

"JOCK" MEETS THE JAPS

Attacked by Japanese night fighters for almost an hour while over their target in Burma on November 9 the crew of a Wellington bomber succeeded in pressing home their attack and then got their damaged aircraft safely back to base.

The Japanese airfield at Hocho was the target. "We were first over the target," said the pilot, a flight-Lieutenant from London. "As we started our first run over, 'Jock' our tail-gunner, spotted some night fighters. That started it. During our bombing run these fighters kept on coming after our tail. 'Jock' was terrific. He sat back there, as calm as the Rock of Gibraltar, passing instructions and giving the Japs more than their share of machine-gun fire.

"When I saw the fighters' tracers whizzing past as I lay on the floor ready for the bombing run," said the bombardier, "I thanked my lucky stars that 'Jock' was back there. If it had not been for him we would never have been able to carry out our attack."

"Jock", 21-year-old sergeant Robert W. Brown, of Milngavie, Glasgow, formerly a salesman in a Glasgow warehouse, was having his first crack at Japanese aircraft.

"As we went over first time" he said, "I saw three fighters coming for us. It was a lovely sight in moonlight. They made persistent attacks, but each time I put in a burst they peeled away. I thought I was going to be unlucky, until one of them came right in from dead astern.

"We opened fire simultaneously, and he suddenly climbed right up, and then fell in a vertical dive.

"I think I got him but was unable to follow him down, because another aircraft came in from the port side, and I had to chase him off. He followed us away from the target for about ten minutes, then made a short attack, but it was pretty inaccurate."

The other personnel concerned are Pilot, Flight-Lieutenant L.H. Bear, London; Bombardier, Sergeant John Newson, Ealing, former laboratory assistant.

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