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From: Officer Commanding, No. 61 Squadron, SYERSTON.

To: Officer Commanding, R. A. F. Station, SYERSTON.

Date: 15th August, 1943.

Ref.: 613/5.21/13/Air.

NIGHT

Lancaster B/ND722

### Report on Encounter with Enemy Aircraft.

Herewith Air Gunners report in respect of Lancaster B/ND722 which was attacked three times, once on the outward journey and twice on homeward journey, whilst on operations to Mannheim the night of 9/10th August, 1943.

1. Aircraft Lancaster B/ND722 whilst engaged on operations to Mannheim on the night of 9/10th August, 1943, was intercepted on its way to the target by a T/S E/A carrying navigation lights, to which Monica had responded, at a position 5019N 0710E at 01.12 hours, flying at a height of 17,500 feet. The visibility was good with the moon having set. There were no ground lights which could be in any way connected with the attack or any other unusual phenomena.

E/A approached from below on the port quarter, offensive manoeuvre employed by the bomber was taken in the form of a diving turn to port and both mid-upper and rear gunners fired 2/a sec. bursts which are believed to have hit the E/A. There was no searchlight activity and the E/A did not return any fire. 500 rounds of ammunition was expended by the bomber during the attack. No claim is made as the E/A disappeared from view as our aircraft did a diving turn to port.

2. On the homeward journey from the above operation, Lancaster B/ND722 observed T/S E/A following another Lancaster at a position 4929N 0730E at 02.19 hours, flying at a height of 18,500 feet. The E/A turned in a dive to port to attack our bomber which did a diving turn to starboard and as E/A passed under the bomber, both mid-upper and rear gunners fired short bursts but as E/A continued to dive away it was lost to view and the results of bombers fire was not observed. The E/A did not fire and no claim is made. The presence of the E/A was not recorded by Monica as it passed under the bomber. 150 rounds of ammunition in all was fired by both gunners. No claim is made.

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3. On the homeward journey from the above operations, Lancaster B/13722 observed S/E E/A with white light in nose to port and above at 400 yds. range. The position of the bomber was then 4934N 0710E at 02.27 hours, flying at a height of 18,500 feet. Both mid-upper and rear gunners fired as own aircraft made a diving turn to port during which manoeuvre the E/A was lost. Monica recorded the E/A which did not return fire. No claim is made. 200 rounds was fired by the gunners.

The mid upper gunner was Sgt. Walton who was trained at No. 2 A.C.S. Malvern and No. 5 C.T.U. Fulbeck, and the rear gunner was Sgt. Jess who was trained at No. 3 BGS School, Macdonald, Manitoba and No. 5 C.T.U. Fulbeck.



Wing Commander,  
Commanding,  
No. 61 Squadron.