

Beneath this description, Bishop's Commanding Officer, Major Jack Scott commented:

Capt. Bishop had been encouraged to catch the H.A. referred to in VII Corps Daily Intelligence Summary No. 151. His method was not quite what I intended. He was several times at a height of 50 ft. over this enemy aerodrome at least 17 miles E. of the lines. His machine is full of holes caused by machine gun fire from the ground.⁽¹⁾

The next day, Major Scott submitted the following confidential report to Headquarters:

Headquarters,
13th Wing, R.F.C.

I wish to make a special report on an extremely brilliant individual attack on a German Aerodrome near CAMBRAI, planned and executed by Capt. W.A. Bishop D.S.O. M.C. on 2/6/17.

He left the ground before day-light and flew intending to attack the aerodrome at NEUVILLE but on arriving there found the hangars closed and no signs of any activity. He then flew S. and E. of CAMBRAI until he arrived at an aerodrome where 7 machines were on the ground, of which 3 or 4 had their engines running. On the first one taking off he fired 15 rounds from very close range and the machine crashed; a second one he similarly engaged and it flew into a tree. Two more were then taking off together, he finished his drum on one of these and it fell 300 yards from the aerodrome. The fourth machine pursued him and he fired a whole drum into it but observed no result. The above took place at heights varying from 40 to 1,000 ft. He then observed 4 scouts at 5,000 ft., climbed to 4,000' underneath them and flew thus for a mile. Finding the scouts were climbing at least as fast as he was himself, he turned West and returned safely.

As a preliminary manoeuvre before any of the machines above had left the ground, he engaged the mechanics who

⁽¹⁾ *Proceedings*, Appendix "VA-1-B", 17 October 1985, p. 3A:3.