



# BASILDON HERITAGE

*A Future for our Past*



Pilot: P/O John 'Paddy' Hemingway.  
Date: 26 August 1940



He landed safely near the Barge Public House, Vange, Essex.

11 Pages

£1.50

## Pilot Officer John 'Paddy' Hemingway's Report:

At 14.50 Squadron 85 based at Croydon was sent to patrol base Angels 15. From there it was vectored to the Maidstone area. Several minutes later 15 Do215 15,000 ft and 109s 20,000 approx. We turned to attack and three Do215s were separated from the main formation. After several attacks on these three Dorniers P/O Hemingway (Blue 2) broke away and climbed up to engage Me109s. While climbing P/O Hemingway was hit behind the cockpit and in the engine on the starboard side. The engine became red hot and thinking that the aircraft was on fire P/O Hemingway baled out, delaying his drop until he was in clouds before pulling rip cord. He landed in Pitsea Marshes at 15.30 and went to Pitsea Police Station, reporting to Intelligence Officers at Croydon and Hornchurch. He reported back to unit at 10.30 the same night.

### Operations Record Book

#### No 85 Squadron, R. A. F.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	A
CROYDON	26/8/40	14.49	<p>Those taking part in this engagement were Squadron Leader Townsend, Flight Lieutenant Hamilton, Pilot Officer Hemingway, Pilot Officer Worrall, Pilot Officer Allard, Sergeant Howes, Pilot Officer English, Pilot Officer Hodgson, Sergeant Walker-Smith, Sergeant Ellis, Flying Officer Woods-Scawen.</p> <p>Flying Officer Woods-Scawen attacked an M.E. 109 while climbing firing three seconds burst into its belly. He saw bits flying off in all directions, and enemy aircraft appeared to Whiptail, but he was unable to see if it crashed as he had to dive away.</p> <p>Pilot Officer Hemingway after the general engagement with the Dorniers was climbing to engage some M.E. 109's when he was hit behind the cockpit and in the engine by cannon shell. As the engine became red hot and it was impossible to remain in the aircraft he baled out, and landed safely in PITSEA MARSHES.</p> <p>The Dornier 215 were painted light blue beneath the wings, except one which was black.</p> <p>ENEMY CASUALTIES: Three Dorniers 215 destroyed - one M.E. 109 probable.</p> <p>OUR CASUALTIES: One Hurricane destroyed.</p>	