

Four Whirlwinds of 263 Squadron, (Red. Section, W/C Donaldson D.F.C. A.F.C. and P/O Rudland: Yellow Section, F/L Pugh and Sgt. Albertini) took off from Predannack at 1525, Followed by seven Long Range Spitfires of 66 Squadron, to attack Lannion aerodrome. They crossed the English coast at 1530 at 100 feet. After crossing the Channel at 50 feet they made landfall at 1600 hours apparently at Ile Grande. W/C Donaldson was misled by the fact that there was a lighthouse on Ile Grande which was not marked on his map, and which he took to be the Ploumenach lighthouse. Accordingly, he turned west and came in over land near Pointe de Plestin.

About Lanmeur P/O Rudland saw a JU 88 flying West to East about 1½ miles to the South. He was unable, however, to attract anyone's attention. About this moment W/C Donaldson realised that he was too far to the West, turned North and went back to Ile Grande. From there he was about to deliver the projected attack on Lannion aerodrome when someone gave the warning: "ME. 109s: beat it."

About 6 ME 109s were seen in all: 5 definitely F, and 1 definitely E. Three were at 1000 feet, and 2 were at sea level coming towards the Whirlwinds. They made as if to deliver an attack, but then refused combat, either because they saw the Spitfires or because the Whirlwinds were too fast for them: (A.S.I. at this point showed 310.). The pilots report that the fire from the ME 109s. took the form of a regular line of black puffs, very like a barrage. Possibly they were firing shells fitted with a time fuze. They followed the Whirlwinds about 50 miles out to sea.

Over France there was 10/10 cloud at 4000 feet. Visibility was 12 to 16 miles.

The Whirlwinds were over France about ten minutes and report that the inhabitants waved enthusiastically to them. No shipping was observed on the French side of the Channel. there was no Flak, and no balloons.

On the way out they fired at and damaged an R.D.F. station and a navigational beacon.

Four Whirlwinds landed at Predannack at 1645.