

**Walmer planes were scrambled on a regular basis.**

**26<sup>th</sup> April 1917: German raid on Ramsgate**

**23<sup>rd</sup> May 1917: Sopwith Pup N5182 with its 80hp Le Rhone engine was in the air on two anti-zeppelin patrols (Pilot not recorded)**

**25<sup>th</sup> May 1917: 23 Gotha bombers targeted Folkestone on. First plane in the air was a Bristol Scout D8969 from Manston followed by a Sopwith Schneider from Westgate. Walmer were scrambled within minutes and Sopwith Pup 9947 was in the air taking off at 17.30 with Flight Sub Lieutenant Chisam. He had to return to Walmer twice to change planes. First change was to Bristol Scout D 8957 before changing to Sopwith Pup N5182 with the last change taking only 9 minutes because of excellent support from the aircraft fitters at Walmer. Flt. Lt Kemball was in the air too in Sopwith Pup N9947. 22 Gotha bombers were downed.**

**5<sup>th</sup> June 1917: 22 Gotha bombers targeted Sheerness, Walmer was in the air at 18.15 using Sopwith Pup N6438 and Sopwith Pup N5182**

**13<sup>th</sup> June 1917: 20 Gotha bombers targeted London. First Walmer plane in the air at 11.10 (Chisam in Pup N6439) Kemball (N9947), Lusby(N6441) and Shaw (N6442) followed within minutes. Pup N9947 also recorded as being in the air with CT Freeman as pilot on an Air Defence sortie.**

**4<sup>th</sup> July 1917: 25 Gotha bombers targeted the ports of Harwich and Felixstow. Lusby in air at 07.50 in Sopwith Pup N6439 with Chisam following in Pup N6438**

**7<sup>th</sup> July 1917: 23 Gotha planes heading for London. Walmer planes were amongst the first planes in the air, only three minutes behind planes out of Manston. Four planes took off, with Flt.Cdr Vernon in Pup N6441 unable to return to Walmer landing across the channel at Furnes. Pup N9947 with Flt. Lt Kemball up at xxx. Pup N6439 with Lusby, then Chisam took N6439 back into the air 25 minutes after Lusby landed. N6442 with Shaw in air at 09.30**

**26<sup>th</sup> July 1917: Chisam took off on a Fleet Protection Flight but had engine and controls damage and was forced down in Coxyde Bains, France.**

**11<sup>th</sup> August Sopwith Pup N5182 badly damaged at Walmer, no record of circumstances. On this day RNAS fighters based at Manston, Walmer and Eastchurch were ordered to only be responsible for coastal patrols and not fly inland towards the capital.**

**12<sup>th</sup> August 1917: Reports were received that 13 German aircraft were crossing the Channel. Flt. Lt Harold Kerby in Sopwith Pup 6440 and Flt. Sub Lt M.R. Kingsford in N6439 and Flt. Cdr T.C. Vernon in N6441, were in the air at 17.30. Flt. Lt. R.A. Little joined them at 18.20. Kerby engaged the enemy off Southend for which he received a citation and the DSC. All planes returned to Walmer by 20.40, Kerby having been airborne for three hours.**

**22<sup>nd</sup> August 1917: during the last daylight German Aeroplane raid on England, three Sopwith Pups N6440 (Kerby), N6439(Kingsford) and 9947(Little)were scrambled from Walmer at 10.20. Little had a problem with his plane and had to land at Dunkirk. It was a disaster for the Germans, 15 Gothas set off, five had engine problems and had to turn back leaving only ten planes to attack Britain.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> September 1917: First German aeroplane attack on Britain by moonlight**

**3<sup>rd</sup> September 1917: German aeroplane raid on Kent by moonlight**

**4<sup>th</sup> September 1917: London attacked by German planes by moonlight**

**30/31<sup>st</sup> October 1917: Dover under attack with two raiders seen east of Dover at 04.30. Seven bombs dropped on RFC Swingate Downs. Four dropped on Dover Harbour. No orders were given to scramble at any airfield.**

**31 October/1<sup>st</sup> November 1917: 22 Gotha bombers came over first seen at Walmer at 22.37, Walmer on standby at 22.38**

**November 1917: was quiet. No German aircraft or zeppelin attacks due to the terrible weather.**