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EAGLE SQUADRON PILOT SAVED

A member of the American Eagle Squadron of the R.A.F. owes the fact that he was not either killed yesterday crash-landing in France or taken prisoner of war to the presence of mind of a fellow pilot.

He was attacked by an Me. over the French coast while returning with the squadron from an offensive sweep by Fighter Command. His fellow pilot tried to warn him, but the warning was not heard.

"So I attacked the Me. myself," the second pilot said afterwards describing what followed. "I saw it going down steeply towards the French coast and then came up close alongside the pilot I had tried to warn.

"I thought he was going to try and land in France, so I shouted to him over the radio: 'don't turn - keep going straight. You've plenty of height.'

"Apparently he heard me, because he began to glide towards the English coast. When nearly over this side, I saw him with his parachute open going down towards the sea and with two rescue boats dashing out. He was picked up and brought into Dover."

Four fighter pilots were picked up by the Sea Rescue Service yesterday, one of them a Belgian who had shot down a Messerschmitt the day before, and another a member of a new Canadian fighter squadron which distinguished itself over France during the day by destroying four enemy fighters.

The squadron was taking part in its first big operation since it joined a South of England Fighter Command group a few days ago. They were escorting bombers on a daylight raid, when, to quote the squadron leader, "the whole outfit of Me. stooged along below us. Conditions were perfect for an attack and we dived straight at them from the sun.

"The fighting was all over in three minutes, with four of the Mes. in the sea.

"One of our pilots had to bale out after getting a Hun but he was picked up after a few minutes and was back in the mess with us in time for tea".