

## Narrative Pro Form

NIGHT

Stirling VADU E/A (2/25)  
ME. 109. 24. 200.

Stirling Mk.1 "P"/214 N3751 on Bremen. Cloppenburg 0215 hrs. 16000 ft. indicated air speed 180. Bombs already dropped. Course 276 magnetic. Cloud above and another 10/10 cloud 10000 ft. below and visibility good. Moon glow on port bow. No s/l's., flak or ground lights. No I.F.F.

Sgt Watson F/G. sighted T/E. E/A with T/Tail 600 yards away on port bow 300 ft below. M/A closed climbing, opening fire from 500 yards with M/G and cannon. All the crew heard cannon shells exploding, the navigator and F/G smelt fumes. Damage was done to starboard inner engine and port wing. R/G Sgt Sewell was killed in this attack. F/G Sgt Watson opened fire at 250 yards with 2 second burst. M/U/G. F/Sgt Waddicar opened fire at 20 yards as E/A climbed from underneath and continued over top of our A/C to starboard quarter. M/U/G. saw tracer enter port wing root of E/A, E/A. continued firing after passing over our a/c. and F/S. Waddicar MU/G. distinctly saw M/G. tracer fall short of cannon tracer. A second similar type of E/A. was first seen by F/G. 500 yards away on port bow, 500 ft. down. Close to 300 yards at 500 ft. below and opened fire. F/G. immediately replied. Tracer seen to enter E/A. E/A. broke away on port quarter. On this attack MU/G. fired as E/A. broke away. The following damage was caused:- All wireless and electrical equipment wrecked and Sgt. Wildey first W/OP. was wounded in left arm. During this action MU/G.'s right hand gun became U/S. E/A., which first attacked, was now seen by MU/G. 300 yards away, 200 ft. up starboard quarter. E/A. opened fire immediately hitting starboard side of fuselage. MU/G. returned fire at once with the remaining effective guns raking E/A. from nose to tail with one long burst. Complete twin tail unit fell off. E/A. dived away out of control. Captain corkscrewed through cloud. Captain and MU/G. saw E/A. explode on ground on an aerodrome. Height at this time being 2,500 ft. evasive action taken during each attack by violent steep diving turns towards attack. For first two attacks SGT. Wildey First W/OP. was in the astrodome until he was hit. F/Sgt. Waddicar gave fighting control for all stern attacks. (Could not look forward as R/G. was dead.) Between 2nd and 3rd attacks Captain corkscrewed automatically as intercomm. was shot away.

Sgt. O'Hara navigator, map read his way across Holland, making detour round Amsterdam and pinpointed himself on Dutch coast. 52 35 N. 04 12 E. 0335 hrs., 4000 ft., 280 magnetic, I.A.S. 145 on three engines. 8/10 light stratus above and thick patches of sea mist below. Moon glowing on horizon port bow. Navigator standing on his table saw two M.E. 109a in close line astern, half vic, 600 yards away, 300 ft. up approaching from port beam. F/G. was attending wounded W/OP. on bed. Navigator went to fetch F/G., owing to intercomm. being u/s. F/G. dashed fro turret and when he was half in both E/A. opened fire at about 250 yards, slightly above on port bow. F/G. opened fire while half in turret with doors open at leading E/A., navigator steadying by holding his legs. Leading E/A. flew straight into cone of fire as Captain turned towards him and dived into sea out of control. This is confirmed by navigator and F/G. Height at this time being 2000 ft. Remaining E/A. continued turn but Stirling turned inside him, thus positioning E/A. for a stern attack by MU/G. MU/G. had by this time repaired u/s. guns and secured by means of a handkerchief the right hand gun, which had shed its quick release pin. E/A. attacked from port astern, MU/G. opened fire first at 200 yards, closing, with both guns. E/A. continued diving, exploding with three dull red flashes before hitting sea. Confirmed by Captain, MU/G. and navigator.

During this last attack Stirling was shot at by M/G. fire from sea. MU/G. fired two or three short bursts at source of flashes. Height was now about 1000 ft. Evasive action in each case was by turning into the attack, which the Captain could see from the front and judged by tracer from the last attack astern.

Five minutes later on the same course MU/G. observed one M.E. 109, 7 to 800 yards astern and about 700 ft. above. E/A. fired long burst and MU/G. replied with long burst but E/A. broke off engagement and disappeared. During diving evasive, Stirling went out of control and tail hit sea when pulling out of dive.

None of the M.E. 109s encountered had cannon.