

RGI. WRM NR WRM 1/16 IMMEDIATE SECRET NOT W/T
PASS TO INTELLIGENCE
TO 10 GROUP INTELLIGENCE
FROM WARMWELL

AI 15-16 AUG

COMPOSITE NIGHT SHIPPING RECCO REPORT 15-16TH AUGUST 1943

(A) 263 (B) 1 WHIRLIBOMBER 2 X 250LB 3 SECS
(C) WARMWELL 2200-2317 (D) RECCO OF BARFLEUR GRANDCAMP -
CAP DE LA HAGUE (E) 2245 (F) 1 COASTER TYPE SHIP CAT 4
(G) NIL

SGT BEAUMONT FLEW AT 200 FEET 3 MILES SEAWARDS OF POINT
BARFLEUR TO 4 MILES SEAWRXXX SEAWARD OF GRANDCAMP. HE SAW
CONSIDERABLE HIGH HEAVY FLAK TO THE S.E. IN THE BAYEUX DIRECTION.
THEN TURNEDD BACK PAST BARFLEUR AND 3 MILES NORTH AND EAST OF
CHERBOURG AT 500 FEET. HE MISTOOK CHERBOURG MOLES FOR SHIPS AND
FLEW UP MOON TO INVESTIGATE. AS HE PINPOINTED HE SAW THREE LOW
LYING SHIPS IN LINE ASTERN PERHAPS TOWED BY A LARGE COASTER TYPE
SHIP OF 350 TONS, ENTERING BETWEEN BASSE CHARAGUAC AND FORT DE
OUEST WHICH HAD ~~XXXXXX~~ WINKING RED AND GREEN LIGHTS.
INTENSE HARBOUR FLAK OPENED UP JUST BEFORE HE BOMBED COASTER FROM
200 FEET FROM ASTERN. THINKS GOOD BOMBING RUN BUT COULD NOT WAIT
TO SEE RESULTS. ASKED PRACTICE HOMING AND RETURNED TO BASE.

CC RETURNED
T. WATKINS VA+ R 0110/16 IST VA

SURFAT Report NIGHT SHIPPING RECCO WARMWELL

15-16th AUGUST 1943

263 SQUADRON, WHIRLIBOMBER

(a) 263/15 (b) 15-16th August 1943. (c) 1 Whirlibomber (d) 263

(a) S.W. 6 m.p.h (b) No cloud (c) very good up moon (d) calm

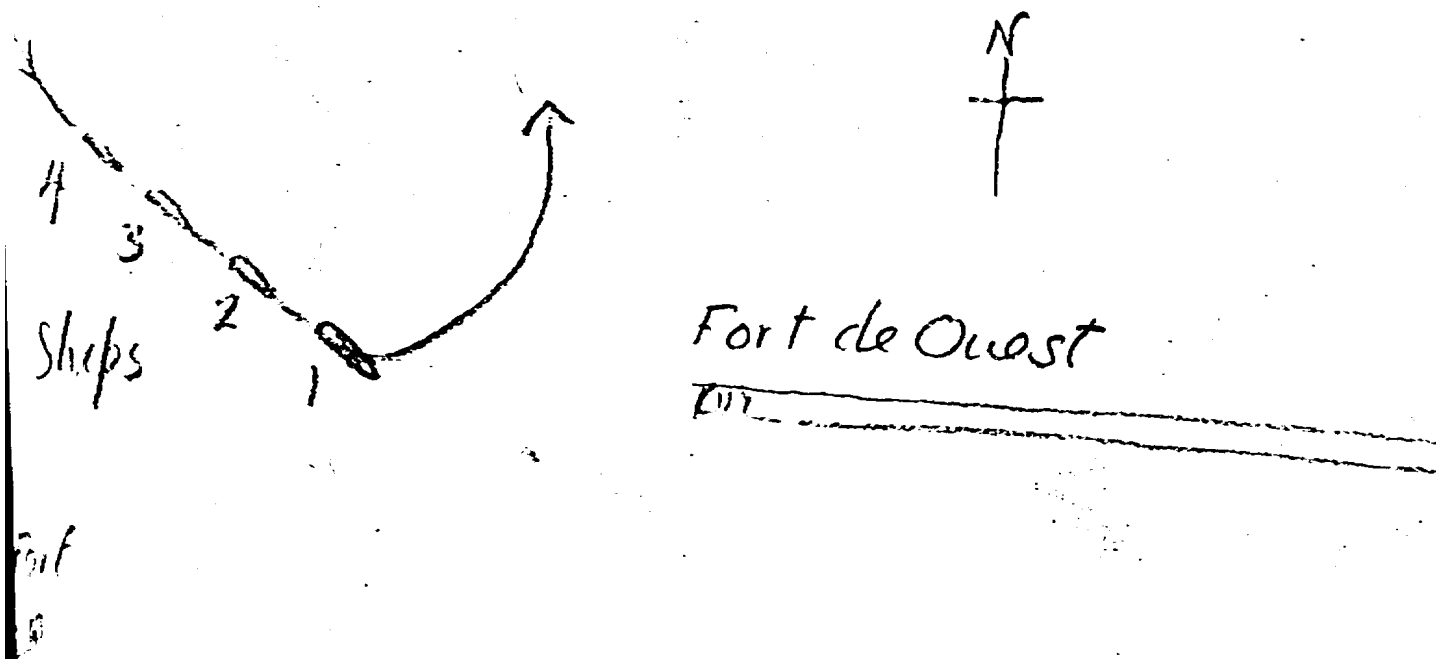
(e) full moonlight

(a) 2245 (b) Western entrance to outer moles, Cherbourg Harbour
44° xx' N. 1° 39' W. (c) 4 vessels entering Western Entrance
(above), line astern, going S.E at 4 knots. Coaster 350 tons (ship
1) perhaps towing other vessels (ships 2, 3, and 4). These may
have been self propelled. (d) astern attack (e) Ship 1 not known,
ships 2-4 fully loaded.

(a) 2x 250 lb (b) 250 lb G.P. (c) 3 secs (d) 21 feet
lateral (e) 200 feet
(f) eyesight

(a) (b) (c) not seen.

(a) (1) 1 Coaster Cat 4 (ii) nil (b) nil



10. Sgt R.C. Beaumont of 263 Squadron took off from Warmwell in his Whirlibomber at 2200 hours on August 15th, for his first offensive night patrol. Detailed for a shipping recco of Pointe de Barfleur - Grandcamp - Cap de la Hague, he carried out the recco as ordered 3 miles seaward of the coast at 200-500 feet. On the first leg he saw high heavy flak in the Bayeux direction at about 2225. Returning on the last leg in a westerly direction about 3 miles N.W of Cherbourg outer moles at 500 feet he looked back up moon to port and mistook the fort on the outer Cherbourg Moles for ships. Flying S.E to investigate he momentarily thought the flashing red and green harbour lights were ships signalling. Then he saw 4 ships in line astern, going S.E into the harbour. The leading ship which he recognised from its "funnel aft" as a coaster type of 350 tons, was perhaps 100 yards N.W of the Western entrance of the outer harbour. The three following ships were either towed by ship 1 or were self propelled barges, heavily laden. Sgt Beaumont flew up moon at 200 feet 250 A.S.I over ships 4,3,2 and bombed the first from astern. He is sure that his bombing run and release were as good as he could make them. He was not put off by slight M.G Tracer from the Coaster, but as he released his bombs the harbour defences opened up with sudden intensity and he turned sharply to port at full boost and very properly made for base without waiting to see results. The flak was accurate enough to be audible as whines through a partly open hood.

He climbed to 4000 feet and landed at Warmwell at 2317.

A Wordsworth

Flying Officer, Intelligence

No 263 Squadron, R.A.F. Warmwell.