

Air Ministry News Service

NEW DORNIER "BAGGED" IN DAYLIGHT

Germany's latest long-range bomber, the Dornier 217, fared badly in daylight today, when, of two intercepted off the East Coast by a single Spitfire, one was shot down into the sea.

The Spitfire pilot was off the East Coast at the end of a patrol when he saw a Dornier, and there followed a chase, in and out of cloud, which lasted twenty minutes. At the end the bomber went into the sea with one engine on fire and the other smoking.

"When I first caught sight of him", said the pilot on his return, "he was about 500 feet above me, but before I could climb to him I had lost him in the cloud. I stooged around above the clouds for a while, but could see no trace of him. Then, to my delight, I spotted a couple of them and saw they were the new Dorniers.

"They, too, disappeared into cloud, and at odd intervals I would spot them and lose them again. After about a quarter of an hour of this, I got within range of one and this time I held on.

"Just as I pressed the gun button to give him the first burst of cannon fire, he saw me and took evasive action. But he was not quick enough and I got in a lovely long burst.

"Two of the crew jumped. I saw them afloat down on their parachutes, and then the Dornier began a slow gliding turn with one engine well alight and the other flickering.

"As the raider was settling I climbed to get my position in case rescue craft might be sent out to the crew. Then, as my petrol was getting low, I decided not to go after the other, so turned for home."

This Spitfire pilot is a young Lancashire lad who was an artist before joining the R.A.F. just over a year ago.

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