

INTELLIGENCE PATROL REPORT

Combat of 65 Squadron at 20.40 hours on 7th July 1940.

"B" Flight of 65 Squadron left HORNCHURCH at 20.19 hours to intercept enemy raiders in CHANNEL. From plots and observer corps it appears that there were several formations of Bombers flying at approximately 8000 feet and some protecting fighters flying above at 12,000 feet.

On approaching coast at 12,000 feet between DOVER and FOLKESTONE, Green 1 informed the Flight Leader that he had sighted enemy aircraft through cloud. The Leader, Blue 1, told Green 1 to lead the way as he had not seen the enemy aircraft, and the formation dived through a cloud layer. Blue Section came out between two cloud layers and could find no trace of Green Section. Just then Blue 2 warned the Section of a formation of 5 or 7 ME.109 diving on them from the rear. Blue Section broke up and manoeuvred to attack enemy aircraft.

Blue 1 followed a ME.109 right down over the CHANNEL and closing from 400 or 300 yards, fired 3 long bursts, forcing the enemy aircraft down on the water. The enemy aircraft was seen to hit the water and skid over the surface, as Blue 1 noticed tracer bullets fly past from a rear attack. As he was now only a few miles from CALAIS, he broke away and returned to base.

Blue 2 attacked the rear ME.109 of the formation, followed it nearly to CALAIS delivering a short burst, saw the enemy aircraft crash into the sea. On his way back Blue 2 encountered another formation of 7 ME.109 on guard over some bombers. He attacked the fighters and fired at 4 of them. Each fell away in turn to evade his attack but he kept on to a fifth and after giving fire at intervals while ~~struggling~~ chasing through clouds, saw the engine hit and the enemy aircraft force land about 10 miles from the English coast. The enemy aircraft sank shortly afterwards.

On his way to base, Blue 2 nearly attacked a Hurricane which had no identification markings obvious.

/(See his report).....

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Blue 3 had meanwhile attacked an ME.109 and fired a short one second burst from approximately 250 yards when he was attacked from behind. He broke away to evade attack and saw no further enemy aircraft.

Our pilots report that due to the new D.H. Constant Speed Airscrews, they were able to out-manoeuvre enemy aircraft in every instance.

Although bombers were in vicinity, none were encountered.

RESULT.

F/Lt. Saunders.	Rounds fired	2640.	One ME.109 CONFIRMED
P/O. Hart.	"	" 155	No claim.
F/Sgt. Franklin.	"	" 2145	Two Me.109 CONFIRMED.

Our Casualties ... NIL.

Green Section, who were not seen from the beginning of the engagement have not returned, and no news is available in spite of considerable enquiries.

Missing Pilots:-
 P/O. Proudman.
 P/O. Brisbans.
 Sgt. Hayes.

(SGD) A. HARDY. P/O.

Intelligence Officer,
 No.65 Squadron, R.A.F.