

Report on Warhead No. 1 Operation, 263 Squadron. 14/6/41.Appendix HPatrol No. 1.

Sq/Ldr. Donaldson and P/O Rudland in two Whirlwinds took off from Ibsley at 0445 to attack Querqueville aerodrome. They crossed the French coast at 0516 hours near Eculeville at 1000 feet, orbited for a minute and then picked up the Pointe de Querqueville and the line of Forts. They observed dispersal pens along the South West Boundary of the aerodrome. The light was not good, but they could see about 20 pens which were covered over with tarpaulin. They did not see any machines. P/O Rudland attacked the S.W. pens, about seven in all. Sq/Ldr. Donaldson attacked the pens further East along the bulge. The attack was delivered from 1300 to 100 feet in a shallow dive. P/O Rudland fired all his ammunition, Sq/Ldr. Donaldson gave a 3 seconds burst. Both saw their shells hitting and exploding in the pens, but they did not observe any fires or other explosions.

Sq/Ldr. Donaldson then gave a 2 seconds burst into a barrack block at the S.E. Corner, and saw his shells hitting. They saw nobody on the aerodrome. There was no heavy Flak, but light flak came from three positions, the S.E. N.E. and N.W. corners of the aerodrome. It was probably 40 m.m. It was mostly orange, but some of it was green. This fire did not come up until after the attack on the pens was over, and then it was behind but fairly close.

They did a right hand turn which brought them behind the aerodrome, and went out North over the Baie de Nacqueville. Sq/Ldr. Donaldson saw a stone structure in the bay with a glass top, possibly a light house or a look out post, He fired a 1 second burst at it and observed his shells striking.

No activity was seen on the aerodrome and there was nothing else of interest to report except a constant white light about 5 miles from the aerodrome on a bearing of 275 degrees.

The two Whirlwinds landed at Ibsley at 0550.

On landing the port engine nacelle of Sq/Ldr Donaldson's machine was found to have been struck by flak, but the metal was not pierced.

Patrol No. 2.

F1/Lt. Pugh and P/O Mason in two Whirlwinds took off from Ibsley at 0446 to attack Maupertus aerodrome. They crossed the French coast at 0518 at Cap Levy at 1000 feet, flew down the coast to the Pointe du Brick, and then down the West side of the Bois du Nid du Corps, turning East along the Southern side. Large areas were covered with a thick morning mist, and they could not see the aerodrome. They picked up the Cherbourg - Barfleur road about 1 mile East of the estimated position of the aerodrome, flew along it to St. Pierre Eglise, and then turned South trying to find an alternative target. They could no movement or sign of activity at all. They then flew South to the Valognes - Quettehou road, turned East and flew home. They were over France 10/15 minutes. They landed at Ibsley at 0555 hours. No fighters were seen by either patrol.