

OFFENSIVE OPERATION.

17/8/41.

Four Whirlwinds of 263 Squadron, (Red section, S/L. Donaldson A.F.C, and Sgt. Blackshaw: Yellow section, F/Lt. Pugh and F/O Coghlan) took off from Ibsley at 1334 for Maupertus to act as decoy for the Spitfire Wing. They crossed the English coast at 1337 at 200 feet, and crossed the French coast at 1357 at 15000 feet. They were over Maupertus at 1400 hours. There was 7/10 Cumulus from 2500 to 6000 feet. No enemy fighters were seen. There was no Flak and no balloons.

On his return F/Lt. Pugh saw a trawler (about twice the size of an E Boat) coming out of Cherbourg Harbour. He came down to investigate, and when he was at about 2000 feet the trawler opened machine gun fire on him. Accordingly, he attacked the ship from low level, seeing his shells exploding all over it.

Four Whirlwinds landed at Warmwell at 1430.

*A.H.O.*

Intelligence Officer.

263 Squadron.

18/8/41.