

NOT FOR PUBLICATION, BROADCAST, OR USE ON CLUB TAPES BEFORE
0830 D.B.S.T. (i.e. FOR EVENING PAPERS) ON
WEDNESDAY, 12th APRIL, 1944
THIS EMBARGO SHOULD BE RESPECTED OVERSEAS BY PREFACING ANY
MESSAGES FILED WITH THE EMBARGO

LANCASTER GUNNER SHOOT'S DOWN FIFTH FIGHTER

While flying with a full load of bombs, a Lancaster destroyed two enemy fighters, and drove off a third. This brought the record of the mid-upper gunner, Flight Sergeant T.J. McLean, of Kirkmuirhill, Lanarkshire, up to five fighters, with damage to a sixth.

The Lancaster was flying in a clear starlight sky, when two Junkers 88 began to pursue it. One of them opened fire, injuring the rear gunner, and damaging his gun. The bomber's pilot took evasive action. The Junkers 88 hung on, and the Lancaster gunners opened fire again. This time, the Junkers burst into flames, and they saw it hit the ground.

The second Junkers took up the fight, firing first at long range, and then from 250 yards. Exactly the same process was successfully repeated.

McLean shot down an Me.109 on his first operation, over Saarbrucken, in 1942. Twice he has been in an aircraft attacked by two Junkers 88. On the first occasion the two fighters were shot down, and on the second, one was shot down, and the other damaged.

+++++