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

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

Date: 15th August, 1943.

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FLIGHT

Lancaster B1 T/B F/A

Report on Encounter with Enemy Aircraft

Report of Air Gunner's report in respect of Lancaster B/M722 which was attacked three times, once on the outward journey and twice on homeward journey, whilst on operations to Hanheim the night of 9/10th August, 1943.

1. Aircraft Lancaster B/M722 whilst engaged on operations to Hanheim on the night of 9/10th August, 1943 was intercepted on its way to the target by a V/A carrying navigation lights, to which Monica had responded, at a position 507N 0318 at 01.12 hours, flying at a height of 17,000 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.

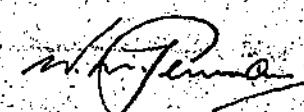
V/A approached from below on the port quarter, offensive manoeuvre employed by the bomber was taken in the form of a diving turn to port and both mid-upper and rear gunners fired 2/3 sec. bursts which are believed to have hit the V/A. There was no searchlight activity and the V/A did not return any fire. 500 rounds of ammunition was expended by the bomber during the attack. No claim is made as the V/A disappeared from view as our aircraft did a diving turn to port.

2. On the homeward journey from the above operation, Lancaster B/M722 observed T/B V/A following another Lancaster at a position 492N 0710S at 02.19 hours, flying at a height of 18,000 feet. The V/A turned in a dive to port to attack own bomber which did a diving turn to starboard and as V/A passed under the bomber, both mid-upper and rear gunners fired short bursts but as V/A continued to dive away it was lost to view and the results of bombers fire was not observed. The V/A did not fire and no claim is made. The presence of the V/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.

/3. On the

On the homeward journey from the above operations, Lancaster B/12722 observed 7/E E/A with white light in nose to port and above at 400yds. range. The position of the target was then 4931N 0710E at 02.27 hours, flying at a height of 10,500 feet. Both mid-upper and rear gunners fired as our aircraft made a diving turn to port during which manoeuvre the E/A was lost. Morice 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. Malton and No. 5 G.T.U. Fulbeck, and the rear gunner was Sgt. Lees who was trained at No. 3 BES School, Macmillan, Manitoba and No. 5 G.T.U. Fulbeck.



W.H. Penman  
Flight Commander,  
Commanding  
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