

CONSOLIDATED SORTIE REPORT  
(Part A)

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Sheet No. 1.	Oprep. Ref. No. 579	Date 11 Jan 44	Squadron 145
Type of Aircraft SPITFIRE F.VIII.		W/Cdr. TURNER, Captain Lt. BOLITHO.	
Aircraft No. - M. JP.568. V.JP.478. O. JP.713.		Crew P/O. BLACKBURN, P/Sgt. NEWMAN, P/O. PARBURY, P/Sgt. HUGHES.	
Aircraft Letter O.JP.462. I.JP.714.			
Time Up 1505			
Time Down 1640			Aerodrome or L.C. CANNON.
Total Time 8 hrs 30 mins.			

Type of Cloud -	Map or Chart
Amount of Cloud -	Reference
Base of Cloud -	NAPLES 1:500,000
Visibility Good.	
General Weather Fine.	

Task or Duty Bomb line patrol.	
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Time	Height	Place	Narrative
1550	A. 18.	Battle area.	<p>W/Cdr. TURNER and his No. 2 climbed to A.23 after bandits reported at A.21. They made no contact and were unable to rejoin the lower section which intercepted 12 E/A. The lower section was patrolling at A.11 over the bomb line near the coast when 5, and later 12 bandits were reported at A.18/20 10 miles WEST of CHIANTI, and then 10 miles NORTH of SULMONA. The section flew SOUTH past GUARDIAFRELE, gaining height to A.18, and approx 8/10 miles SOUTH of GUARDIAFRELE 10 190's followed by 2 109's were seen at the same height diving from the WEST. The E/A were in pairs line abreast about 2/3 miles in front of the SPITFIRES. The section turned to port to intercept and the E/A turned NORTH and then NW and jettisoned bombs as they dived away. Individual combats ensued.</p> <p>P/O. BLACKBURN followed the 190's down and closed to attack the A/c on the right of the formation. The E/A turned into him and then went into a steep climbing turn. It rolled over at about 6000' to 2000' and dove away but P/O. BLACKBURN got in a burst from 250 yards astern and below as the 190 was on its back and saw strikes in the cockpit. The A/c went straight down and exploded on hitting the ground at G.8497. claim - 1 FW. 190 destroyed.</p> <p>P/O. PARBURY stayed up to see if there was a top cover. None was seen and he chased a 190 which had stayed up when the rest of the enemy formation dived. In a chase lasting 3 minutes he closed to</p>

PART B (on reverse) to be completed according to relevant pro-forms in H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. Instruction 34.

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300 yards a fired a long burst from astern. Cannon strikes were seen on the starboard wing and the fuselage and the 190 gave off blue smoke before it started sideslipping down. P/O PARBURY lost sight of it against the ground and flew to AQUILA without making further contact. He then rejoined P/O. Blackburn on patrol. 31

Claim - 1 FW. 190 damaged.

P/Sgt. HUGHES attacked a 190 from astern but saw no strikes and makes no claim. He himself was attacked from the stern by a 109 and was hit on the elevator and the propeller (A/e Cat. 1.) and had to break away.

P/Sgt. NEWMAN saw this attack and got in behind the 109. He fired without result from 4/500 yards and then closed to 250/300. Strikes were seen on the wing roots and the fuselage and the 109 went down trailing thick black smoke. It crashed and exploded at 0.8886.

Claim - 1 109 destroyed.

PA. S/A over battle area.

PB. 10 FW. 190's. 2 ME. 109's.

PC. See narrative.

PD. 1 FW. 190 and 1 ME. 109 destroyed. 1 FW. 190 damaged.

PE. See narrative.

PF. Intense heavy and light AA POPOLI.  
Intense light and medium AA 0.0605.  
Intense heavy AA AQUILA.

PG. 2640 x .303  
670 x 20mm.

PH. 1 SPITFIRE F.VIII Cat. 1.

PJ. Very accurate reports from PYREX.

*Nicholson*

2/LT.

Lia. 145 SQUADRON.