

TYPHOONS DESTROY THREE FOCKE WULFS

Of the three Focke Wulf 190s shot down by Typhoons of Fighter Command over the English Channel yesterday, two of a small number which had made a "sneak raid" on the South West Coast were overtaken by a Squadron Leader and a Sergeant after a chase of sixty miles out to sea.

"We were flying off the South West Coast," said the Squadron Leader, who has been officially credited with one and a half of the destroyed aircraft, "when we were told that some F.Ws. were about. A few seconds later, I suddenly saw something which looked like pin pricks on the horizon. I guessed these were the Huns beating it for home. We went flat out at sea level for about 10 minutes, gradually drawing up on them. There were eight F.Ws. in line abreast, so I stalked up to within about 150 yards of the one on the left and gave him a burst of cannon fire. His wheels dropped down, his hood flew off, and there was a big flash from the engine."

Then the Squadron Leader saw a stream of something white, probably petrol, pouring out from the enemy aircraft, so he left it and flew across to attack another F.W.

"Once again," he said, "my first burst brought the same result. His wheels dropped down and pieces flew off. But he wasn't finished, so I closed to about 50 yards and sent him crashing into the water."

Then the Squadron Leader turned to see what had happened to the first enemy aircraft, and found his No. 2 was just about to finish it off.

"I yelled on the radio, 'Close well up to him,' and he took me at my word and literally blew the Hun in to the water in pieces," the Squadron Leader added. "For the moment I thought he would be brought down himself by the shower of debris and water he had to fly through, but he came out all right and we flew home with our tails up."

After the Sergeant had landed, it was found that the spinner on his Typhoon was broken and there were many holes in the aircraft caused by the flying debris.

The other F.W. shot down fell to a pilot of the West Riding of Yorkshire Squadron after he had chased it to within two miles of Boulogne.

He and a companion were over the Channel when they saw two F.Ws. at 16,000 feet. "They actually spotted us first," said the pilot - a Flight Lieutenant - "and began to dive for the French coast. We went after them and by the time I was able to make my attack the Hun was only 200 feet above the water. I saw my cannon shells hitting the enemy. Then there was a flash and the F.W. started to climb. But it was no use. He was soon in flames and went into the drink."

The Flight Lieutenant's No. 2 saw his shells hitting the second enemy aircraft, but this one escaped into France.