

## SORTIE REPORT

(Part A)

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|  |                             |   |                          |
|--|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Sheet No. <b>1</b>                       | Opprep. Ref. No. <b>243</b> | Date <b>21/2/44.</b>                              | Squadron <b>417 BCAF</b> |
| Type of Aircraft <b>Spitfire Mk.VIII</b> | Aircraft No.                | Captain <b>CAN. J. 6222 F/L Ewerard, H.J.</b>     | Crew                     |
| Aircraft Letter <b>AM-H</b>              |                             |   |                          |
| Time Up <b>09.25 hours.</b>              |                             |   |                          |
| Time Down <b>11.20 hours.</b>            |                             |   |                          |
| Total Time <b>1 hour 55 mins.</b>        |                             | Aerodrome or L.O. <b>Marcianise L.G. (Italy).</b> |                          |

|                               |                    |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Type of Cloud                 | Map or Chart       |
| Amount of Cloud <b>Clear</b>  | Reference          |
| Base of Cloud <b>20 miles</b> | <b>Rome</b>        |
| Visibility                    | <b>2nd Edition</b> |
| General Weather <b>Fair</b>   | <b>1,500,000</b>   |
|                               | <b>N/240-10</b>    |

Task or Duty **Defensive patrol over the Anzio.**

| Time  | Height   | Place | Narrative  |
|-------|----------|-------|--|
| 09.25 | "0"      | Base. | Ten aircraft airborne to patrol the Anzio area.  |
| 10.00 | 21,000   | Anzio | Aircraft arrived over patrol area. One section of four a/c at 21,000 ft. and the remaining section of six a/c at 15,000 ft.  |
|       | and      |       |  |
|       | 15,000   | area. |  |
| 10.20 | as Above | Anzio | <p>"Control" reported Bandits coming in from the East at a great height. Both sections were, at this time, just north of Anzio. On turning to investigate F/L Ewerard sighted 12 Me.109's about three miles to the East and at 23,000 ft. Diving below the 109's were 12 P.W.190's, these a/c were reported to "Control" and Red Section led by F/L Ewerard climbed to attack the Me.109's. Red Section led by G/L Magee turned on to the P.W.190's. F/O Beldam (Red 3) was able to get in a fleeting shot as the a/c went by but the remainder of the section were unable to close with the enemy. These a/c were, however, chased out of the area. Blue section in the meantime were engaged in a "Dog-fight" with the Me.109's, who, contrary to their usual tactics stayed to fight. F/L Ewerard (Blue 1) was able to get in two short bursts at two of the 109's from 30 deg. off but did not observe any results. Ewerard then closed to 400 yds, on a third Me.109 and from the dead astern position got in a good three second burst, strikes were observed on the a/c and the vapour trail that it was making, increased as though it's Glycol had been hit, it then went into a gentle dive for a few seconds and slowed up as though the motor had stopped, finally it went into a vertical dive, and when last seen was at 15,000 ft. still in a vertical dive with a very large amount of black smoke pouring from it. F/L Delandnat was able to make a number of attacks with short bursts but as his reflector sight had gone U/S accurate shooting was very difficult and no results were observed. After approx. seven minutes the a/c dispersed and blue section resumed patrol until relieved.</p> <p>Red and Blue sections landed at Base.</p> <p>Claim:- F/L Ewerard - One Me.109 Probably destroyed (See Part "B")</p> |

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

I was flying as blue one in a section of four a/c. At approx. 11.20 hours enemy aircraft were reported coming in from the East. At this time I was at 21,000 ft. and just North of Anzio, and as I turned to investigate, I saw 12 Me.109's at 23,000 ft. 3 miles to the East. Below these were 12 P.W.190's, these, I reported to Control and led my section up to attack the Me.109's. I closed to about 400 yds. on one a/c and gave it a short burst from about 30 deg. off. (no results seen). I then attacked another a/c from the same range and deflection but had to break off my attack after a short burst as a/c came in at me from out of sun. I turned into these and as they broke away I was able to close to about 400 yds. on a Me.109 that was passing in front of me. I attacked with a three second burst from the dead line astern position. During this attack I saw strikes on the a/c and the vapour trail that it was making seemed to increase as though I had hit his glycol system. The a/c then went into a gentle dive and slowed up as though his engine had stopped, and finally went down in a vertical dive, at this moment I was again attacked from out of sun and had to break away. My No.2 (P/O Burgess) reports seeing the last a/c attacked 8,000 ft. below (15,000 ft.) still in a vertical dive and with a very large amount of black smoke pouring from it.

I claim One Me.109 as Probably Destroyed.

(Sgd.) H.J. Everard P/L

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