

LAMMER

255 SQUADRON - COMBAT REPORT

TO W/C Kelly
FROM 242 GROUP
I.10 18/12.

BEAUFIGHTER VI
MK. IV. A.I.

W/C Kelly (Pilot) and P/L Lammer (Radio Observer) were airborne at 22.40 hours on 17/12/42. ~~and after intervals until 0200 hours,~~ ^{at} Were given vectors towards an enemy aircraft. Every time that the Beaufighter was vectored after the enemy aircraft it flew away from the coast. At about 0200 hours after the pilot had on several occasions called up RAF Souk-el-Arba and asked for a relief, Controller at Bone gave several vectors to the North West at an ASI of 260 and then gave instructions to vector 010° and then 90° when a contact was obtained out to starboard on the same level (8,000'). Bandit went into a steep spiral dive to starboard and despite steep diving turn to starboard at full throttle the ~~shape~~ ^{blip remained} was only just visible outside the ground return. Radio Navigator gave order to level out at 3,000' and throttle back and slacken the turn to rate one and shortly after a visual was obtained slightly above and ahead at a range of 2,000' (height at the time 3,000'). Enemy aircraft identified as Ju.88 turned sharply to port and visual was lost but almost immediately regained with aid of ^{A.I.} control and full throttle was again used to close in and fire was opened at 200 yards. Closing in hits were observed along the wings and engines, and the machine dived to port with black smoke pouring from the starboard engine whilst at the same time accurate ^{return} fire was experienced several bullets hitting both engines and the nose of the Beaufighter, fragments entering the cockpit. At this juncture pilot considered the enemy aircraft was going straight in but as his Radio Navigator could still follow the enemy aircraft contact was maintained and at one time the Beaufighter overshot slightly in the dive and then managed to get behind and fire another burst before enemy aircraft dissappeared turning and diving steeply to starboard at about 500', but no further trace could be seen. Shortly afterwards Controller informed pilot that enemy aircraft had gone down into sea.

Weather - bright moonlight with cloud patches. Excellent visibility. Combat and chase lasted for 15 minutes. Time of patrol 4 hours 05 mins. Landed 02.45 hours at Souk-el-Arba.

N.B.

Entire crew of E/A Killed.