

SECRET

File

106

Personal and Intelligence Night Combat Report

Date (c) 15th May, 1943
 Flight, Squadron (d) 157 Squadron, B Flight.
 Number of E/A (e) One
 Type of E/A (f) F.W. 190
 Time attack was delivered. (g) 0032
 Place attack was delivered. (h) Evreux
 Height of enemy. (j) 13000'
 Enemy casualties. (k) One F.W. 190 destroyed.
 Our casualties. (Aircraft) (l) Nil.
 Our casualties. (Personnel). (m) Nil.

General Report. (R)

One Mosquito F II pilot F/Lt. Tappin D.F.G. navigator P/O Thomas T/O ^{have} 2325 hours 14th May landed 0155 hours 15 May on Ranger patrol to Evreux. Landfall was made at Veulettes at 2358 hours at 3000' but no flak encountered. Course set for Evreux and at 0015 hours the A/D lights were seen and two minutes later Mosquito arrived at A/D. Almost at once an e/a was seen with navigation lights on taking off from NE/SW runway. The V/L was not switched on but there was a large number of red obstruction lights at the end of the runway. In addition there was a small circle of white lights close together about 1/2 miles S E of the flarepath. The E/A started to climb on a southerly course still burning navigation lights and continued climbing fast to 13000 ft. F/Lt. Tappin followed at 170 I.A.S. using +8 boost and 2,800 revs and gained slowly on the E/A until it turned to port when he cut the corner and got close behind the e/a and recognised it as a F.W. 190. Exhaust flames were seen distinctly on either side and below the engine cowling. F/Lt. Tappin opened fire from dead astern and slightly below at a range of 100 yards. He fired four short bursts and at the second burst the F.W. 190 caught fire; on subsequent bursts the F.W. 190 exploded, fell away to starboard and hit the ground where it continued to burn. During the combat the F.W. 190 was seen to be carrying what appeared to be jettisonable fuel tanks under the wings and was painted grey underneath. The Mosquito returned to Evreux which was still lit up. One S/L near the A/D tried to engage without success. The Mosquito then returned to base going out at Veulettes at 0056 hours. A beacon flashing "A" was seen at St. Valery-en-caux.

Weather. No cloud. Good visibility.Gun carried but not used.Armament Report.

	Cannons.				20 mm.	Brownings
	P.	Po.	SL.	So.		
AP	36	36	38	4		Nil
HE/INC	34	34	32	4		

Starboard outer 20mm gun stopped owing to ramp on link chute door slightly high.

Our casualties

Nil.

Enemy casualties

One F.W. 190 destroyed.

Nav/Rad.

P.O. Thomas

Pilot... *D. Tappin*.....Intelligence Officer... *R. S. ...*
P/O