

Air Ministry News Service

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*Telephone*  
W.A.A.F. RADIO OPERATOR SAVES HURRICANE

The Hurricane landed at its base at a South-West of England fighter aerodrome and taxied slowly towards a dispersal point.

As it reached there, the engine cut out. The petrol was exhausted.

A pilot officer jumped from the cockpit and exclaimed to one of the ground crew, "that was a fine bit of work by those W.A.A.F. radio operators. But for them, I'd probably be in a dinghy in the Channel, and my Hurricane at the bottom of the sea."

The pilot, who comes from Dartford, Kent, had been on an operation over the French coast and was returning when, with his petrol dangerously low, visibility rapidly deteriorated.

He called up his operations room on the radio-telephone, saying that he would have to bale out.

His call was also received by W.A.A.F.'s who operate a radio-tender at his base, specially to cope with such emergencies.

At once, Corporal Margaret Lacey, of Netley, Southampton, replied by radio "steer 170 degrees".

The pilot heard, set his course, and soon after, called up the W.A.A.F. operators telling them, "O.K. I can see base now. I'll buy you a beer for this."

Safely down, the pilot ran to the radio-tender to thank the W.A.A.F.s. for their prompt help. But Corporal Lacey and her assistant, A.C.W. Margaret Barrie, of Glasgow, thought little of it. To the pilot, it was "a damned good show."

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