

INTELLIGENCE.

Casualty Report

80

WFL

NIL

4.8.41

Yellow Section 257

"A" Flight

ONE

JU 88

1720 hours

45 miles East of Winterton

1,000 to 3,000 feet

1. Destroyed NIL

2. Probable NIL

3. Damaged NIL

One Hurricane Mark 2b

F/Lt K.W. Tait. D.F.C. "A" Flight

Commander - missing.

(NIL) NIL

SEARCHLIGHTS

A.A. GUNS

(N2) NIL

AIRCRAFT FIRE.

Range & Length of Bursts (P)

Yellow 1 made 3 -

attacks. Range and length

of bursts not available.

Yellow 2:

2 bursts of 4 secs @ 300 yards

5 bursts of 2 secs @ 250 to

150 yards

GENERAL REPORT:

(R)

Two Hurricanes (Mark 2b - 12 Brownings) Yellow Section 257 (Burma) Squadron took off from Coltishall at 1611 hours to search for E boats, which had been reported. Yellow Leader was F/Lt K.W. Tait D.F.C. (British) "A" Flight Commander; Yellow 2 was Sgt P. Vowles (British)

Flying at 200 feet, they crossed the coast just south of Yarmouth and flew out to sea for 40 miles on a vector of 110 degrees. They then changed to a vector of 360 degrees for a few minutes. Then they turned toward the coast on a vector of 250 degrees, passing over a Northbound convoy of 15 ships. They turned out to sea again, flying for about 40 miles on a vector of 90 degrees. They turned back on 250 degrees and after two or three minutes, a JU 88 was seen approaching them from the West at 1,000 feet.

Yellow Section immediately turned about and climbed after E/A which also had begun to climb. Presumably E/A had seen the Hurricane's and was trying to reach cloud base at 4,000 feet. Yellow One made a quarter attack at a height of about 3,000 feet and Yellow Two observed return fire from upper (?) rear gunner of E/A. White Yellow One was attacking, Yellow Two had climbed above, and he now made a quarter attack, from 300 yards, firing a four second burst and observing return fire. Each pilot repeated his attack, both receiving return fire. Yellow one was then seen to make his third attack - this time from 50 yards dead astern; return fire was again observed, which presumably damaged Yellow One, as Yellow Two saw him break away in a dive. Yellow Two then made his third attack, using up all his ammunition in several short bursts from dead astern at 250 yards closing to 150 yards range. He broke away when his ammunition was finished. He received no return fire on his last attack, so he considers Yellow One may have killed the rear gunner. Yellow Two observed no hits on E/A and it was last seen flying East at 1,000 feet.

81

At 1721 hours Yellow One (F/Lt K.W. Tait. D.F.C.) told Controller over the R/T that he was going to bale out. Nothing further has since been heard or seen of him despite an intensive search.

As he had no ammunition left, Yellow Two returned to base, landing at 1740 hours. One Bullet (de Wilde?) had passed through the front spar of the starboard tailplane of his Hurricane, continuing through the cross strut.

Weather - 5/10 cloud above 4,000 feet - visibility of 10 miles below cloud. - fairly rough sea.

Camouflage of E/A was apparently all black.

R/T - Satisfactory.

Yellow Two's reflector sight set at 50 feet for 250 yards

Yellow Two fired 4160 rounds - no stoppages.

No cine guns carried.

H.D. LYON. F/O
Intelligence Officer
No 257 (Burma) Squadron.