

After Action Report – Charmed

19 June 1942

Charmed, of 103 Squadron, 15 Group

Mine Laying Mission – Hostile Air

Change of pace mission, tonight. Headed for the Channel Islands, to lay mines.

Take off and climb to cruising altitude were clean, and uneventful.

Passing London, on our left, the crew noted engine exhaust flames, far to our port, of at least two aircraft. Eyes peeled and Monica was silent.

Still quiet as we passed Portsmouth. Monica was still silent.

Our “luck” continued to hold as we crossed the Channel. Monica was still silent. We were beginning to think Monica was asleep.

On our approach, I took “Charmed” down to the deck for our approach and release. Searchlights were busy but failed to find us. Flak seemed heavy. We took one hit, but nothing more than a scratch. Mines were successfully dropped. Navigation was slightly off, as our navigator estimated we were about 45% effective in placing the mines in our assigned drop zone. Monica was still silent.

We continued our line of flight for about 10 minutes, then made the turn for home. Still no searchlights, and enemy flak was again ineffective. We did pick up a Mosquito who escorted us a bit of the way. Still no sign of Gerry. Monica was still silent.

About mid-Channel, we climbed back up to high altitude. Our little friend passed us off to another Mosquito, who escorted us to the coast. Still no sign of Gerry. Monica was still silent.

Back over the green countryside of home we continued our way to base. Monica was still quiet, showing “luck” was still on our side.

Making our final turn toward base, London lying in the dark somewhere to starboard, Monica remained stoically silent. So was our aircraft. Our intercom went out on final approach for landing.

Despite no intercom, the professionalism of the crew came through with a landing that was by the book.

Respectfully

J. White

P/O