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ON MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 1942

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Air Ministry News Service

Air Ministry Bulletin No.7714

D.F.C.'s LAST COMBAT

Just before dusk one evening last month, a Spitfire pilot, who was recently awarded the D.F.C. for cool and skilful leadership, fought his last combat against the Luftwaffe, destroying a F.W.190 before being himself shot down.

The Spitfire pilot, Flight Lieutenant H.C.F. Bowman, was over the Channel with three other members of his squadron. They sighted two F.W.190s flying low over the sea approaching the English coast.

The Flight Lieutenant and his No.2 were overtaking the F.W.190s when the German pilots saw them and turned back southwards. As the enemy aircraft broke formation, the Flight Lieutenant told his No.2 to attack the one on the left while he attacked the leader.

No.2 attacked and immediately found two F.W.190s on his tail. These aircraft had been upsun. He took evasive action and then joined up with the other two Spitfires which had not yet been engaged. Together they chased three F.W.190s back towards France.

Meanwhile Flight Lieutenant Bowman sent the fourth F.W.190 on fire into the sea where it was seen blazing by coastguards who also reported seeing a Spitfire go into the water. Nothing further is known of the Flight Lieutenant's last combat.

Flight Lieutenant Bowman had destroyed five enemy aircraft altogether.
