

F/Lt. Vaughan
F/Sgt. McKinnon

Ref. SW/85/48

INTRUDER PERSONAL COMBAT REPORT

- A. Night 16th/17th January, 1945
- B. "B" Flight, No.85 Squadron
- C. Mosquito XXX
- D. 21.53 hours
- E. 5100/0900 (approx.)
- F. Some cloud ; visibility good.
- G. Nil
- H. Nil
- J. 1 He 219 destroyed
- K. Nil

GENERAL REPORT

One Mosquito XXX, of No.85 Squadron, Pilot F/Lt. Vaughan, Navigator F/S McKinnon, was airborne Swannington 19.01 hours on 16th. January, 1945 on High Level Support FRANKFURT area. Patrol was reached at 20.31 hours and apart from contacts on bombers going to ZEITZ was uneventful. Course was set for base at 21.40 hours and 5 minutes later, 35 miles north of Frankfurt at 15,000 ft. on a westerly course a contact was obtained.

F/Lt. Vaughan reports : "We had completed uneventful patrol East of Frankfurt supporting raid on Zeitz and set course for base at 21.40 hrs. At 21.45 hrs on vector 290° navigator reported contact $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles range crossing starboard to port. We closed in on target, losing height to 10,000 ft. I.A.S. 260. At 4,000 ft. range two pairs of brilliant white exhausts could be seen. We closed in to 150 ft. below and astern and identified target as He 219 by twin fins and rudders, narrow wings with marked taper on trailing edge outboard of engines, long nose and those brilliant exhausts. Confirmation was obtained as to target's identity from my navigator using night glasses.

I dropped back to 600 ft. range astern and fired a 2-second burst between the pairs of exhausts but no strikes were seen. Closed in to 400 ft. range and fired another 2-second burst and immediately a large explosion occurred in the port engine and we pulled up to starboard to avoid debris which was coming back at us, and passed over enemy aircraft which went down to port with port engine on fire. We did a quick starboard orbit and saw burning fragments of aircraft falling and small fires starting on ground suggesting it had disintegrated in the air.

Claim : 1 He 219 destroyed

Mosquito landed base 23.45 hrs.

Ammunition Expended :

S.A.P.I. 62

H.E.I. 56

Total 118 rounds

Cine Camera exposed automatically

(Signed) K.D. VAUGHAN F/Lt.

(Signed) R.D. MCKINNON F/Sgt.

(Signed) M. SUTTON (?) S/Ldr.
Senior Intelligence Officer
R.A.F. Station, Swannington



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