

NIGHT

NARRATIVE PRO FORMA
"D" FORM "Y".

ANT 1

Opp. Rec. Sec.
Wells

42 / 3065 2

ME 109 (P) ME 110
Stirling Mk. 1 T 214 Squadron W. 7358 on Bremen - Bremen
0200 hrs. 17000ft. I.A.S. 160 course 270 deg.
Bombs were jettisoned during first attack.
Weather was excellent, moon was on port quarter with 10/10 cloud
up to 4000 ft.
There was no flak, S/L or ground activity of any sort.
No I.F.F.

ME 109 F first seen on starboard quarter by R/G (Sgt. Davison)
No fire was exchanged. E/A broke away underneath and turned out to
port quarter and attacked from there, slightly above at about 400 yds.
Our A/C and E/A opened fire simultaneously at 400 yds.
E/A broke away again underneath astern and attacked again from
starboard quarter.

Alternate port and starboard attacks were repeated 5 times. Each
time the R/G and Mid.Up.G. fired a two to three second burst and the
ME 109 ceased fire and broke away at about 100 yds.

On the 5th attack (from port) Sgt Davison R/G saw a red flash
from ME 109 which then went down in a steep dive. Sgt. Watt saw a
shower of sparks from his position in the astrodome. (On the first
attack Sgt. Watt W/Op. was put in the astrodome to give a running
commentary on attacks, and to search for other fighters.)

Evasive action was taken the whole time by turning towards the
attack, diving and weaving.

The armament of ME 109 consists of unknown number of M/Gs and
no cannon. Nobody was hit during these 5 attacks and it is believed
that our A/C was undamaged.

As soon as ME 109 disappeared Sgt Watt in the astrodome saw a
Me 110 to starboard between quarter and beam, slightly above at
approximately 400 yds. Our A/C was at 14000 ft.

The E/A and Stirling opened fire a split second later, the E/A
ceasing fire and breaking away at 50 yds.

There were 6 attacks in all, alternately from port and starboard
Each time R/G and Mid.Up.G. fired 2 to 3 second burst, but on sixth
attack the mid upper turret was put out of action, and on 5th or 6th
attack F/Sgt Williams and Sgt McCoy (Engineer) were injured. After the
6th attack the port outer engine was set on fire, and the ME 110 broke
off presumably thinking he had destroyed our A/C.

The captain, P/O Smith, considered baling-out owing to the fire
when suddenly the Observer (P/O Osborne) noticed that the port outer
airscrew had fallen off. The fire subsided after this and suddenly the
ME 110 came back and made a swift attack from port bow at about 300 yds.
It happened very quickly and there was no return fire from the Stirling
because the mid upper turret was U/S and the F/G injured. The captain,
P/O Smith, continued diving and weaving towards cloud.

There was no further attack from the ME 110.

The ME 110 was armed with cannon.

The F/G Sgt Williams was injured in the left buttock and the
Engineer (Sgt McCoy) in the left hand and arm.

The ME 109 can be claimed as a probable. Tracer was seen to enter
the ME 110 but with no apparent effect.

Remarks.

The whole crew agrees that the astrodome should be manned during
a combat as the Mid Upper /G cannot devote all his time to search if he
is firing as well. Sgt Watt's running commentary was quite invaluable
and it was he who first noticed the ME 110.

After the F/G was injured it took a good 15 minutes to get him
out of the front turret, as his legs were paralysed. He was given a
shot of morphia and left on the bomb-aimer's position until shortly
before landing. It then took about 20 minutes to get him onto the bed.

The Servo feed worked "miraculously", and there was no gun stoppage
page of any kind. Credit is certainly due to these gunners for the
efficient way in which they have looked after their guns and turrets.
GV tracer in the new belting sequence was considered very satisfactory
by the gunners.

Pilot of ME 110 more aggressive than ME 109. ME 110 probably
attracted by fire of Me 109.

No. of rounds fired by R/G and Mid.Up.Gnr. 500 rounds per gun.
cont'd Over/

Crew.

Captain.....P/O. Smith.
 2nd Pilot....Sgt. Perry.
 Observer.....P/O. Osborn.
 F/Eng.....Sgt. McCoy.
 1st W/O.....Sgt. Watt.
 2nd W/O.....
 Frnt/Gnr.....Sgt. Williams.
 Mid/Up/Gnr.....Sgt. Johnson.
 Rear/Gnr.....Sgt. Davison.

Walter Griffiths OBE, Gunnery Leader.

 Intelligence Officer.