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SECRET.From :- R.A.F. Station, Swanton.

To :- Headquarters, No. 5 Group.

Date :- 7th. February 1943.

Ref :- SUE/LAH/WHT.

Lancaster V ? ME.109.Combat Report by F/O. Richards for  
106 Squadron Gunner Officers.Herewith Combat Report for 'B' of 106 Squadron night of  
3/4th. February 1943:-

Captain : Sgt. McDonald. W/Commander: Sgt. Leonard.  
 P/Engineer: Sgt. Young. A/Leader : Sgt. Lindsay.  
 Navigator : Sgt. Bishell. A/Lt.(R.O.) : Sgt. Clappitt.  
 A/Gunner (Rear) : Sgt. Owen.  
 Lancaster I. 'B'. No. N.415.

On the night of the 3/4th. February 1943 over Hamburg in Lancaster 'B' of No. 106 Squadron at 2.00 hours, flying at a height of 19,000 feet, true speed of 245 m.p.h., on a course of 325° T, the Rear Gunner saw a single engined enemy aircraft, believed Me.109. The enemy aircraft was on the port quarter, below, range about 500 yards. It was passing from the port to starboard and disappeared at about 600 yards range. The Rear Gunner fired while it was passing astern at a range of about 500 yards, only four rounds fired, one from each gun. On examination of the guns the following morning, they were found to be in perfect working conditions, and, therefore the stoppage of the guns in the air was due to freezing up. The enemy aircraft did not return fire, and was lost to sight on the starboard quarter. Since the Lancaster was on it's bombing run, no evasive action was taken. There was 10/10th. cloud, with searchlights showing underneath, but not working in conjunction with the enemy aircraft. No enemy flares or star shells observed. Visibility about 1000 yards. No damage to our aircraft and no one hurt. No damage to enemy aircraft claimed. No lights or any other unusual phenomena seen. The mid upper gunner continued search for other enemy aircraft and did not see or fire at the one seen.

The Rear Gunner, Sgt. Clamette was O.I.U., trained at A.G.S., Stony Down and T.T.F. Dunblane.  
The MIA Upper Gunner, Sgt. Owen, - At O.I.U., trained at A.G.S., Harpeth and T.T.F. Dunblane.

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73rd Group, 73rd, Commanding,  
B.A.F., Station, System.