aircraft dived straight down and I managed to get a long burst in at 250 yards. Enemy aircraft continued diving, skirting the edge of the cloud (9,000 feet) over the coast; it came below the cloud, went up in to the fringe of it again, came below and at about 5,000 feet the pilot baled out. I judged his position to be about 5 miles inland N.W. of Deal. The parachute opened. There was no enemy rear fire.

ENEMY CASUALTIES.

- 1 Me. 109 definite
- 1 Me. 109 2 (shared)

first

(It has since been confirmed that this machine crashed near Hawkinge).

J. H. ... FLT

PLT WAY

IN 40/9/13/10

SECRET

FORM "F"

PILOT'S COMBAT REPORT

Sector Serial No. (A) D.1.....

Serial No. of Order detailing Patrol. (B)

Date. (C) ...13.7.40.....

Flight, Squadron (D) Flight..B..... Squadron.54..

Number of Enemy Aircraft. (E) ...TWO.....

Type of Enemy Aircraft. (F) ..Me.109.....

Time attack was delivered. (G) 1740 hrs.....

Place attack was delivered. (H) Mid channel S.E. Dover.....

Height of Enemy. (J) ..12,000 ft.. to sea level...

Enemy Casualties. (K) Confirmed ..NIL.....
 Unconfirmed ...ONE F/A ATTACKED)

Our Casualties... Aircraft.....(L) ..NIL.....
 Personnel.... (M) ..NIL.....

Searchlights (N) (i) .N/A.....
 A.A. Guns Assistance (ii) N/A.....

Fire from Fighters (P) Range opened 350 yds 1st burst
 500 yds 2nd burst
 Length of burst 3 secs. 3 secs
 Range closed 350 yds 1st burst
 500 yds 2nd burst

(Measured or estimated).

General Report (R)

F1/Lt. B.H. Way (Blue Leader)

Range opened 350 - 500 yds.

Length of bursts 3 sec 3 sec.

Range closed 350 y 500 y

Rounds fired 1610 from 7 guns.
8th out of order

Blue section were acting as rearguard section to the squadron when Red Leader was Vecteded on 180 to investigate 12+ raid. I saw two suspicious aircraft coming round on to our tails, so I ordered section line astern and came round to identify them as Me.109s whereupon they immediately dived away steeply in a southerly direction and then pulled up vertically, on diving again myself and Blue 2 took one Me.109 each. I gave one short burst at the right hand one (deflection) three secs at 350 yards. before he dived again. On the second dive he went down very steeply and I got in one accurate burst but well out of range. He had the advantage of initial speed and I lost sight of him under my nose in the dive. I did not see him again but saw Blue 2 close on the tail of the second Me.109 and firing hard.

B.H. Way P/W

SECRET

FORM "F"

923/16 329

COMBAT REPORT

Sector Serial No. (A) ... D. 2.

Serial No. of Order
detailing Patrol. (B)

Date. (C) ... 24/7/40.

Flight, Squadron. (D) ... Flight B. Sqn. 54.

No. of Enemy Aircraft. (E) ... Hordes.

Type of Enemy Aircraft. (F) ... Me. 109.

..... escorting about 20 Bombers.

.....

Time attack was delivered. (G)

Place attack was delivered. (H) ... Off Margate and N. Forland.

Height of Enemy. (J) ... 7000 Feet.

..... Partially

Enemy Casualties. (K) ... Confirmed 2 Me. 109's. probable

..... Unconfirmed 1 Me. 109.

.....

Our Casualties .. Aircraft. (L) ... NIL.

..... Personnel. (M) ... NIL.

Searchlights. (N) (i) NIL.

A.A. Guns Assistance. (ii)

Wire from Fighters. (P) ... Range opened Various (In Range)

..... Length of burst Various.

(Measured or
estimated.) .. Range closed Various.

No. of rounds per Gun. 1145 2520.

General Report. (R)

Fire from Fighters..... (P) Range Opened.. Various.. (in Range)
(Measured or Length of burst. Various.....
Estimated) Range Closed.... Various.... 330

General Report..... (R)

I was leading the Squadron on patrol off Deal and N. Foreland. Sighted formation of Bombers to North heading up Thames Estuary. After approaching to within about 5 Miles of Bombers I discovered the presence of numerous escorting fighters, which we were forced to engage. A general dog-fight ensued during which I got in good bursts at close range, at two Me.109's. The first did a Half-Roll and vertical Dive into cloud, emitting glycol from radiators. The second emitted Black Smoke and, Assumption; stalled and spun into Cloud. Later gave short burst and finished ammunition on a third. Result unknown as I had to avoid another on my tail.

Sgd. B.H.WAY. F/Lt.

SECRET

FORM "F"

924/19

COMBAT REPORT.

Sector Serial No. (A) D.1

Serial No. of Order
detailing Patrol. (B)

Date. (C) 25/7/40

Flight, Squadron. (D) "B" Flight 54 Sqn.

No. of Enemy Aircraft. (E) 120 approx.

Type of Enemy Aircraft. (F) 40 Ju.87's
..... 80 Me.109's

Time attack was delivered. (G) 1440 hours

Place attack was delivered. (H) 10 miles East of Dover

Height of Enemy. (J) Bombers 10,000, Fighters 13,000 feet.

Enemy Casualties. (K) Confirmed 1 Me.109 destroyed confirmed
Unconfirmed nil

Our Casualties .. Aircraft. (L) 1

Personnel. (M) 1 missing

Searchlights. (N) (i) N/a

A.A. Guns Assistance. (ii) None

Wire from Fighters. (P) Range opened. Not known
Length of burst "
Range closed "
No. of rounds per Gun. "

General Report. (R)

F/Lt. WAY.

This pilot - who, as a result of the engagement, is missing, was seen by P/O Gribble (54 Squadron), pursuing a Me.109. P/O Gribble saw the pilot of the E/A bale out.

1 Me.109 destroyed confirmed is, therefore, credited to F/Lt. Way.

*Patrick Shallard to
Intelligence Officer,
R.A.F. Station,
Hornchurch.*