

STICHTING WINGS TO VICTORY

AIRWAR MUSEUM / AIRMEN MEMORIAL ZEELAND



Crash No 214

Supermarine Spitfire VB EN824

10-12-1942

12 km NW van Westkapelle



10 december 1942

In de loop van de ochtend voerden zes Spitfires van No.453 squadron een armed recce uit langs het zeegebied tussen Blankenberge en Walcheren alwaar – aangekomen ten noordwesten van Walcheren – aan aanval werd uitgevoerd op de mijnenvegers **M 3401, M 3405, M 3411, M 3416** en **M 3417**.

Aan boord van de schepen vielen vijf doden alsmede zeven zwaar – en vijf lichtgewonden maar het succes werd zwaar bevochten! Twee Spitfires van dit Australische squadron keerden evenmin op hun basis terug en hun piloten zijn tot op de dag van vandaag vermist gebleven.

War Diary No. 453 (RAAF) squadron

--/-- Time up/ down 11.00 and 12.40 hours

It was unfortunately necessary to record the loss of Flt.Lt. J.W. Yarra and Plt.Off. M.H.I. de Cosier of B-Flight. They were one of three sections, which went on shipping reconnaissance in the area Blankenberge - Flushing and at about 11.45 hours four merchant ships, each of 700 – 1000 tons and protected by a Flakship, were sighted some 10 miles north-west of Flushing and all were heavily armed. The attack had good results! One of the merchants was heavily damaged and left burning fiercely, a large pall of black smoke rising to 150 feet being seen in the short time the departing aircraft had it under observation.

The aircraft of Flt.Lt. Yarra and Plt.Off. de Cosier were both hit! Plt.Off. de Cosier stalled and dived into the sea, while he was trying at a very low speed to gain height.

Flt.Lt. Yarra climbed to approximately 1000 feet and bailed out but hit and became caught in the tailplane and his parachute came out but streamed behind the aircraft.

The pilot became disengaged before the aircraft hit the sea in flames and was seen to fall into the water with the parachute streaming behind him unopened.

Neither body has been recovered and accordingly the official report is Missing believed Killed. It must be said however, that not the slightest hope for either can be entertained.

The other sections concerned were Plt.Off. E.A.R.Beau, Plt.Off. R.J. Darcey and Plt.Off. L.J. Han-sell and Sgt. G. Stansfield. All pressed home their attack with vigour and special credit must be given to Plt.Off. Beau, who took command after Flt.Lt. Yarra had been shot down, and brought his four aircraft safely back.

Flakkommandeur Vlissingen

0754 Kriegswache Achtung und Dämmerungsbereitschaft!

0820 Kriegswache Ruhe.

1024 Flakalarm! Gent meldet zwei Boston bei Zeebrugge mit Kurs 10 nach 4 und Höhe 2500 Meter.

--/-- Feuerverbot für alle Waffen über 2 cm! Es fliegen zwei Ju 88 zur Zieldarstellung im Raum Hamster.

1025 Kriegswache Achtung.

1033 Laut Breda sind die zwei Boston nach Richtung 9 abgeflogen.

1655 Kriegswache Achtung und Dämmerungsbereitschaft!

1740 Kriegswache Ruhe.

