

RAF Victory Claims

18 August 1940 - 12.45 - 13.45 hrs. Combat B. South East England



RAF Victory Claims Combat B 12.55 - 13.55 hrs

RAF Victory Claims	Combat B	12.55 - 13.55 hrs
32 Sqn A-S/Ldr M N Crossley	Ju88 destroyed	3m west of Westerham
32 Sqn A-S/Ldr M N Crossley	Me110 probable	3m west of Westerham
32 Sqn S/Ldr M N Crossley	Do215 damaged	3m west of Westerham
32 Sqn F/Lt H a'B Russell	Me110 destroyed	Edenbridge
32 Sqn P/O B A Wlasnowolski	Do17 destroyed	Biggin Hill
32 Sqn P/O P M Brothers	Do17 destroyed	Biggin Hill
32 Sqn P/O A R H Barton	Ju88 destroyed	south of Biggin Hill
32 Sqn P/O J Flinders	Do17 destroyed	Godstone
32 Sqn P/O J Flinders	Do215 destroyed	Canterbury
32 Sqn P/O J F Pain	Do215 destroyed	Biggin Hill
32 Sqn P/O R G C de Grunne	Do215 probable	Biggin Hill
32 Sqn P/O J F Pain	Do215 probable	Biggin Hill
32 Sqn P/O K R Aldridge	Do215 damaged	Sevenoaks - Maidstone
32 Sqn P/O A F Eckford	Do215 damaged	Tunbridge
32 Sqn Sgt E A Bayley	Do215 destroyed	Biggin Hill - Canterbury
32 Sqn Sgt B Henson	Do215 destroyed	6m west of Sevenoaks
501 Sqn S/Ldr H A V Hogan	Me110s destroyed	Biggin Hill
32 Sqn	- shared -	
501 Sqn Sgt P C P Farnes	Me110 destroyed	1 mile north of West Malling
111 Sqn F/Lt H S Giddings	Ju88 destroyed	Kenley
111 Sqn P/O P J Simpson	Do17 probable	Kenley
111 Sqn Sgt R J W Brown	Do17 destroyed	Kenley
111 Sqn Sgt H S Newton	Do17 destroyed	Tatsfield Beacon
111 Sqn Sgt T Y Wallace	Do17 destroyed	Kenley
111 Sqn Sgt T Y Wallace	Do17 damaged	Kenley
111 Sqn Sgt T Y Wallace	Do17 damaged	Kenley
111 Sqn Sgt W L Dymond	Do17 damaged	Kenley
111 Sqn Sgt W L Dymond	Do17 destroyed	Kenley
111 Sqn Sgt J T Craig	Do17 damaged	Biggin Hill
111 Sqn Sgt R J W Brown	Do17 damaged	Kenley
111 Sqn Sgt R J W Brown	Do17 damaged	Kenley
111 Sqn Sgt A H Deacon	Ju88 destroyed	Kenley
266 Sqn P/O W S Williams	Me109 destroyed	Kent
266 Sqn P/O R M Trousdale	Me109 probable	Kent
92 Sqn F/Lt R R S Tuck	Ju88 destroyed	15m south south-east of Beachy Head
92 Sqn F/Lt R R S Tuck	Ju88 damaged	off Beachy Head
1 Sqn F/Lt H B L Hillcoat	Do17 destroyed	off Dungeness
1 Sqn P/O G E Goodman	- shared -	
1 Sqn P/O C M Stavert	- shared -	
1 Sqn P/O G E Goodman	Me110 destroyed	off Dungeness
17 Sqn S/Ldr C W Williams	Do17 destroyed	off Gravelines
17 Sqn F/O M B Czernin	Me109 damaged	off Gravelines

Above: 501 Squadron Hurricane SD-B P2760 which Paul Farnes took into combat on 18 August.



P C P Farnes 501 Sqn



A F Eckford 32 Sqn

Luftwaffe Victory Claims

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Luftwaffe Victory Claims	Combat B	12.45 - 13.45 hrs
1/JG3 Oblt Lothar Keller	Hurricane	south east of London
1/JG3 Lt Helmut Meckel	Hurricane	south east of London
2/JG3 Lt Hans-Herbert Landry	Hurricane	south east of London
5/JG3 Uffz Alfred Heckmann	Spitfire	Ashford
6/JG3 Fw Erich Dobrick	Spitfire	Kent, south of London
7/JG3 Oblt Erwin Neuerburg	Spitfire	10km north east of Redhill
7/JG3 Uffz F-H Springer	Spitfire	south of London
7/JG3 Uffz F-H Springer	Hurricane	south west of Dover
8/JG3 Oblt Wilhelm Stange	Hurricane	Kent
7/JG26 Lt Josef Bürschgens	Hurricane	Canterbury
7/JG26 Lt Josef Bürschgens	Hurricane	north north-west of Dover
8/JG26 Lt Gustav Sprick	Hurricane	Canterbury
9/JG26 Oblt Gerhard Schöpfel	Hurricane	Canterbury
9/JG26 Oblt Gerhard Schöpfel	Hurricane	Canterbury
9/JG26 Oblt Gerhard Schöpfel	Hurricane	Canterbury
9/JG26 Oblt Gerhard Schöpfel	Hurricane	Canterbury
1/JG51 Lt Erwin Fleig	Hurricane	Canterbury
1/JG51 Fw Heinz Bär	Hurricane u/c	Canterbury
7/JG51 Ofw Arthur Dau	Hurricane	south of Canterbury
8/JG51 Lt Fritz Stendel	Spitfire	south of London
8/JG51 Lt Gottfried Schlitzer	Spitfire	east of London
8/JG51 Uffz Maximilian Mayerl	Spitfire	south of London
8/JG51 Uffz Walter Harheim	Spitfire	London
8/JG51 Uffz Karl-Heinz Willius	Spitfire	south of Ramsgate
8/JG51 Fw Bernhard Lausch	Spitfire	south of London
III/JG54 Oblt Ekkehard Schelcher	Hurricane	Thames estuary area
III/JG54 Lt Hans-Erich Heinbockel	Hurricane	Thames estuary area
9/JG54 Lt Hans-Ekkehart Bob	Hurricane	10km east of Ramsgate
I/ZG26 Lt Werner Thierfelder	Spitfire	Thames estuary area
I/ZG26 Lt Werner Thierfelder	Spitfire	Thames estuary area
III/ZG26 Lt Botho Sommer	Spitfire	south of Kenley
III/ZG26 Lt Botho Sommer	Spitfire	south of Kenley
7/ZG26 Uffz Herbert Lange	Spitfire	south of Croydon
7/ZG26 Uffz Franz Sander	Spitfire	south of Croydon
7/ZG26 Ofw Josef Bracun	Spitfire	south of Croydon
8/ZG26 Oblt Karl-Heinz Meyer	Hurricane	south of Kenley
8/ZG26 Ogfr Gerhard Rothe	Spitfire	Kenley
8/ZG26 Ofhr Alfred Wehmeyer	Spitfire	Kenley
8/ZG26 Uffz Fritz Schupp	Spitfire	Kenley
8/ZG26 Oblt Sophus Baagoe	Spitfire	Kenley
8/ZG26 Oblt Sophus Baagoe	Spitfire	Kenley
8/ZG26 Uffz Walter Scherer	Spitfire	Kenley
9/ZG26 Fw Werner Opper	Hurricane	south of London
9/ZG26 Fw Werner Opper	Hurricane	south of London
9/ZG26 Oblt Hubert Grisslich	Hurricane	Thames estuary
9/ZG26 Lt Kurt Sidow	Spitfire	south of London
9/ZG26 Uffz Erhard Reinhold	Hurricane	south of London
9/ZG26 Ofhr Friedrich Luggar	Spitfire	south of London



Above: Gerhard Schöpfel

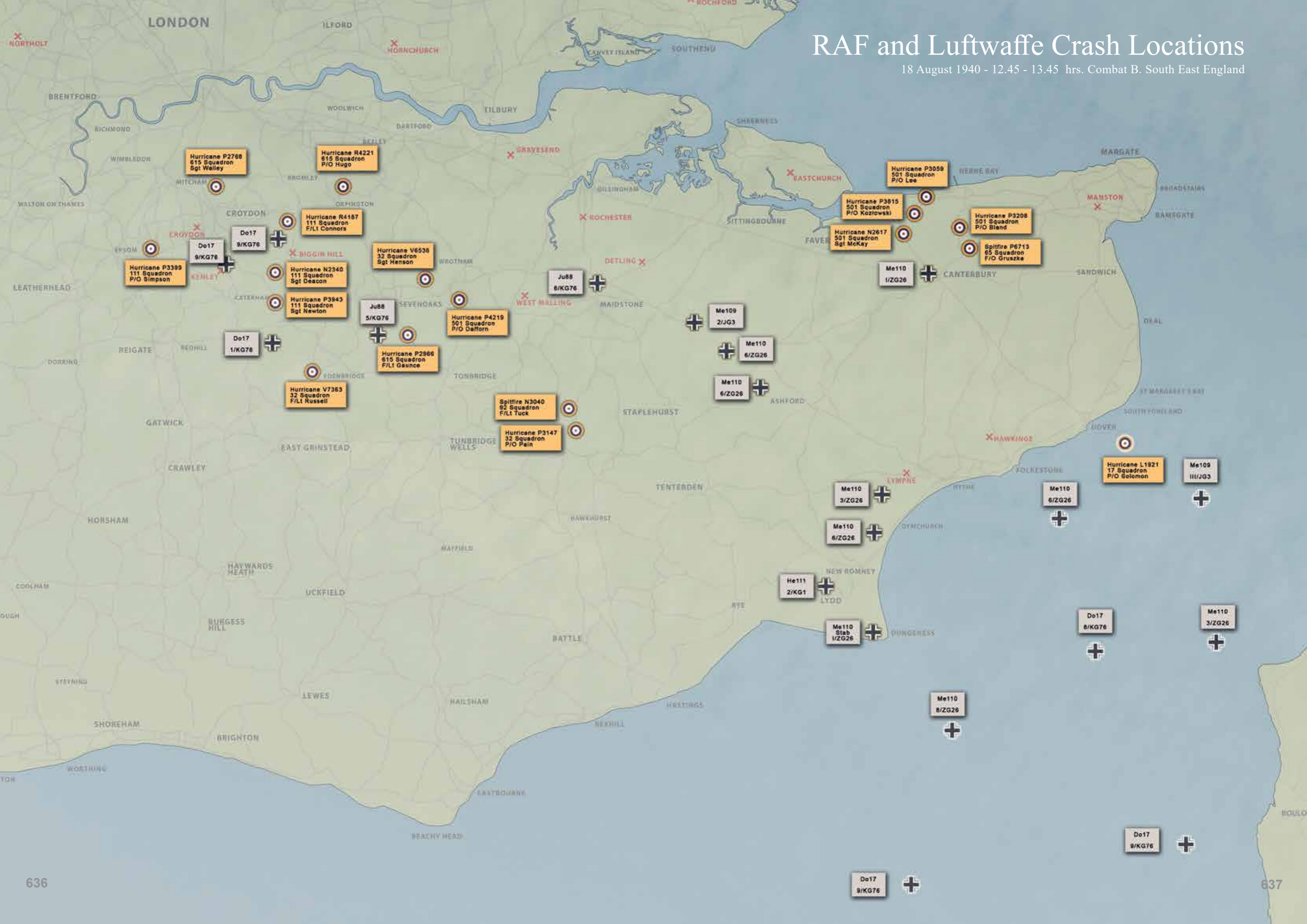
Below: Oblt Gerhard Schöpfel's 'Yellow 1' hidden amongst the trees in France. He used this Me109 to shoot down four Hurricanes of 501 Squadron in just a few minutes over Canterbury.



18 AUGUST (S E ENGLAND)

RAF and Luftwaffe Crash Locations

18 August 1940 - 12.45 - 13.45 hrs. Combat B. South East England



Contemporary Accounts 501 Sqn

18 August 1940 - 12.45 - 13.45 hrs. Combat B. South East England

501 SQUADRON INTELLIGENCE REPORT

Engagement of No.501 Squadron with large force of Me109s and Me110s on the 18th August, 1940 at 13.00 hours.

No.501 Squadron, consisting of 12 Hurricanes, took off from Hawkinge at 12.30 hours approximately, and patrolled in the east Kent area at 12,000 feet. When flying north-west near Sandwich they sighted a large force of enemy bombers with an escort of Me110s and 109s (about 20 plus) approaching from the east. 'A' Flight on the left attempted to attack the fighters, while 'B' Flight became involved in general dog-fight with the Me109s and 110s. P/O Zenker in Green Section managed to damage one of the Me109s which was straggling. Enemy casualties were 1 Me109 damaged. Our own losses were P/O K N T Lee baled out (wounded). P/O F. Kozłowski (Polish) baled out (seriously wounded). Sgt D A S McKay baled out (slightly wounded). P/O J W Bland killed.

501 SQUADRON INTELLIGENCE REPORT

Engagement of No.501 Squadron with large force of Dornier 17s, Ju88s and Me110s, on the 18th August, 1940 at 13.30 hours approximately.

4 Hurricanes of No.501 Squadron left Gravesend at 13.12 hours to patrol base.* They were followed later by a further Hurricane, which did not succeed in finding the others. They were told over the R/T to go to Biggin Hill, which was being attacked. When about 4 to 5 miles from there they sighted about 40 E/A, Dorniers and Ju88s flying east-south-east. They had approached from the east and turned to attack the aerodrome, and were now on their way back. As the 4 Hurricanes drew near to attack the Dorniers from the beam they were themselves attacked by several Me110s, which were about 2,000 feet above the enemy bombers. In the dog-fight that followed, S/Ldr Hogan gave one of the Me110s a long burst and a pilot of 32 Squadron came in to shoot it down. Sgt Farnes attacked, repeatedly, an Me110, which broke away from the last section and shot it down approximately 1 mile north of West Malling. Enemy casualties were 1 Me110 destroyed. Our own losses were one Hurricane, P/O R C Dafforn baled out and returned within an hour or two safely to his unit.

* Editor's Note:

These were S/Ldr Hogan, Sgt Farnes, P/O Duckenfield and P/O Dafforn – none of these had been involved on the earlier patrol when the squadron had been attacked over Canterbury.

Below: A famous photo of two 501 Squadron Hurricanes taking off during the Battle of Britain. Often captioned as being at various airfields it is actually taken at Hawkinge. The aircraft are taking off east to west and the hangar in the background is No. 5 hangar, (the main group of hangars are just out of shot on the left hand side.) The damage to No.5 Hangar dates this to after 12th August and before the 18th when these two Hurricanes were shot down in the combat detailed above.

As the photo is clearly of press quality it is reasonably to assume that it was taken on 15 August when the press were at Hawkinge taking many other photos of both 501 and 615 Sqn aircraft and personnel. According to the 501 Sqn ORB, Ken Lee and Bob Dafforn took off at 12.45pm in these two aircraft along with five others to return to Gravesend.



Contemporary Accounts 54 Sqn

18 August 1940 - 12.45 - 13.45 hrs. Combat B. South East England

54 SQUADRON INTELLIGENCE REPORT

12 a/c 54 Squadron engaging the enemy over Kent 12.40 – 13.43 hours.

54 Squadron, operating from Manston, was ordered to investigate several enemy raids of unknown dimension and at great height over Kent. Subsequently the whole of Kent was covered with enemy raids. 54 Squadron operated in sections and engaged a number of single fighters and bombers.

Several large formations were sighted at 20,000 feet coming in from the coast towards Biggin Hill. One of these consisted of at least 80 bombers in waves of three - line abreast. Two of our pilots below said this looked like a huge oblong which was supported by many fighters circling above and in front. Unfortunately our fighters were not able to get at this formation owing to its height and distance away from them.

54 Squadron must have met a number of individual machines on their return, because a series of dog fights ensued.

The following points of interest emerge from the combat:

- (a) It was emphasised once again that the Me109 has difficulty in pulling out of a dive at low altitude. An Me109 following on the tail of a Spitfire crashed through this failure.
- (b) A formation of 12 He113s were split up by one pilot who managed to damage one.
- (c) The main formation could not be approached.
- (d) Camouflage was standard in each type, plus the yellow wing tips on the fighters.

No Me110s were encountered. This is perhaps explained by the fact that only Me110s were encountered in a later raid during the day. In this later raid no Me109s were met by our fighters.

We sustained no casualties either in pilots or aircraft.

Signed; Patrick Shallard F/O. Intelligence Officer, R.A.F. Hornchurch.



COMBAT REPORT:

S/Ldr J A Leathart - Red 1, A Flight, 54 Squadron

Sighting some smoke trails I led the squadron up to 28,000 feet in pursuit. I saw 3 He113s painted a dark colour and with yellow wing tips. I fired at No.3 of the 'V' who went into a vertical dive and was still in it at 4,000 feet when I pulled out. Climbed up again and encountered an Me109 and shot one of his slats off.

On the way home at 300 feet I saw A.A. fire over Tilbury which turned out to be about a mile behind a lone Do17 (215?) at 1,000 feet. I gave him the remainder of my ammunition at 200 – 100 yards. Bullets entered the fuselage and wings but without apparent effect.

“ *Me109 destroyed Kent - Rounds fired: Nil*
During patrol at approximately 13.00 hours on 18/8/40 I was attacked by one Me109 when I was at 2,000 feet. I turned towards enemy aircraft in a diving turn. Enemy aircraft half-rolled and followed me. I pulled out of dive at low altitude but enemy aircraft continued his dive and struck the ground bursting into flames. ”

F/Sgt P H Tew - 54 Squadron

COMBAT REPORT:

P/O G D Gribble - 54 Squadron

We intercepted approximately 20 Me109s over Sittingbourne at 25,000 feet flying westwards. About 12 of them turned south, apparently for home. I attacked the other 8 or 9. The enemy leader broke away down southwards. I followed him down; when the speed was 400 he pulled up gently presenting an easy target. Then he levelled out, and I came up within 100 yards, firing a long burst into the engine and cockpit. He burst into flames and went down side-slipping and then on his back, out of control.

He was silver with yellow wing tips.

