

Appendix "G"

FIGHTER COMMAND COMBAT REPORT.

To:-

10 GROUP INTELLIGENCE

From:-

263 SQUADRON. PORTREATH.

(A) Sector Serial No

(B) Serial No. of Order detailing Flight or Squadron to patrol

(C) Date 1st. April 1941.

(D) Flight A Squadron 263

(E) Number of Enemy Aircraft One

(F) Type of Enemy Aircraft DORNIER 215.

(G) Time attack was delivered 1855

(H) Place attack was delivered 5 miles North of Predannack.

(J) Height of Enemy 8000 feet

(K) Enemy Casualties 1 Dornier 215 damaged.

(L) Our Casualties—Aircraft One Whirlwind Mk.I. Cat 3.

(M) " " - Personnel Fl/Lt D.A. Crooks D.F.C. killed.

(N) (i) Searchlights (Did they illuminate enemy ; if not, were they in front or behind enemy?) N/A

(ii) Anti-aircraft guns (Did shell bursts assist pilot in intercepting the enemy ?) N/A

(P) Range at which fire was opened in each attack on the enemy, together with estimated length of burst (1) 250 yards. ½ second.
(2) 250 yards. ½ second.

(R) GENERAL REPORT:— (3) 100/50 yards. ½ second.

Two aircraft of Yellow Section 263 Squadron took off from Predannack at 1835 to patrol in the vicinity of base. They went through the cloud which was 9/10 from 1000 to 6000 feet, and when they were over Land's End they were informed that an enemy aircraft was approaching Predannack from the North West at 8000 feet. They reduced height to 8000 feet and after flying at "Buster" for 3 minutes sighted a DO. 215 at 8000 on the Port bow. Yellow 2 was to the starboard rear quarter of Yellow 1. Yellow 1 gave the "tally ho" and delivered an attack from the starboard bow, opening fire at 250 yards when he could see the black cross on the fuselage. He fired one ½ second burst, but observed

no results. E/A turned slightly to Port and went into a shallow dive. Yellow 1 broke away to starboard of E/A: made a steep turn and delivered an attack from the starboard quarter, ending in an astern attack. A short burst was fired at 250 yards, and a further burst at 100/50 yards. E/A, which was clearly seen to be a Dornier, steepened its dive and pieces flew off it: after a moment or so black and white smoke came from both engines. E/A did a half roll and dived into cloud. Yellow 1 followed through the cloud, and pulled out at 500 feet. He saw that he was over the coastline facing out to sea. He turned round and immediately saw a crashed aircraft blazing which he erroneously took to be the Dornier. It was in fact the Whirlwind, Yellow 2. At the moment no explanation can be given for this crash, but a preliminary examination of the wreckage reveals the presence of which might be a 7.9mm bullet hole in the trailing edge of the engine nacelle. Yellow 2
Yellow 1 experienced no return fire from E/A. He did not see E/A after giving the tally ho. Yellow 1 landed at Portreath 19 .

Camouflage and markings on E/A normal.

No cine camera gun was carried.

Yellow 1 Sq/Lr. A.H. Donaldson. 56 rounds (from 4 cannon)

Yellow 2 Fl/Lt. D.A. Crooks D.F.C. -----

PILOT'S INDIVIDUAL

FIGHTER COMMAND COMBAT REPORT.

To:-

10 GROUP INTELLIGENCE

From:-

263 Squadron, Portreath

(A) Sector Serial No R.C.1.

(B) Serial No. of Order detailing Flight or Squadron to patrol _____

(C) Date 1st. April 1941.(D) Flight A Squadron 263(E) Number of Enemy Aircraft One(F) Type of Enemy Aircraft Dornier 215.(G) Time attack was delivered 1855(H) Place attack was delivered 5 miles North of Predannack.(J) Height of Enemy 8000 feet(K) Enemy Casualties 1 Dornier 215 damaged.(L) Our Casualties—Aircraft One Whirlwind Mk.I. Cat. 3.(M) “ “ - Personnel F1/Lt. D.A. CROOKS, DFC, killed.(N) (i) Searchlights (Did they illuminate enemy ; if not, were they in front or behind enemy?) N/A(ii) Anti-aircraft guns (Did shell bursts assist pilot in intercepting the enemy ?) N/A

(P) Range at which fire was opened in each attack on the enemy, together with estimated length of burst

(1) 250 yards. $\frac{1}{2}$ second.(2) 250 yards. $\frac{1}{2}$ second.

(R) GENERAL REPORT:—

(3) 100/50 yards. $\frac{1}{2}$ second.

While on patrol in company with F/Lt Crooks I sighted a Dornier 215 at 8000 feet about 5 miles North of Predannack. I delivered an attack from the starboard bow, firing one $\frac{1}{2}$ second burst at 250 yards. I observed no results, but the Dornier turned slightly yo port and went into a shallow dive. I broke away to starboard off the E/A, turned and delivered a further attack from the starboard quarter, ending in an astern attack. I fired a short burst at 250 yards, and a further short burst at 100/50 yards. The E/A steepened its dive, and pieces flew off it. After a moment or so black and white smoke came from both engines, E/A did a half roll and dived into cloud. I did not see it again. I claim one Dornier 215 as damaged.

(Signed) A.H. DONALDSON,

Squadron Leader.