

SORTIE REPORT

(Part A)

7

Sheet No. CNE.	Oprep. Ref. No. 647. Operation No. 706.	Date 24 Mar. 44.	Squadron 145.
Type of Aircraft SPITFIRE F.VIII	Aircraft Nos. JS. 244, 119, 246, JP. 836, JG. 241, JP. 982, JG. 158, JP. 679, JG. 249, JP. 352, 959, 564.	Captain	Crew See below.
Aircraft Letter EX-F.B.A.D.J.H.P.T.V.H.C.K.			
Time Up 1545			
Time Down 1715			
Total Time 16 Hrs. 55 Mins.		Aerodrome or L.G. MARCIANISE.	

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

Task or duty **Patrol over CASSINO B/A.**

Time	Height	Place	Narrative															
1645 to 1652	A. 11-21	CASSINO	<p>Combat.</p> <p>12 Spitfires were patrolling over CASSINO in 3 sections of 4 a/c in box formation at A. 11, 16, 19, when at 1640 Hrs. CHAMBER reported 12+ bandits flying SE from FROSINONE at 15,000'. Shortly afterwards sections saw 6+ a/c going SE at 23,000' making vapour trails at 0.7015, they climbed up into them and identified them as FW 190's (L.N.) which dived away towards GANTA on seeing Spitfires which gave chase without contact. One FW 190 however broke formation and dived vertically through Spitfires and was subsequently destroyed while diving away NW. It is claimed by Lt. WELLS P/Sgt. SUTHERLAND and P/Sgt. THOMSON. P/Sgt. STIRLING while skimming at 19,000' going towards E/A saw 15 a/c at 13,000' going N at approx. 0.7533. He and his No. 2 investigated and identified 15 ME 109's, gave chase resulting in 1 ME 109 Destroyed by P/Sgt. STIRLING (for claims see part B). E/A camouflage gray blue. No losses to Spitfires.</p> <p><u>Pilots & Aircraft.</u></p> <table> <tr> <td>Top Section</td><td>Medium</td><td>Lower Section.</td></tr> <tr> <td>P/L. WOOLNER (P)</td><td>S/L. DUKE DSO DFC</td><td>Lt. WELLS (V)</td></tr> <tr> <td>P/O. MACKENZIE (B)</td><td>P/O. EVANS (W)</td><td>P/L. ORLEMAN (M)</td></tr> <tr> <td>P/S. STIRLING (A)</td><td>P/S. SUTHERLAND (P)</td><td>P/S. MCKENNA (G)</td></tr> <tr> <td>P/O. BOMER (D)</td><td>P/S. THOMSON (T)</td><td>Lt. GREENE (K)</td></tr> </table>	Top Section	Medium	Lower Section.	P/L. WOOLNER (P)	S/L. DUKE DSO DFC	Lt. WELLS (V)	P/O. MACKENZIE (B)	P/O. EVANS (W)	P/L. ORLEMAN (M)	P/S. STIRLING (A)	P/S. SUTHERLAND (P)	P/S. MCKENNA (G)	P/O. BOMER (D)	P/S. THOMSON (T)	Lt. GREENE (K)
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P/O. BOMER (D)	P/S. THOMSON (T)	Lt. GREENE (K)																

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

M.A.A.P. Man. Op. Regs.

PART 2.

Combat claim of P/Sgt. A. SUTHERLAND.

I was flying No. 3 in the section flying patrolling CASSINO at 1.16 when CHANOSER reported 12+ bandits going SE from PROSIMONE at 15,000'. I then saw 6+ a/c going SE about 10-miles SW of CASSINO at 23,000' making vapour trails. Our section climbed up and identified them as PW 190's (Long nose) which, all except one, dived away towards GAZTA chased by my leader and his No. 2 and some others. The other E/A dived down towards us and I chased him and fired from 250-300 yards astern hitting him in the engine from which glycol poured out. I then had to break away as all my ammunition was finished except for one cannon which had jammed and I told my No. 2 to go in and attack. I used 1400x .303 and 130-x 20mm. I saw my No. 2 (P/S. THOMSON) and Lt. WELLS finish the a/c off. I claim a third PW 190 (L.N.) Destroyed.
(Signed) A. SUTHERLAND P/Sgt.

Combat claim of P/Sgt. J.J. THOMSON.

After P/Sgt. SUTHERLAND had broken away and told me to go in I closed to 150 yards astern, 20° Deflection, and fired seeing strikes on the fuselage and wings. I then closed to 100 yards and fired again seeing strikes all over E/A which began to pour black smoke. I then broke away having used 640 x .303, 140 x 20mm. Lt. WELLS closed on E/A. I claim a third PW 190 Destroyed.
(Signed) J.J. THOMSON P/Sgt.

Combat claim of Lt. H.E. WELLS.

Just after P/Sgt. THOMSON had fired I closed on E/A and fired from 100-150 yards astern and below seeing strikes on the belly and starboard wing. Glycol and black smoke was pouring from the E/A as a result of the attacks made by P/Sgt. SUTHERLAND and P/Sgt. THOMSON and now the cowlings flew off and the pilot baled out from about 10,000'. The E/A then burst into flames and crashed at G.3825. I used 800 x .303, 200 x 20mm. I claim a third PW 190 Destroyed.
(Signed) H.E. WELLS Lt.

Combat claim of P/Sgt. J.C. STIRLING.

While approaching 6+ PW 190's going SE at 23,000' making vapour trails at 7.7015, I saw, while at 19,000', 12+ a/c heading N. at 0.7533 at 13,000'. I and my No. 2 investigated and saw 15 ME 109's. I opened fire from approx. 250 yards astern of the nearest E/A but saw no strikes. I looked behind me and saw 2 ME 109's firing at me and I immediately broke up left and came round onto their tails. I fired at one seeing no strikes and it broke down. The other went into a shallow dive and I centred my attention on it. Following it down I fired several short bursts closing in to 50 yards and then fired again hitting the tail plane and fuselage from dead astern. E/A pulled up and the pilot baled out. The E/A crashed at approx. G.0360. I used 1400 x .303, and 240 x 20mm. (Confirmed by Camera gun) I claim 1 ME 109 Destroyed.
(Signed) J.C. STIRLING P/Sgt.

Ludlow
Flying Officer,
I.O. 145 SQUADRON.