The Mist over Station 134

Barometric Pressure

1944/45

# Dicey Landing

# Related by si Spiegel – Pilot 490th BG

It was not unusual to return to Eye to be faced with a thick mist laying over the airfield.

A low ceiling was never what we wanted to see. Our instrument landing system could (should) bring us to an altitude of 50 feet right at the edge of the runway. But the exact position on the runway was always a gamble.

The first time I tried it we broke through the low ceiling of mist right in the middle of the runway.

I gunned the engines to go around again, gained height and took our place with the others in the landing pattern once more.

At this point the engines coughed as though we were running out of fuel.

We came down again but in the exact same spot, right in the middle of the runway.

This time I hit the brakes hard and we slid all the way to the end of the runway and off into the grass. Nose down and tail raised.

We all scrambled out as quickly as possible and were safe.

The plane behind was not so fortunate it hit us head on and the 2 crew in the nose were badly injured.

I always believed that we were all given the wrong barometric pressure of the pressure changed and we were not updated quickly enough.