

SQ-FI-363-121
APR 1944

~~RESTRICTED~~

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED
EOD DIR 52009

EIGHTH AIR FORCE

VIII FIGHTER COMMAND

66TH FIGHTER WING

357th FIGHTER GROUP

363RD FIGHTER BOMBARDIER

APRIL 1944

DECLASSIFIED
EOD DIR 52009

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Classified "SECRET"
Auth VIII Air Command
Memorandum 125-1
Dated 13 November 1943

SECRET

44035

UNIT HISTORY

363rd Fighter Squadron

CHRONOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

OF

EVENTS

Month of April 1944

FOREWORD: April in the 363rd Fighter Squadron was a month of great elations and a month of great let-downs. It was a month during which some missions led to great victories by the pilots of the Squadron - and other missions were designated by the pilots of the Squadron as 'mere milk runs' in as much as the fighter planes of the enemy would not come up to do battle with the Mustang pilots of the Squadron. April was a month during which the Squadron's pilots "paved the earth" during long days while they were grounded because of weather conditions. It was a month in which some of the best pilots of the unit were lost during operational missions. So here is the 'Story of April'.

- 1 April - The Squadron went on a Fighter Sweep over LUDWIGSHAVEN. No Fighter Opposition was encountered, and all of our planes returned safely through an overcast that rendered visibility absolutely nil and which extended over 26,000 feet - to which height the Squadron climbed in an effort to get clear visibility. (See Document (1) appended)

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The attention of all of the personnel was called to a message of commendation from the Commanding General of the Army Air Forces. All of the ranks - from top to bottom were commended by the Commanding General for the superb job that the unit was doing, in coordination with other units of the A r Forces, in wiping out German Fighter Production and in eliminating the Operational Units of the German Air Force. (See Document (2) appended)

Notification of Awards to pilots of the Squadron was received in General Order No. 24, Headquarters VIII Fighter Command, dated 26 March 1944. The Following Awards were made under this order:

- PURPLE HEART to ROBERT W. FOY, 1st Lt, AC
- AIR MEDAL to DONALD R. HOGGWAY, 1st Lt, AC
- JAMES W. BOWEN, 1st Lt, AC
- PAUL R. DE WILDE, Capt, AC
- ROBERT W. FOY, 1st Lt, AC
- HOWARD S. HINMAN, 1st Lt, AC
- WILLIAM R. MCNIMLEY, 1st Lt, AC
- ROBERT R. MOORE, 1st Lt, AC
- WILLIAM R. O'NEILL, Capt, AC

(See Document (3) appended)

Special Order #92, Headquarters, European Theater of Operations, United States Army, made announcement of the following promotions among the Officers of the Squadron:

- 1st Lt. HERBERT F. DE WIGGLES to be Captain (See Document (4) appended)
- 2nd Lt. OSCAR H. WELLS to be 1st Lt. (See Document (5) appended)
- 2nd Lt. NORMAN M. BADGER to be 1st Lt. (See Document (6) appended)

Promotions of fourteen Enlisted Men of the Squadron to higher Non-Commissioned Ratings were announced in Special Order No. 89, Headquarters AAF Station F-373, dated 1 April 1944. (See Document (7) appended)

3 April - Notification of Awards to two pilots of the Squadron, now Missing in Action, were made by General Order No. 26, VIII Fighter Command, dated 3 April 1944. These Awards were:

- AIR MEDAL: WILLIAM R. GARDNER, 1st Lt. AC
- ALFRED R. BOYLE, 1st Lt, AC

(See Document (8) appended)

S E C R E T

- 4 April - All of the 'breaks' can come at one time to the Enlisted man in the E. T. O. as is evidenced by those that have come to S/Sgt. Ben T. Cooper of this unit. To begin with the Sergeant has a wife back in the States. Secondly, the Sergeant is soon to be a proud father. At the time that we are writing about S/Sgt Cooper is on a furlough. When he returns from that furlough he learns:-----that he has been promoted to T/Sgt (See Document (9) appended); that he has been selected for Officer Candidate School; that he will return to the States for that Officer's Candidate School. Throughout the Squadron he has been termed the "Luckiest man in the E. T. O.
- 5 April - Announcement has been made, in General Order No. 28, Headquarters VIII Fighter Command, dated 5 April 1944, of the following awards:
AIR MEDAL: to GEORGE G. GEORGE, 2nd Lt, AC
 ROGER E. PAGEIS, 2nd Lt, AC
 RAYMOND W. STAUBTS, 1st Lt, AC
 LAWRENCE D. WOOD, 1st Lt, AC
 WILLIAM D. MICHAELY, 1st Lt, AC
OAK LEAF CLUSTER to AIR MEDAL: to CLARENCE E. ANDERSON, JR, Capt, AC
 DONALD H. BOCHKAY, 1st Lt, AC
 ELLIS A. ROGERS, 1st Lt, AC
 (See Document (10) appended)
- 8 April - After being grounded for a long, long week due to weather conditions, the fighting pilots of the 363rd finally got into the air this date on a bomber escort mission to BRAUNSBURG. (See Document (11) appended). At last, too, the fighter pilots of the German Air Force came up to oppose the bombers and the Fighters of the AAF. And the Fighter Pilots of the 363rd gave a good account of themselves in the damaging of two FW-190s by Capt MONTGOMERY H. THROOP, JR, - the Squadron Commander (See Document (12) appended); the destruction of a Me. 109 by 1st Lt. DONALD H. BOCHKAY (See Document (13) appended) and the damaging of one Me. 109 by 1st Lt. JAMES W. BROWNING.
- 9 April - Another 'milk run' mission for the pilots of the Squadron - a bomber escort mission with the target WARMEIMUNDE. No fighter opposition was encountered - the bombers dropped their bombs at will - all of our planes returned safely, but much 'browned off' in that they saw no enemy aircraft with whom to do combat. (See Document (14) appended)

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10 April - And another mission as bomber escort, the target this trip being TOULON. And again no enemy aircraft were encountered and again the bombardment ships that the Squadron escorted were able to bomb their targets with no opposition from the enemy air force. All of our ships returned from this mission and no claims were made for enemy aircraft destroyed or damaged---as none were seen. (See Document (15) appended)

MORRIS ROTHESTEIN, 2nd Lt, AC, who had been Weather Officer for the Squadron, transferred. (See Document (16) appended)

11 April - And today - the REALLY BIG DAY for the 363rd Fighter Squadron. Today the Squadron acted as bomber escort with the bomber's target being SCRAU. The Squadron made rendezvous with the bombers it was to escort at a point north of HANOVER and immediately engaged enemy planes that were attacking the bombers. (See Document (17) appended) And the Squadron really did get its share of enemy aircraft. Here are the claims:

Destroyed - Capt MONTGOMERY H. TUBBOOP - 1 FW 190, (See Document (18) appen.)

Capt CLARENCE E. ANDERSON, JR - 1 Me. 109, (See Document (19))

Capt CLARENCE E. ANDERSON, JR) (One 111K

1st Lt. EDWARD K. SIMPSON, JR) (- Shared

1st Lt. WILLIAM B. O'NEILL, JR) ((See Document

2nd Lt. HENRY R. KAYSER) ((20) appen.)

Capt PAUL K. DE VRIES - One Me. 109 (See Document (21) Appen.)

1st Lt. DONALD H. BOCHMAY - One Me. 109 (See Document (22) appen.)

2nd Lt. HAROLD H. KENNEY - One FW 190 (See Document (23) appen.)

1st Lt. CHARLES K. PETERS - One Me. 109 (See Documents (24)&(25) appen.)

2nd Lt. HENRY R. KAYSER - One Me. 109 (See Document (26) appen.)

1st Lt. EDWARD K. SIMPSON - One Me. 109 (See Document (27) appen.)

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Damaged - Capt CLARENCE B. ANDERSON, JR - One Me. 109 (See Document (28)).
 2nd Lt. HAROLD M. KENNEY, - One FW 190 (See Document (23) appen.)
 1st Lt. WILLIAM B. OV ROSTRUM, JR, Three Me. 109s.
 (See Documents (30)(31)(32))

Notification was made of additional Awards to the pilots of the organization. The following awards were made to pilots of the Squadron who were missing in action:

AIR MEDAL to CARTER L JONES, 2nd Lt, AC

CHARLES E. YEAGER, F/O, AC

ONE LEAF CLUSTER to AIR MEDAL

to WILLIAM A MCCINLEY, 1st Lt, AC

The following awards were made posthumously

AIR MEDAL to SANTIAGO N. GUTIERREZ, 2nd Lt, AC

(See Document (33) appended)

- 12 April - On this date the Squadron escorted bombers to their target at ZEMAU. (See Document (34) appended). On this mission the Squadron reported as Missing in Action, 1st Lt. FREDERICK W. BLUST, (See Document(35) appended)
- 13 April - A bomber escort mission to MUNICH by the pilots of our P-51s. No enemy planes were encountered and all of the planes of the Squadron returned safely to home base. (See Document (36) appen.)
- 14 April - 1st Lt. GILBY H WHEB, Assistant Communications Officer of the Squadron is transferred to new duties. (See Document (37) appen.)
- 15 April- A Fighter Sweep to the area around LUDWIGSBURG. No enemy planes were encountered and all of the P-51s of the Squadron returned safely to their home base. After the glorious day that our fighters enjoyed at HANOVER on the 11th, all of them are eager to again tangle with the fighters of the German Air Force - and great is the disappointment of the P-51 pilots of the unit when day after day, mission after mission, they can find no enemy with whom to match skill and equipment.
 (See Document (38) appended)

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Notification was made of the awarding of the following decorations to pilots of the Squadron. These awards were made by General Order Number 31, Headquarters, VIII Fighter Command, dated 15 April 1944.

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS to DONALD H BOCHENAY, 1st Lt, AC
ELIAS A ROGERS, 1st Lt, AC

AIR MEDAL to CHARLES S. PARSON, 1st Lt, AC

1st OAK LEAF CLUSTER to JAMES W BROWNING, 1st Lt, AC
PAUL K DE VRIES, Capt, AC
WILLIAM S MICHAK, 1st Lt, AC
ROBERT H MOORE, 1st Lt, AC
WILLIAM H O'BRIEN, Capt, AC
HERSCHEL T PASCOE, 1st Lt, AC
ROBERT E FRANKS, 2nd Lt, AC
CHARLES K PETERS, 1st Lt, AC

2nd OAK LEAF CLUSTER to CLARENCE E A DENSON, Capt, AC
WILLIAM A. O'BRIEN, Capt, AC

1st OAK LEAF CLUSTER to JOSEPH F FILLICK, 1st Lt, AC

2nd and 3rd OAK LEAF CLUSTER to DONALD H BOCHENAY, 1st Lt, AC
ELIAS A ROGERS, 1st Lt, AC

(See Document (39) appended)

1st Lt. HOWARD S. HIRMAN is appointed Squadron Gunnery Officer, in addition to his other duties, vice Capt. CLARENCE E ANDERSON, relieved. (See Document (40) appended)

17 April - Announcement made of the promotion of 2nd Lt. DONOVAN D. SIVERTS to 1st Lt. (See Document (41) appended)

18 April - Today the pilots of the 363rd again escorted bombers to BIG 'B' - to BEMILIN. Missions to BEMILIN are always the acme of missions to pilots of the AAF. But on this mission again, there were no enemy aircraft encountered or observed. So, as the pilots saw no enemy aircraft to encounter - the score for the day "No hits, no runs, no errors, no one left on base!" (See Document (42) appended)

RALPH H DONNELLY, 1st Lt, AC is assigned to the Squadron by Special Order No. 106, Headquarters, AAF Station F-373, dated 18 April 1944. (See Document (43) appended)

19 April - A bomber escort mission to ESCHMECH. And again the enemy aircraft stay on the ground - and again the bombers of the

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AAF were able to plaster their targets at will, as the fighters of this Squadron, acting as escort, cruised atmosphere and the stratosphere looking vainly for a fight. (See Document (44) appended)

- 20 April - The Squadron gets a different type of mission - for this time they go Dive bombing. Due to a solid overcast at LAMON, the assigned target, the Squadron bombed as a secondary target, the airfield at the vicinity of CAMBUI. Excellent results from this bombing were reported. (See Document (45) appended)
- 22 April - The 363rd goes on a Fighter Sweep over an assigned area in the vicinity of LAMON, LAI and KAKAI. On the sweep five locomotives were destroyed, a tugboat was damaged and a barge damaged. There was no fighter opposition by the enemy to this sweep. (See Document (46) appended) As it is a bomber escort, dive bombing or fighter sweeps by the fighter wing of the AAF there seems to be a definite refusal on the part of the fighter planes of the I-Go staff to engage in battle. Our pilots are again wondering just what it will take to get the Japs off the ground and into battle.
- 23 April - Another Fighter-Bomber Mission. Due to 8/10s scattered cumulus clouds over the airfield at KAKAI, the P-51s of this squadron dropped their bombs on the airfield at KAKAI. (See Document (47) appended). Excellent bombing results were reported, and no fighter opposition was encountered or even seen.
- 24 April - And at long last -- another really BIG day for the Squadron. For on this day, as the Squadron acted as bomber escort on a mission to LAMON, the enemy was attempting to defend his countryside and his factories again. And as he got into the air, the fighters of the squadron were able to put him back on the ground again. (See Document (48) appended). Six enemy aircraft were destroyed by the fighters of the 363rd on this mission. 1st Lt. JOSEPH F. PIERCE accounted for a Ju. 88 (See Document (49) appended) and a Le. 109 (See Document (50) appended). 1st Lt. DONALD

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H. BOCHMAY destroyed one Me. 109. (See Document (51) appended). Captain ROBERTSON H. THROOP, JR., shot to utter destruction another Me. 109 (See Document (52) appended) and Captain L. W. HINE still another Me. 109 (See Document (53) appended). Another Me. 109 was destroyed by 1st Lt. JAMES W. BROWNING (See Document (54) appended).

The day was sadly marked by the reporting as missing in Action of two of the Squadron's pilots. 1st Lt. HOWARD S. HINMAN, one of the pilots who had joined the Squadron during the days of its formation (at the Tonopah Bombing & Gunnery Range on 22 March 1943) was Missing in Action. (See Document (55) appended) and 1st Lt. RALPH H. DONNELLY, who only this month had joined the Squadron (See Document (56) appended) was also reported Missing in Action following this mission. (See Document (56) appended).

- 25 April - Following the big day of the 24th, the Squadron again went on a bomber escort mission, to BISON, in which there was no fighter opposition and from which there were no results excepting the excellent bombing results obtained by the bombers that the pilots of the Squadron were escorting. (See Document (57) appended) 2nd Lt. HENRY R. RAYSON, reported missing on the original report of this mission, had landed at a remote airport in England and returned to base soon after the report had been turned in to Group.
- 26 April - The mission for the day started out to be bomber escort - but due to the fact that the bombardment mission was scrubbed the pilots of the Squadron went on as a Fighter Sweep mission. No enemy aircraft were seen and all of the planes of the Squadron returned safely to home base. (See Document (58) appended)
- 27 April - Today the Squadron for the first time went on two missions in one day - and the pilots of the Squadron have expressed the belief that General H. H. HENDON, commanding ETOUSA, was not 'kidding' when he publicly said that he was going to work the Air Forces without rest. The first mission was a Fighter Sweep to the RHINE area. No fighter opposition was encountered (See Document (59) appended). And in the

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After noon the Squadron went on a bomber escort mission to NANCY. And again no enemy aircraft were encountered or seen (See Document (60) appended).

28 April - Another bomber escort mission for the Squadron - with the target for the bombers being ST. ALVARD. Several enemy aircraft made passes at the bombers, but upon the arrival of the P-51s of the 363rd Fighter Squadron, dove into the clouds and the bombers proceeded as the fighters of this Squadron tried unsuccessfully to find the enemy planes. (See document (61) appended)

29 April - Bomber Escort mission to that best target of all --to REIM. All of our planes came back safely from this mission, (See Document (62) appended). 1st Lt. JOSEPH F. FIERCE damaged one Me. 109 on this mission. (See Document (63) appended)

1st Lt. ROBERT W. FOY appointed Squadron Gunnery Officer vice 1st Lt. HOWARD S. HINMAN, Missing in Action. (See Document (64) appended)

30 April - The Squadron closed the month of April with a bomber escort mission to CLEMMONT FERRAND. (See Document (65) appended) Three enemy planes were destroyed on this mission - with all of the fighter planes of the Squadron returning safely to their home base. Captain CLARENCE E ANDERSON, JR destroyed one FW 190 (See Document (66) appended) and 1st Lt. JOSEPH F. FIERCE destroyed two FW 190s (See Document (67) appended).

CONCLUSION - And so ends the story of the month of April 1944 for the 363rd Fighter Squadron. It was a story of a month saddened by the loss in action of three of the pilots of the Squadron. And it was a story of great victories by the pilots of the Squadron, whenever and where ever the fighters of the enemy came up to engage in combat. For, during this month, nineteen fighter ships of the enemy were destroyed and nine others were damaged by the fighters of the 363rd. All in all, it was the story of a very successful month for the fighting pilots of the fighter planes of the 363rd Fighter Squadron.

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363rd FIGHTER SQUADRON
357th FIGHTER GROUP, ARMY AIR FORCES
USAAF Station F-373

D-2

4PO 637
1 Apr 44

SUBJECT: S-2, S-3 Mission Report Number 24.

TO : S-2 Officer, 357th Fighter Group, Army Air Forces, USAAF Station
F-373, APO 637.

A. 363rd Fighter Squadron - Captain EDWIN W. HIRO, leading.

B. 18 -- 0743 -- 0950

C. Four

D. Fighter Sweep and Area Support -- Field Orders No. 286.

E. Nil

F. Nil

G. Nil

H. Nil

I. L/F in & L/F out undetected because of 10/10 cloud formations. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~
Overcast over channel half-way to the French coast on briefed course
was overcast to 8,000 ft. beginning at 1,500 ft. from that point to
where the Squadron turned back the overcast was solid to over 28,000 ft.
Visibility was absolutely nil and as the overcast continued, as the Squadron
gained altitude, the Squadron was forced to turn back. It is suggested by
the pilots that when they request a homing in such weather, that Parker
in vectoring them to a friendly airport also tell the pilots whether or
not they are over enemy territory. One of our flights returning on the
course given them by Parker encountered extremely heavy and accurate light
flak at the mouth of an inlet at LE CROTOY, north of XXXX AULT. No enemy
fighter opposition encountered. Captain HIRO, Squadron leader reported to
Backline and Parker at 0920 that he saw a splash in the channel approx.
20 miles south east of ORFORDNESS. A fix was taken and he was notified
A/S unit was being dispatched. Captain HIRO and his wingman, Lt STAUTE
circled the area for one half hour and report seeing neither a dingie or
parachute in the area. R/T good.

Ernest F. DeNigro
ERNEST F. DE NIGRO,
1st Lt, AC,
S-2 O.

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DOCUMENT (1)

NUD DUX BTM LES V SAS MR 21/29 R

FROM: COPTWIG SIXTY SIX 29/1150 A

TO : COAMF NORTHAMSTEAD, DUXFORD, METFIELD, BOTTISHAM, LEISTON
BT

RESTRICTED SASF541G

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDING GENERAL, ARMY AIR FORCES,
WILL BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF ALL MEMBERS OF YOUR COMMAND QUOTE
WITH A RELENTLESS DETERMINATION DEMANDING THE RESPECT OF EVERYONE
IN THE AA CMA YOU ARE DRIVING HOME AN ATTACK WHICH IS DESTROYING
GERMANY'S VERY VITALS PD THE STRONGEST DEFENSES A DESPERATE ENEMY CAN
DEVISE ARE NOT STOPPING YOU PD YOU HAVE HAD HEAVY LOSSES BUT YOU ARE
INFLECTING HEAVIER ONES ON THE ENEMY PD YOUR ATTACKS ON REGENSBURG CMA
LEIPZIG CMA BERNBURG CMA GOTHEN AND OT E FIGHTER FACTORIES SO VITAL TO
THE ENEMY ARE WIPING OUT GERMAN FIGHTER PRODUCTION AND YOUR AIR FIGHT
IS ELIMINATING HIS OPERATIONAL FIGHTER FORCE AND LAYING THE FOUNDATION
DECISIVE AND FINAL OPERATIONS IN THE FUTURE PD FOR CONTINUING TO
DEAL SUCH DESTRUCTIVE BLOWS AT THE HEART OF GERMANY CMA I SEND ALL OF
YOU MY BEST WISHES PD FOR THE SUPERB JOB YOU ARE DOING CMA I COMEND
ALL RANKS DASH FROM TOP TO BOTTOM PD SIGNED ARNOLD UNQUOTE

TB29/1150A

A TRUE COPY:

AOS AR

LES R.....29/1250 A BM AR

Ernest F. De Nigro
ERNEST F. DE NIGRO,
Capt, AC.

R E S T R I C T E D .

GENERAL ORDER)
NUMBER.....24)

HEADQUARTERS VIII FIGHTER COMMAND
APO 637 AAF STATION F-341
26 March, 1944.

E X T R A C T

AWARD OF THE PURPLE HEART.....SECTION VI
AWARDS OF THE AIR MEDAL.....SECTION VII
AWARDS OF THE OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO THE AIR MEDAL.....SECTION VIII

* * *

VI. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September, 1943, and pursuant to authority contained in Section I, Circular 36, Hq., ETCUSA, 5 April, 1943, and letter Hq., Eighth Air Force, Subject "Awards and Decorations", 16 April 1943, the PURPLE HEART is awarded to the following named officers:

* * *

CITATION: For wounds received in action on 3 March, 1944, while engaged in an operational mission in the vicinity of Dunkirk, France.

ROBERT W. FOY, O-745340, 1st Lt., Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home Address: 317 Front St., Oswego, N. Y.

* * *

VII. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September, 1943, and pursuant to authority contained in Section I, Circular 36, Hq. ETCUSA, 5 April, 1943, and letter Hq. Eighth Air Force, Subject: "Awards and Decorations" 16 April, 1943, and AIR MEDAL is awarded to the following named officers:

* * *

CITATION: For meritorious service in aerial flight in the completion of ten operational sorties, or the equivalent thereof, over enemy occupied Continental Europe.

* * *

DONALD H. BOCHKAY, O-742834, 1st Lt., Army Air Forces, United States Army.
Home Address: 6406 Bakman Ave., N. Hollywood, Calif.

JAMES W. BROWNING, O-740361, 1st Lt., Army Air Forces, United States Army.
Home Address: Syracuse, Kansas.

PAUL K. DEVRIES, O-728607, Captain, Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home Address: 225 N. Cambridge, Orange, Calif.

ROBERT W. FOY, O-745340, 1st Lt., Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home Address: 317 Front St., Oswego, N. Y.

HOWARD S. HINMAN, 1st Lt., Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home Address: Madrid, Iowa.

WILLIAM R. MCGINLEY, O-743058, 1st Lt., Army Air Forces, United States Army.
Home Address: Box 126, Orcutt, California.

ROBERT N. MOORE, O-745466, 1st Lt., Army Air Forces, United States Army.
Home Address: Ravine Drive, Matawan, New Jersey.

WILLIAM R. O'BRIEN, O-730583, Captain, Army Air Forces, United States Army.
Home Address: 920 S. Ash, McPherson, Kansas.

R E S T R I C T E D

R E S T R I C T E D

G. O. #24 (Cont'd)

HERSCHEL T. PASCOE, O-745490, 1st Lt., Army Air Forces, United States Army.
 Home Address: Box 1316, Hayden, Arizona.
 CHARLES K. PETERS, O-745495, 1st Lt., Army Air Forces, United States Army.
 Home Address: 540 E. Howard St., Biloxi, Mississippi.
 JOSEPH F. PIERCE, O-742889, 1st Lt., Army Air Forces, United States Army.
 Home Address: Route #1, Box 39, Duncan, Oklahoma.
 FREDERICK W. REUST, O-743093, 1st Lt., Army Air Forces, United States Army.
 Home Address: 2222 West 2nd St., Topeka, Kansas.
 EDWARD K. SIMPSON, JR., O-745529, 1st Lt., Army Air Forces, United States Army.
 Home Address: General Delivery, Hampton, New Jersey.

VIII. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September, 1943, and pursuant to authority contained in Section I, Circular 36, Hq., ETOUSA, 5 April, 1943, and letter, Hq., Eighth Air Force, Subject: "Awards and Decorations", 16 April, 1943, an AK LEAF CLUSTER is awarded to the following named Officers in addition to the AIR MEDAL previously awarded.

CITATION: For meritorious service in aerial flight in the completion of ten (10) operational sorties, or the equivalent thereof, over enemy occupied Continental Europe.

EDWIN W. HIRO, O-728661, Captain, Army Air Forces, United States Army.
 Home Address: 400 3rd St., S. W., Chisholm, Minnesota.

By command of Major General KEPNER:

FRANCIS H. GRISWOLD,
 Brig. General, U.S.A.
 Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

s/ John J. Sailors,
 t/ JOHN J. SAILORS,
 Colonel, AGD,
 Adjutant General.

A TRUE EXTRACT

Dave C. Willett
 DAVE C. WILLETT,
 Capt, Air Corps,
 Adjutant.

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RESTRICTED

Hq STOUA

1 Apr 1944

EXTRACT

17. Announcement is made of the temporary promotion of the following to, Eighth AF, to the grade indicated in this order w/rank for date of this order:

1st Lt to Capt

EDWARD F. DENICIS

0565185

AC

By command of General BISHOP:

R. B. LORD
Brigadier General, GSC,
Deputy Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

R. B. LOVETT,
Brigadier General, USA, Adjutant General.

A TRUE EXTRACT COPY

Handwritten Signature
DAVE C. MILLET,
Capt, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

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RESTRICTED
HQ STOUCK

1 Apr 1944

EXTRACT

19. Announcement is made of the temp promotion of the following O, Eighth AF, to the gr indicated in AEC -/rank fr date of this order:

2nd Lt to 1st Lt

MOSELEY R. WEBB

0861518 AC

By command of General EISENHOWER:

R. B. LORD
Brigadier General, GSC
Deputy Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

R. B. LOVETT
Brigadier General, USA, Adjutant General

A TRUE EXTRACT COPY

James C. Willett
JAMES C. WILLETT,
Capt, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

7

30 92

RESTRICTED
Hq ETOUSA

1 Apr 1944

EXTRACT

18. Announcement is made of the temp promotion of the following O, Eighth AF, to the gr indicated in AUS w/rank fr date of this order:

2nd Lt to 1st Lt

NORMAN M. BADGER

0861568 AC

By command of General EISENHOWER:

R. B. LORD
Brigadier General, GSC
Deputy Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

R. B. LOVETT
Brigadier General, USA, Adjutant General.

A TRUE EXTRACT COPY

Dave C. Willett
DAVE C. WILLETT,
Capt, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS AAF STATION F-373

FO 637

1 April 1944

SPECIAL ORDERS
NO 89

EXTRACT

6. Following EM, 363rd FI Sq, are promoted to gr indicated under the provisions of AR 615-5, & upon the recommendation of their Crpn Comdr:

TO BE TECHNICAL SERGEANT (TEMP)

S Sgt (511) Emil H. Franse, 37383761 S Sgt (759) Arthur F. Schalick, Jr, 32077677

TO BE STAFF SERGEANT (TEMP)

Sgt (747) James R. LaMont, 37370099 Sgt (911) Elmer W. Peterson, 37280436
Sgt (652) Leo J. Schrader, 37012906

TO BE SERGEANT (TEMP)

Cpl (941) Henry J. Gysel, Jr., 32585869 Cpl (747) Agostino (NMI) Laterza, 32495032
Cpl (747) Phillip (NMI) Mikalunas, 36618325 Cpl (687) Noble D. Spradling, 18103484

TO BE PRIVATE FIRST CLASS (TEMP)

Pvt (929) William C. Hyde, 34586705 Pvt (747) Joe C. Ruhl, 35483906
Pvt (245) Richard C. Smith, 15338476 Pvt (911) Richard E. Smith, 35418787
Pvt (747) David (NMI) Tobin, 32404333

By order of Lieutenant Colonel GRAHAM:

ROBERT T. ROMINE,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

OFFICIAL:

s/ Robert T. Romine,
t/ ROBERT T. ROMINE,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

A TRUE EXTRACT

Dave C. Willett
DAVE C. WILLETT,
Capt, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

DOCUMENT (7)

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8 FC Reg No. 39210

GENERAL ORDER)
:
NUMBER.....26)

(C-A-22)
HEADQUARTERS VIII FIGHTER COMMAND
APO 637 AAF STATION F-341
3 April, 1944.

EXTRACT

* * * AWARDS OF THE AIR MEDAL SECTION III * * *

III. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September, 1943, and pursuant to authority contained in Section I, Circular 36, Hq. LTCUSA, 5 April, 1943, and letter Hq. Eighth Air Force, Subject: "Awards and Decorations", 16 April, 1943, an AIR MEDAL is awarded to the following named Officers:

CITATION: For meritorious service in aerial flight in the completion of ten (10) operational sorties, or the equivalent thereof, over enemy occupied Continental Europe:

MISSING IN ACTION

WILLIAM W. GAMBILL, O-743000, 1st Lt., Army Air Force, United States Army.
Home Address: Union, Oregon.

ALFRED R. BOYLE, O-740355, 1st Lt., Army Air Forces, United States Army.
For meritorious achievement in aerial flight while participating in an operational mission against the enemy 21 February, 1944, when he by his skill and courage successfully destroyed one enemy aircraft. Home Address: 1796 Winona Blvd., Hollywood, California.

By command of Major General KEFNER:

OFFICIAL:

s/ John J. Sailors
t/ JOHN J. SAILORS,
Colonel, AGC,
Adjutant General.

FRANCIS H. GRISWOLD,
Brig. General, U.S.A.,
Chief of Staff.

A TRUE EXTRACT

James C. Millett
JAMES C. MILLETT,
Capt, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

DOCUMENT (8)

CONFIDENTIAL

RESTRICTED

SPECIAL ORDER
NO 92

HEADQUARTERS AAF STATION F-373
APO 637
4 April 1944

EXTRACT

5. Under the provisions of AR 615-5 & upon the recommendation of his Orgn Comdr, S Sgt (888) Ben T. Cooper, 35495847, 363rd PI Sq, is promoted to gr of Technical Sergeant (temp).

By order of Lieutenant Colonel GRAHAM:

ROBERT T. ROMINE,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

OFFICIAL:

s/ Robert T. Romine,
t/ ROBERT T. ROMINE,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

A TRUE EXTRACT

Dave C. Willett
DAVE C. WILLETT,
Capt, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

RESTRICTED

GENERAL ORDER)
NUMBER.....28)

HEADQUARTERS VIII FIGHTER COMMAND
APO 637 AAF Station F-341
5 April, 1944.

AWARDS OF THE AIR MEDALSECTION IX
AWARDS OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO THE AIR MEDAL.....SECTION X

IX. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September, 1943 and pursuant to authority contained in Section I, Circular 32, Hq., ETCUSA, 20 March, 1944 and letter Hq., Eighth Air Force, Subject: "Awards and Decorations", 2 April 1944, an AIR MEDAL is awarded to the following named Officers:

SITUATION: For meritorious service in aerial flight in the completion of ten operational sorties, or the equivalent thereof, over enemy occupied Continental Europe.

*

*

*

GEORGE G. GEORGE, O-682631, 2nd Lt., Army Air Forces, United States Army.
Home Address: 143 E. 157th St., Harvey, Illinois.

ROGER E. PAGELS, O-682952, 2nd Lt., Army Air Forces, United States Army.
Home Address: 204 Union Blvd., Michigan City, Indiana.

RAYMOND W. STAUTE, O-745533, 1st Lt., Army Air Forces, United States Army.
Home Address: 2632 Clara Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri.

LAWRENCE D. COO, O-745559, 1st Lt., Army Air Forces, United States Army.
Home Address: Hoxie, Kansas.

WILLIAM B. MICHAELY, O-745456, 1st Lt., Army Air Forces, United States Army.
For meritorious achievement in aerial flight while participating in an operational mission against the enemy on 24 February, 1944, when he by his skill and courage successfully destroyed one enemy aircraft. Home Address: 920 E. Mercury St., Butte, Montana.

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X. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September, 1943, and pursuant to authority contained in Section I, Circular 32, Hq., ETCUSA, 20 March, 1944 and letter Hq., Eighth Air Force, Subject: "Awards and Decorations", 2 April, 1944, an OAK LEAF CLUSTER is awarded to the following named Officers in addition to the AIR MEDAL previously awarded:

SITUATION: For meritorious service in aerial flight in the completion of ten (10) operational sorties, or the equivalent thereof, over enemy occupied Continental Europe.

RESTRICTED

DOCUMENT (10)

RESTRICTED

G. C. #36 (Cont'd)

CLARENCE E. SWERDLOFF, JR., O-730334, Captain, Army Air Forces, United States Army.
Home Address: 3093-F Box 176, New Castle, California.

THOMAS H. MCNEILY, O-742034, 1st Lt., Army Air Forces, United States Army.
Home Address: 6406 Balmain Avenue, Hollywood, California.

ELIAS A. ROCHES, O-739339, 1st Lt., Army Air Forces, United States Army.
Home Address: Box 1034, El Centro, California.

* * *

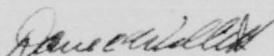
By command of Major General KETNER:

FRANCIS H. BRISWOLD,
Brigadier General, U.S.A.
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

s/ John J. Sailors,
t/ JOHN J. SAILORS,
Colonel, AGC,
Adjutant General.

A TRUE EXTRACT



DAVE C. ELLIOTT,
Capt, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

CONFIDENTIAL

363rd FIGHTER SQUADRON
357th Fighter Group, Army Air Forces
USAAF Station F-373

D-2

AFD 637,
8 Apr 44.

SUBJECT: D-2, D-3 Mission Report Number 25.

TO : D-2 Officer, 357th Fighter Group, Army Air Forces, USAAF Station F-373,
AFD 637.

A. 363rd Fighter Squadron -- Captain MONTGOMERY H. THORP, leading.

B. 15 -- 1407 -- 1555

C. Four

D. Bomber Escort -- F. O. 291

E. Nil

F. Nil

G. Nil

H. One Me. 109 destroyed -- Capt 1st Lt. DONALD H. BOURNAY
Two FW 190s damaged -- Captain MONTGOMERY H. THORP
One Me. 109 damaged -- 1st Lt. JAMES W. BROWNLEE

I. L/P in north of HAGUE at 1252 hours at 22,000 ft. L/V with bombers at
GEMMELDEN at 1400 hours at 24,000 ft. Left bombers at SUMMER LAKE at 1435 hours
at 18,000 ft. L/P out at ISNUIDEN at 1515 hours at 18,000 ft. Low haze
over the channel decreasing over continent to nil over target, with cirrus
clouds from 21,000 ft. over channel to 26,000 ft. over continent. Heavy
fighter opposition over target with 30 $\times$ 109s and 4 $\times$ 190s encountered.
Green flight, flying in rear of group, encountered 20 $\times$ 109s over target
area at 15,000 ft. making repeated passes at bomber stragglers. Five bombers -
B-24s - were seen to go down by this flight, but Green flight got one of the
109s. Five 'chutes were seen to open just west of the target. Four, all
black, 190s were seen over the target at 18,000 ft. at 1415 hours. Eight
me 109s were observed over target painted black on top with silver on the
bottom. Heavy, fairly accurate flak over BUNDSICK. R/T good.

John B. Myers Jr.
J. B. MYERS, JR.,
1st Lt, AC,
D-2 O.

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

C O N F I D E N T I A L

ACCOUNT OF COMBAT

PILOT: DONALD H. BOCHKAY, 1st Lt, AC, Asn 0742834

A. COMBAT:

B. 8 April 1944

C. 363rd Fighter Squadron, 357th Fighter Group

D. 1440 EST

E. Five miles North West of BRAUNSWIG

F. Good, slight haze

G. ME-109

H. One ME-109 destroyed

I. ACCOUNT OF COMBAT: I was leading CHAMBERS green flight of three aircraft 1st MUST and 1st PAGLES. I was guarding the rear box of B-24's when I saw five enemy ME-109's making passes B-24 at about 14,000 ft. I then broke down and to the left dropping my belly tanks at the same time. I pulled up then at 13,000 ft I gave him a short burst at twenty degrees on the left side. Hits were scored around tail and right wing. A/E then broke hard to the left. I gave him a long burst, hits were scored around wings and canopy. His canopy then came off and the pilot bailed out. We were then at 8,000 ft.

I claim one ME-109 destroyed.

J. AMUNITION EXPENDED: 170 rounds .50 cal M.C.

Donald H. Bochkay
DONALD H. BOCHKAY,
1st Lt., AC.

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

For 1st Lt BOCHKAY - One Me-109, time 1440, date 8 April 1944, place approximately five miles north west of BRAUNSWIG, altitude 15,000 ft to 10,000 ft, visibility perfect. I was number three man in 1st BOCHKAY'S flight when he made the attack from the rear. As he closed in hits were noticed, then the canopy flew off and a white chute opened as the plane spun in.

Robert E. Pagles
ROBERT E. PAGLES,
2nd Lt., AC.

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

I was number two man in CHAMBERS green flight. 1st BOCHKAY, CHAMBERS green leader, attacked one of several ME-109's attacking a straggling B-24. He fired at the ME-109 at very good range. I saw strikes on the ME-109 and smoke came from the radiators. A few seconds later the canopy came off and the ME-109 pilot bailed out. I saw his chute open at about 15,000 ft. This encounter occurred a few miles north west of target after bombers had made their bombing run.

Frederick W. Reust
FREDERICK W. REUST,
1st Lt, AC.

CONFIDENTIAL

RECONSTRUCTION REPORT

PILOT: MONTGOMERY H. THROOP, CAPT., AG.

- A. COMBAT
- B. 8 April 1944
- C. 363rd Fighter Squadron, 357th Fighter Group
- D. 1419 GMT
- E. North East of BRAUNSBURG
- F. C A 7 U
- G. Two P-190's
- H. Two P-190's damaged
- I. ACCOUNT OF COMBAT: I was leading CHAMBERS Red Flight, and shortly after rendezvous I was swinging around toward one of the rear boxes of B-24's when I noticed about four E/A in the process of making a stern attack on them. I caught one of them as they were leaving and got about a thirty to forty degree deflection shot from about 350 yds on him shortly after which he split S'd down leaving a long plume of white smoke. Due to the deflection he was hidden by my nose and I did not observe strikes. After I had let him go because he was drawing me away from the bombers, I ran into the other pair which had attacked the same box and one of them immediately tried to position himself on the tail of my number three man. After about three flight orbits I worked myself around to his tail and again got a thirty to forty degree deflection shot, but saw no strikes as he was hidden by my nose. He too split S'd down to the deck emitting a single puff of white smoke, but I saw nothing further. My wing-man 2nd Lt KAYSER says he saw strikes near the tail, upon which I base my claim.

I claim two P-190's damaged.

J. AMMUNITION EXPENDED: 307 rounds .50 cal H.G.

Montgomery H. Throop
MONTGOMERY H. THROOP,
Captain, Air Corps.

SUPPORTING STATEMENT FOR CAPT. THROOP

While flying wing-man for Capt. THROOP on April 8, 1944, near BRAUNSBURG we bounced four P-190's. Capt. THROOP fired on the number four gun. I observed no hits but saw white smoke as the E/A went into a vertical dive. The last I saw of the E/A he was close to the ground still in the dive. I did not see him crash.

A few minutes later Capt. THROOP engaged a second P-190 in the same area. I was flying his wing. As he fired on the ship I observed several strikes on the tail. There was a puff of white smoke as he went into an inverted dive. E/A left smoke trail until near the ground then rolled out of inverted position and pulled out.

Henry R. Kayser
HENRY R. KAYSER,
2nd Lt., AC.

CONFIDENTIAL

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363rd FIGHTER SQUADRON
357th Fighter Group, Army Air Forces
USAAF Station P-373

B-1

APC 637
9 Apr 44

SUBJECT: S-2, S-3 Mission Report Number 26.

TO : S-2 Officer, 357th Fighter Group, Army Air Forces, USAAF Station P-373, APC 637.

A. 363rd Fighter Squadron- Captain MONTGOMERY. THECOOP leading Group.

B. 16-1030-1430

C. Nil

D. Penetration, ~~xxxxxx~~ target, and withdrawal support of P.O. 292

E. Nil

F. Nil

G. Nil

H. Nil

I. L/F in ~~XXXXXXXX~~ at 1115 hours at 21,000 ft. R/V with bombers thirty miles west of ~~ROSTOCK~~ at 1205 at 22,000ft. Left bombers at ~~WILHELM~~ at 1250 hours at ~~XXXXXXXX~~ 22,000 Ft. L/F out ~~SCAND~~ at 1347 hours at 16,000 ft. Haze from ground to cumulus clouds at 10,000 ft with low broken cirrus beginning at 20,000 ft. 8/10 clouds over channel decreasing to CAUD over target. No fighter opposition was encountered. Air field fifteen miles south west of ~~ROSTOCK~~ heavily bombed. One B-24 seen going down north of ~~DUMMER~~ lake at 1320 hours at 18,000 ft, eight chutes seen to open. R/T good.

John B. Myers, Jr.
JOHN B. MYERS, Jr.
1st Lt, AF.
S-2 C.

CONFIDENTIAL

363rd FIGHTER SQUADRON
357th Fighter Group, Army Air Forces
USAAF Station F-373

D-2

APC 637,
10 Apr 44,

SUBJECT: S-2, S-3 Mission Report Number 27.

TO : S-2 Officer, 357th Fighter Group, Army Air Forces, USAAF Station
F-373, APC 637.

A. 363rd Fighter Squadron - Lt Col DONALD M. GRAHAM, leading.

B. 18--0002--1220

C. 3

D. Penetration-target support-withdrawal. F. C No. 293

E. Nil

F. Nil

G. Nil

H. Nil

I. L/F in POINTE d AILLY at 0903 hours at 22,000 feet. Left bombers when making L/F out north of CARM at 1126 hours at 18,000 feet. Low haze over channel to 12,000 feet and overcast broken beginning at 2,000 feet rising to 3,200 feet continuing fifty miles inland. Excellent air to air visibility. Primary target overcast and bombers proceeded to bomb air field southwest of BOURGES. Excellent bombing results observed. Two enemy single engine A/C apparently acting as spotters followed flight course at an altitude of approximately 32,000 feet.
R/T good

Ernest F. De Nigris
ERNEST F. DE NIGRIS,
Capt, AC,
S-2.

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HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE
Office of the Commanding General

SPECIAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 99)

10 April 1944.

EXTRACT

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5. The following O are reld fr dy and asgmt with 357th Ftr Gp; are asgd to 18th
Sea Sq and placed on temp dy with 70th Sta Comd Sq. Upon completion of this dy O MP
to proper sta. TCNT. TDN. 91-5 F 432-02 A 212/40425. Reimbursement for actual and
nec expenses not to exceed \$4.00 per day for qrs and an alws of \$1.25 per day is atzd
to cover excess cost of subs where govt qrs and rations are not furn or available while
in a travel status:

2nd Lt MORRIS ROTHSTEIN 0066095 AC

*

*

*

By command of Lieutenant General DO LITTLE:

JOHN A. SANFORD
Brigadier General, USA
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

s/ Edward E. Toro
t/ EDWARD E. TORO
Colonel, AGD
Adjutant General.

A TRUE EXTRACT

Edward E. Toro
DAVE C. WILLET,
Capt, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

CONFIDENTIAL

363rd Fighter Squadron
357th Fighter Group, Army Air Forces
USAF Station F-373

D-2

AFPO 637,
21 Apr 44.

QUEST: 1-2, 1-3 Mission Report Number 28.

TO : 1-2 Office, 357th Fighter Group, Army Air Forces, USAF Station F-373,
AFPO 637.

A. 363rd Fighter Squadron - 1st Lt. [Name], 2nd Lt. [Name], 3rd Lt. [Name].

B. 18 - 1917 - 1918

C. Two (names)

D. 1st Lt. Field Orders 295

E. 1st

F. 1st

G. 1st

H. Destroyed - Captain MONTGOMERY H. HENSON JR -- One F. 109
Captain CLARENCE A. ANDERSON JR -- One Me. 109
Captain CLARENCE A. ANDERSON JR -- One Me. 109
1st Lt. EDWARD A. SIMMONS JR -- One 111K Shared
1st Lt. WILLIAM S. OVERMAN T JR)
2nd Lt. HENRY C. E. YOUNG
Captain PAUL K. DE VRIE -- One Me. 109
1st Lt. CHARLES H. HENSON -- One Me. 109
2nd Lt. RICHARD W. KENNEDY -- One F. 109
1st Lt. CHARLES H. PATTERSON -- One Me. 109
2nd Lt. HENRY C. KAYS JR -- One Me. 109
1st Lt. MICHAEL E. S. HUGHES JR -- One Me. 109
1st Lt. DONALD H. B. CHEAK -- ONE LOCOMOTIVE
Damaged - Captain CLARENCE A. ANDERSON JR -- One Me. 109
2nd Lt. RICHARD W. KENNEDY -- One F. 109
1st Lt. WILLIAM S. OVERMAN T JR -- Three Me. 109s

I. 1/F in 1000 hours at 10000 ft. 1/V at 1050 hours north of HANOVER at 20,000 ft. where enemy fighters were engaged immediately making attack on bombers. Squadron engaged fighters after dropping belly tanks and were unable to escort bombers further. Left bombers via info of ANDERSON at 20,000 ft at 1100 hours. 1/F out at 1240 hours at 10000 ft. 1/V at 1240 hours at 10000 ft. 1/V observed to open from B-17s circling at 8,000 ft. near HANOVER. Flak was heavy and fairly accurate over HANOVER and MCGHEE. Overcast 8,000 to 10,500 - 8/10 over channel, CAUS from GERMANY border toward target with a light cirrus haze layer from over 20,000. R/T good. One Cat. AC landed safely this field.

John B. Myers, Jr.
JOHN B. MYERS, JR.,
1st Lt, AG,
B-2 C.

DOCUMENT (17)

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ACCOUNT NO. 0-1

PILOT: MONTGOMERY W. THROOP, Capt, AC.

- A. COMBAT
- B. 11 April 1944
- C. 363rd Fighter Squadron, 357th Fighter Group
- D. 1155 EDT
- E. 18-20 miles north of HANOI
- F. P-10 Mustang
- G. P-190

H. One P-190 destroyed.

I. ACCOUNT OF COMBAT: About 1152 the Group was just making rendezvous with our assigned combat mission when about 20 to 30 J/A made a head-on attack and blew up one B-17 and knocked another out of formation burning. The J/A made a long sweep off to the left after the attack in a slow dive. I was leading the Squadron and the Squadron went after them. I dove up quickly on one P-190 with my wing tanks still on and opened fire at about 16,000 feet, from about 400 yards, with about 5 to 10 degrees deflection and ceased fire at about 250 yards when I noticed, Thank God, that another P-190 was on my tail and proceeding to pepper me. Hence I broke up in a steep right Chandelle with the P-190 still firing on me with no deflection. I dropped my tanks immediately and headed for the other. Before I broke I had noticed concentrated strikes on the wing-roots and throughout the fuselage and cockpit area. The canopy came off and other pieces flew off at the same time. I could not watch him further when I broke up and right, but Lt. POY, No. 23, saw him seemingly stop in mid-air and go down, completely out of control, smoking badly. I claim a P-190 destroyed.

J. AMMUNITION EXPENDED: 410 rounds .50 Cal MG.

Montgomery W. Throop
MONTGOMERY W. THROOP, JR.,
Capt, AC.

CONFIDENTIAL

C O N F I D E N T I A L

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

Captain THROOP

I was flying #3 in Chamber Red Flight, escorting B-17s on raid east of BERLIN, when Red #1, Captain THROOP, bounced several enemy aircraft north of HANOVER. I followed him down covering his tail while he fired upon a FW 190. I observed several hits and pieces of the E/A, along with the canopy, flew off the E/A. Several Me. 109s were preparing to attack our flight from the right as I withdrew and turned into them. Before leaving I observed the FW 190 which Captain THROOP was firing at make a violent half-snap and go into what appeared to be an uncontrollable spin. The last I saw of this FW 190, it was still spinning at an altitude of about 4,000 feet. I had to leave before it hit the ground, but from the appearance of the spin, I would say the pilot had either left the ship or he was dead.

Robert W. Foy
ROBERT W. FOY,
1st Lt, AC.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

ENCOUNTER REPORT

PILOT: CLARENCE E. ANDERSON, JR, Capt, AO.

- A. COMBAT
- B. 11 April 1944
- C. 363rd Fighter Squadron, 357th Fighter Group
- D. 1130 EST
- E. west of HANOVER
- F. C A V U
- G. Me 109
- H. ACCOUNT OF COMBAT: I was leading Chambers White. We were climbing back to the bombers after destroying a He 111K when I saw three Me 109s coming down. We went after them, I closed on the last man. H broke and I pulled inside and fired. I observed hits but my ammunition ran out.
I claim one Me. 109 damaged.
- J. AMMUNITION EXPENDED: 1260 rounds .50 Cal MG

Clarence E. Anderson Jr
CLARENCE E. ANDERSON, JR,
Capt, AO,
Pilot.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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PILOT: WILLIAM B. OWENSTON, J., 1st Lt, AC.

- A. COMBAT
- B. 11 April 1944
- C. 360th Fighter Squadron, 357th Fighter Group
- D. 1150 GMT
- E. West of GEROVSE
- F. Clear
- G. Me. 109
- H. One Me. 109 damaged
- I. ACCOUNT OF COMBAT: I was flying #4 position in Chambers White flight that bounced three Me. 109s. I made two head-on passes at one Me. 109 and saw hits on the engine and fuselage - firing in both passes from about 150 yards, closing to about 50 yards. I had to break the attack to join and cover my element leader.
- I claim one Me. 109 damaged.
- J. AMMUNITION EXPENDED: 1110 rounds .50 cal AC.

William B. Owenston Jr.
 WILLIAM B. OWENSTON, JR.,
 1st Lt, AC,
 Pilot.

DOCUMENT (30)

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PILOT: WILLIAM B. OVERSTREET, JR, 1st Lt, AC.

- A. Combat
- B. 11 April 1944
- C. 363rd Fighter Squadron, 357th Fighter Group
- D. 12:50 PM
- E. West of GOSWICK
- F. Clear
- G. Me 109
- H. One Me 109 damaged

I. ACCOUNT OF COMBAT: This Me 109 was in a tight turn on the ground evidently hoping we'd leave him. Several P-51s made quick passes at him and then I got right behind him. He then leveled out and tried to pull away from me. I only had one gun firing at him and observed hits at the cockpit. He was smoking slightly, but I followed him for some time on the deck, pulling away only when out of ammunition. I began firing from 200 yards, closing to about 100 yards. I experienced no trouble keeping on his tail when on the deck.

I claim one Me 109 damaged.

J. AMMUNITION EXPENDED: 1110 rounds .50 cal MG.

William B. Overstreet Jr
WILLIAM B. OVERSTREET, JR,
1st Lt, AC,
Pilot.

CONFIDENTIAL

PILOT: CLARENCE E. ANDERSON, 1st Lt., 357th Fighter Group

- A. 357th Fighter Group
- B. 11 April 1944
- C. 357th Fighter Squadron, 357th Fighter Group
- D. 1110 ME
- E. East of HAWAII
- F. C-47
- G. No. 109

H. One No. 109 destroyed

I. 1110 ME: I was leading Chambers White. We made rendezvous with our bombers about 10 minutes, when we observed many No. 109s at taking hand on. I saw three going for the deck as our flight went down. I closed on the #3 man and fired, observed hit. He broke and I closed his tail as he pulled up and reversed my turn. He did also and I fired again - got away hits and parts flew off. He then bailed out and the ship crashed and exploded. Lt. AIRMAN was the sole occupant. I claim one No. 109 destroyed.

J. Airmen: 1200 rounds, .50 cal MG

Clarence E. Anderson
1st Lt., 357th Fighter Group
Capt. 1st Lt.,
Pilot.

I was flying Chambers White #3, led by Capt. AIRMAN. We had been with our bombers approximately 10 minutes when a number of No. 109s attacked bombers head-on. Three went for the deck. Chambers White flight followed them. Capt. AIRMAN at #3 man and munched out of his turn. Capt. AIRMAN attacked again almost head-on. The #3 seemed to disintegrate, the pilot bailed out and the 109 was heard and exploded.

Clarence E. Anderson
1st Lt., 357th Fighter Group
Capt. 1st Lt.,
Pilot.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

ENCOUNTER REPORT

PILOTS: WILLIAM B. OVERSTREET, JR, 1st Lt, AC
CLARENCE E. ANDERSON, JR, Capt, AC
EDWARD K. SIMPSON, JR, 1st Lt, AC
HENRY R. KAYSER, 2nd Lt, AC

- A. COMBAT
- B. 11 April 1944
- C. 363rd Fighter Squadron, 357th Fighter Group
- D. 1215 BST
- E. West of HA OVER
- F. C A V U
- G. HE 111K
- H. One HE 111K destroyed (Shared by above pilots of Chambers White Flight)
- I. ACCOUNTS OF COMBAT:---

Captain ANDERSON

I was leading Chambers White Flight and while having a dogfight on the deck with three Me. 109s, I observed a HE 111K sneaking along right on the ground. After we finished with the Me. 109s I took my flight over and made runs on him. The first pass wasn't so good. I pulled up and the rest of the flight came in. I then went in again and hit him from tail to cockpit. He tried to crash land. One engine was shot out and smoking. He hit a pole and tore the left wing off and caught fire. It then slid along and the crew jumped out. I saw everyone in the flight hit the ship in the air - myself, Lt. KAYSER, Lt. SIMPSON, Lt. OVERSTREET. I claim one HE 111K destroyed (Shared). AMMUNITION EXPENDED 1260 rounds .50 cal MG.

Lt. SIMPSON

I was flying Chambers White #3 while engaged with three Me. 109s. We sighted the 111K and I observed strikes from the tail to the nose. Capt. ANDERSON broke off, I attacked and blew up the left engine which was smoking badly. He tried to crash land and did. The ship upon contact with the ground burst into flame after hitting a pole and slid along the ground. The crew jumped out. Everyone in the flight definitely hit the aircraft - Capt. ANDERSON, Lt. KAYSER, Lt. SIMPSON, Lt. OVERSTREET. I claim one 111K destroyed (Shared). AMMUNITION EXPENDED 656 rounds .50 Cal MG.

Lt. OVERSTREET

The flight (Chambers White) was making practically a gunnery pattern on the ship. I sat right behind it, firing, from about 150 yards, closing in to about 100 yards, and observed hits in the fuselage and engines. As soon as I pulled up, the E/A hit the ground and exploded. I claim one HE 111K destroyed (shared). AMMUNITION EXPENDED: 1110 rounds .50 Cal MG.

Lt. KAYSER

I was flying #2 in Chambers White when we bounced the E/A. The others had all made passes at the E/A. I saw an opening and made a pass from the right with about 40° deflection at 450 yards. Opened fire with too much lead - let the E/A pass up a little then fired a burst into the cockpit. Two more passes were made by other men. The E/A crashed. Altitude was about 500 to 1,000 feet. I claim one HE 111K destroyed (shared). AMMUNITION EXPENDED 1260 rounds .50 cal MG.

Clarence E. Anderson Jr
CLARENCE E. ANDERSON, JR, Capt, AC

William B. Overstreet Jr
WILLIAM B. OVERSTREET, JR, 1st Lt, AC

Edward K. Simpson Jr
EDWARD K. SIMPSON, JR, 1st Lt, AC

Henry R. Kayser
HENRY R. KAYSER, 2nd Lt, AC

c o n f i d e n t i a l

DOCUMENT (20)

CONFIDENTIAL

ACCOUNT OF PILOT

PILOT: PAUL E. DE VRIES, Capt, AC.

- A. COMMENT
- B. 11 April 1944
- C. 363rd Fighter Squadron, 357th Fighter Group
- D. 1115 BST
- E. West of MAGDEBURG
- F. Low scattered clouds
- G. Me. 109
- H. One Me. 109 destroyed
- I. ACCOUNT OF COMBAT: About 1115, 11 April 1944, about 40 P-51s attacked the B-17 formation we were escorting north of Magdeburg at about 18,000 feet. I started after two Me. 109s. About 5,000 feet they split. The one went for a small cloud, but I picked him up on the other side. I fired two short bursts at 400-450 yards and the pilot bailed out and the ship crashed. I claim one Me. 109 destroyed.

J. Estimated ammunition expended 184 rounds .50 cal MG.

Paul E. De Vries
PAUL E. DE VRIES,
Capt, AC,
Pilot.

UPPER PART OF COMMENT

I was flying on Capt. DE VRIES' wing. We went down after two Me. 109s. They split and Capt. DE VRIES followed one of them. The 109 headed for a small cloud, but Capt. DE VRIES picked him up again on the other side and fired two bursts. I saw the canopy come off and the pilot bailed out. The plane crashed.

Robert C. Gange
ROBERT C. GANGE, 1st Lt, AC,
Pilot.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

ENCOUNTER REPORT

PILOT: HAROLD M. KENNEY, 2nd Lt, AC,

- A. COMBAT
- B. 11 April 1944
- C. 363rd Fighter Squadron, 357th Fighter Group
- D. 1045 BST
- E. STEINHUDDER LAKE
- F. Very Good - Excellent Visibility
- G. FW 190s
- H. One FW 190 destroyed - One FW 190 damaged
- I. ACCOUNT OF COMBAT: I was flying with Captain THROOP'S lead flight and when he made a sharp diving turn I spun out due to one belly tank hanging on. I recovered at 4,000 feet and came up behind four FW 190s. I started shooting from 200 yards at right wingman and saw hits on cockpit region. He split S-ed from 2,000 feet and hit the ground where I saw smoke and flame. I saw something that looked like the canopy come off but I don't think the pilot got out.
I then made a left turn and started shooting at another of the four from 200 yards. I saw hits on him, but when another started shooting at me from behind, I had to break off the combat.
I claim - one FW 190 destroyed - one FW 190 damaged
- J. AMMUNITION EXPENDED 615 Rounds .50 cal MG

Harold M. Kenney
HAROLD M. KENNEY,
2nd Lt, AC,
Pilot.

CONFIDENTIAL

ACCOUNT REPORT

PILOT: CHARLES E. PETERS, 1st Lt, AC

- A. COMBAT
- B. 11 April 1944
- C. 363rd Fighter Squadron, 357th Fighter Group
- D. 1205 BST
- E. Directly over town of MAGDENBURG
- F. Clear
- G. Me. 109
- H. One Me. 109 destroyed
- I. ACCOUNT OF COMBAT: Chambers Blue flight were chasing a Me. 109 when another Me. 109 made an attack on Chamber Blue #2. I was Chambers Blue #4 on the outside of the flight, as I broke into the 109 and got in a good burst at close range. I saw the leaders converging directly in front of him, but saw no strikes. I passed over him, and immediately turned to check flank that was fired at me directly over the town. I then rejoined my flight. I claim one Me. 109 destroyed.
- J. AMMUNITION USED: 79 rounds 50 cal MG

Charles E. Peters
CHARLES E. PETERS,
1st Lt, AC,
Pilot.

ACCOUNT REPORT

I was leading Chambers Blue flight in chase after a Me. 109 but I wasn't gaining much for I couldn't release one drop tank. Another Me. 109 came in from above and to the side to attack #2 man. Lt. PETERS was flying Blue four, crossed over and fired at the attacking Me. 109. I saw the 109 roll over on his back, smoke badly and the last I saw of the 109 it was going straight down toward the river at approx. 3,500 feet altitude.

Ellis A. Rogers
ELLIS A. ROGERS,
1st Lt, AC,
Pilot.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

It PETERS

At about 1200 hours I took off Chambers Blue Flight, since my wingman had lost me in a previous dogfight and we went after six or eight Me. 109s which were heading all out for LAGERSBURG. Over LAGERSBURG a dogfight took place at about 6,000 feet altitude in the midst of heavy light flak. I was alone again and spent my time clearing Me. 109s from my tail, but as I was finally climbing away - saw an Me. 109 crash in the middle of the river that runs along the east side of the town and a chute above it -- this being at LAGERSBURG. It was at this time I believe that I saw the crash.

Clifton D. Thayer

CLIFTON D. THAYER, JR.,
Capt, MC.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

ENCOUNTER REPORT

PILOT: HENRY R. KAYSER, 2nd Lt, AC

- A. COMBAT
- B. 11 April 1944
- C. 363rd Fighter Squadron, 357th Fighter Group
- D. 1230
- E. West of HANOVER
- F. C A V U
- G. Me. 109
- H. One Me. 109 destroyed
- I. ACCOUNT OF COMBAT: Was just pulling up into position with Capt ANDERSON when an Me. 109 rolled out of a turn to my left. Pulled up behind him, opened fire at about 500 yards, closed to 300 yards. Was forced to break off attack to avoid pieces flying from plane. The E/A began smoking heavily and seemed to be falling apart. Altitude was 5,000 feet. I claim one Me. 109 destroyed.
- J. AMMUNITION EXPENDED: 1260 rounds .50 cal MG.

Henry R. Kayser
HENRY R. KAYSER
2nd Lt, AC,
Pilot.

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

I was flying Chambers White #3. It KAYSER pulled up behind a Me. 109, fired at about 300 yards. The E/A started to smoke badly and started to disintegrate.

Edward R. Simpson
EDWARD R. SIMPSON, JR.
1st Lt, AC,
Pilot.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT

PILOT: EDWARD F. SIMPSON, JR, 1st Lt, AC.

- A. COMBAT
- B. 11 April 1944
- C. 36th Fighter Squadron, 327th Fighter Group
- D. 12th AFT
- E. East of FAVORIA
- F. 12th AFT
- G. 12th AFT
- H. 12th AFT x destroyed.
- I. 12th AFT: I was flying Chambers #13. We made rendezvous with our bombers and were with them for about 10 minutes. Our flight attacked three Me. 109s. They broke. My element split. I came in on quartersing attack attack to him, and hit him with two bursts in his nose section. Altitude was about 3,500 feet. He moved over and went straight down in. I did not see him crash for as he tried to come in on my tail. My wingmen chased him off as I broke. I claim one Me. 109 destroyed.
- J. 12th AFT: 126 rounds .50 Cal AC.

Edward F. Simpson Jr.
EDWARD F. SIMPSON, JR,
1st Lt, AC,
Pilot.

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

In a flying chambers #14 when the flight bounced three Me. 109s. My element leader, Lt. SIMPSON, closed in on one of them and I saw him getting hits around the nose. At an altitude of about 3,500 feet, the E/A did a very peculiar flip and went into a vertical dive. I then lost sight of him as another Me. 109 started attacking Lt. SIMPSON and I was closing in on that one.

William B. Overstreet Jr.
WILLIAM B. OVERSTREET, JR,
1st Lt, AC,

RECEIVED

100-100000-100000

REPORT: 1. NAME: W. J. ... 2. ... 3. ... 4. ...

- A. ...
- B. 11 April 1944
- C. 363rd Fighter Group, 357th Fighter Group
- D. 1015 ...
- E. ...
- F. Other
- G. ...
- H. One ... damaged
- I. Account of combat; I was flying in position in ... and he launched a second ... of three ... The leader ... the second ... the third ... I closed at ... from about 150 yards, closing to about 50 yards, seeing strikes on the fuselage and right wing. I had to break the attack to join and cover ... leader.
- J. I claim one ... damaged.
- K. AMMUNITION EXPENDED: 1110 rounds .50 cal MG.

William B. Christy
1st Lt, AG,
Pilot.

RECEIVED

CONFIDENTIAL

GENERAL ORDER)
Number.....30)

REG. NO. 39695
HEADQUARTERS VIII FIGHTER COMMAND
APO 637 AAF Station F-341
11 April 1944.

EXTRACT

AWARDS OF THE AIR MEDAL.....SECTION V
AWARDS OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO THE AIR MEDAL.....SECTION VI
AWARDS, POSTHUMOUS, OF THE AIR MEDAL.....SECTION VIII

V. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September, 1943 and pursuant to authority contained in Section I, Circular 32, Hq., ETCUSA, 20 March 1944 and letter Hq., Eighth Air Force, Subject: "Awards and Decorations", 2 April 1944, an AIR MEDAL is awarded to the following named officers:

CITATION: For meritorious service in aerial flight in the completion of ten operational sorties, or the equivalent thereof, over enemy occupied Continental Europe.

MISSING IN ACTION

CHARLES L. JONES, O-582940, 2nd Lt., Army Air Forces, United States Army.
Home Address: 2526 N. 13th Street, Phoenix, Arizona.

CHARLES B. YEAGER, T-970, P/O, Army Air Forces, United States Army.
Home Address: Hamlin, West Virginia.

VI. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September, 1943 and pursuant to authority contained in Section I, Circular 32, Hq., ETCUSA, 20 March, 1944 and letter Hq., Eighth Air Force, Subject: "Awards and Decorations" 2 April 1944, an OAK LEAF CLUSTER is awarded to the following named Officers in addition to the Air Medal previously awarded:

CITATION: For meritorious service in aerial flight in the completion of ten (10) operational sorties, or the equivalent thereof, over enemy occupied Continental Europe.

MISSING IN ACTION

WILLIAM R. MCGINLEY, O-743058, 1st Lt., Army Air Force, United States Army.
Home Address: PO Box 126, Orcutt, California.

VIII. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September, 1943, and ~~xxx~~ pursuant to authority contained in Section I, Circular 32, Hq., ETCUSA, 20 March, 1944 and letter Hq., Eighth Air Force, Subject: "Awards and Decorations" 2 April, 1944, an AIR MEDAL is posthumously awarded to the following named Officers:

GO #30 (Cont'd)

CITATION: For meritorious service in aerial flight in the completion of ten (10) operational sorties, or the equivalent thereof, over enemy occupied Continental Europe.

*

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SANTIAGO N. GUTIERREZ, O-582944, 2nd Lt., Army Air Forces, United States Army. Home Address: 413 Corpus Christie, Laredo, Texas.

*

*

*

By command of Major General KETNER:

FRANCIS W. CRISWOLD,
Brig. General, US.,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

s/ John J. Sailors
t/ JOHN J. SAILORS,
Colonel, AMB,
Adjutant General.

A TRUE EXTRACT

Francis W. Criswold
DAVE C. WILLIETT,
Capt, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

CONFIDENTIAL

363rd FIGHTER SQUADRON
357th Fighter Group, Army Air Forces
USAF Station F-373

1-2

AFG 637,
12 Apr 44.

SUBJECT: 1-2, 1-3 Mission report number 29.

1-2 Officer, 357th Fighter Group, Army Air Forces, USAF Station F-373,
AFG 637.

A. 363rd Fighter Squadron - Lt. Col. DONALD W. GRADY, leading

B. 10 -- 1230 -- 1345

C. Five (see report)

D. Weather report -- P.O. No. 290

E. One M1 -

F. Nil

G. 1st Lt FRANKLIN W. ROUST AAG 0743090

H. Nil

I. L/F in LAKEHURST ISLAND at 1301 hours at 20,000 feet. No R/V with bombers and L/F out was made over LAKEHURST at 1321 hours at 30,000 feet. Very heavy cloud formations to 30,000 feet over the channel and mid-continent with poor visibility resulting from haze and high cirrus clouds to 32,000 feet. Broken clouds to 12,000 feet with excellent air-to-air visibility above 12,000 feet over R/V and target. On way back, channel hazy with cloud formations to 8,000 or 9,000 feet. Group leader, on way making R/V with designated bombers flew for 10 minutes in direction of target and failing to see any bomber formations took a reciprocal course for home. Two R/Vs began the group and were immediately engaged by Japanese fighters. Inaccurate flak approximately 10,000 feet below our formation over LAKEHURST. 20 millimeter flak fire on the coast just south of LAKEHURST. Lt. ROUST was seen to bail out 7 miles south of LAKEHURST at 1 1/2 miles in from the coast at 1350 hours - reason engine on fire. R/V good.

Ernest F. DeWitt
ERNEST F. DE WITT,
Capt, AG,
1-2 O.

CONFIDENTIAL

363rd FIGHTER SQUADRON
357TH Fighter Group, Army Air Forces
USAAF Station F-373

D-2

AFPO 637,
12 Apr 44.

SUBJECT: Narrative Report re Personnel MIA - FREDERICK W. REUST, 1st Lt, AC
TO : S-2 Officer, 357th Fighter Group, Army Air Forces, USAAF
Station F-373, AFPO 637.

1. Following is a narrative report of circumstances relative to the reporting of FREDERICK W. REUST, 1st Lt, AC, ASN0743093, MIA on 12 April 1944, while on Combat Mission - Field Orders No. 296.

2. Lt REUST was flying #3 position in Chambers White Flight, led by 1st Lt WILLIS A. ROGERS. At a point over GERMANY he broke formation, giving no radio warning. 2nd Lt ROGER E. PAGELS, his wing man, flying #4 man in the same flight, immediately followed him. As Lt PAGELS pulled along side, Lt REUST motioned for him to take the lead. They continued on course until the enemy coast could be seen. Lt REUST then started to lag behind, so Lt PAGELS did a 360° turn and came up behind him. Lt PAGELS then noticed black smoke coming from the exhaust pipes of Lt REUST'S ship. As they reached the coast, Lt REUST started to lose altitude and Lt PAGELS went over to "B" channel and told them to stand by. The smoke from the ship became more dense as they passed over the coast and Lt REUST turned back for land. Lt PAGELS then called Tack line and was in contact with them during the whole of the following episode. Lt PAGELS stayed at 10,000 feet as Lt REUST started down, his engine then burning. The enemy started firing light flak, and Lt REUST rode the ship down to approximately 6,000 to 7,000 feet and then bailed out seven miles south of NOORDWIJ, HOLLAND, about 1 1/2 miles in from the coast at 1950 hours. It took him about four minutes to hit the ground. The plane exploded as it hit the ground and set a field on fire. Lt REUST is reported not to have been hit by flak before he broke formation, but was apparently having considerable trouble with his engine.

Ernest F. De Nigro
ERNEST F. DE NIGRO,
Capt, AC,
S-2 C.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

363rd FI FTR SQUADRON
Station F-373, APO 637 US ARMY

SUBJECT: S-2, S-3 Mission Report

TO : S-2 Officer, 357th Ftr Gp, APO637 US ARMY

- A. 363rd Fighter Sq
- B. 15-1218-1700
- C. 4 (2 escort)
- D. Penetration-Target Support-Withdrawal
- E. Nil
- F. Nil
- G. Nil
- H. Nil
- I. L/F in at 1305 hours over Knocke at 21,000 feet. Bombers late at point of rendezvous so squadron turned back and ten minutes later picked up designated boxes of B-24s just north of Saarbrücken. Left bombers at Donauwörth at 1528 hours at 24,000 feet. L/F out Walcheren Island 1645 hours at 17,000 feet. Light haze to 20,000 feet over channel with cirrus clouds beginning at 26,000 feet, 2000 foot layer of clouds from 14,000 feet to 16,000 feet. Over continent 5/10s clouds with towering cumulus to mid-continent and from there to target clouds increased to 7/10. Two Me 109s were engaged at 1545 hours south of Koblenz while attacking a straggling B-17. The E/A were seen to go into the clouds. 'chute observed in the area. Moderate flak encountered over target area -- light flak over Brussels. One B-24 seen going down in a spiral while smoking badly at 1502 hours over the target--No chutes observed as bomber entered clouds. One B-24 headed toward Switzerland was asked by one of our pilots over R/T if he needed assistance and he replied that it was no use as he must land in a hurry. Smoke screen reported over Friedrichafen. R/T good. Good visual bombing reported with hits on hangars, administrative buildings and factories.

ERNEST F. DE NIGRIS,
Capt, AC,
S-2 O.

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE
Office of the Commanding General

SPENT 1-ORDERS)
NUMBER.....103)

14 April 1944.

MEMORANDUM

1. The following is in accord and by are directed. 1. FURT. 1. Reimbursement for actual and nec expenses not to exceed \$4.00 per day for grs and an alws of \$1.25 per day to cover excess cost of subsistence is atd where govt grs and rations are not furn or available while in a travel status. 91-5 P 431-02 & 212/40425.

NAME	FIELD FR	ASSN TO
* 1st LT WASHLEY W. WEBB 0861518 AC *	* 357th Ftr Gp *	* Hq 3rd Bomb Div *

By command of Lieutenant General DOUGLITTLE:

JOHN A. GILFORD
Brigadier General, USA
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

s/ Edward E. Toro
t/ EDWARD E. TORO
Colonel, 100
Adjutant General

A TRUE EXTRACT

James C. Miller
JAMES C. MILLER,
Capt, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

CONFIDENTIAL

363rd Fighter Squadron
357th Fighter Group, Army Air Forces
USAAF Station F-373

1-2

APO 637,
15 Apr 44.

SUBJECT: 1-2, 1-3 Mission Report No. 31.

TO : 1-2 Officer, 357th Fighter Group, Army Air Forces, USAAF Station
F-373, APO 637.

- A. 363rd Fighter Squadron -- Captain [redacted] [redacted] M. [redacted], Jr., 1 wing
- B. 17 -- 1147 -- 1530
- C. Two
- D. Fighter sweep -- P.O. 299
- E. Nil
- F. Nil
- G. Nil
- H. Nil

- I. 1/F in north of ISMIDEN at 1235 hours at 19,000 feet. Squadron did not reach target as cloud conditions with overcast extending to 31,000 feet forced squadron to turn back approximately 15 minutes short of the target somewhere of HAMMO G. 1/F out 0800 L at 1435 hours at 12,000 feet. Layer of stratus cloud over channel with base 7,000 to 8,000 feet extending 2,000 feet in altitude. Cirrus cloud layer to the north rising in altitude to approximately 22,000 feet. Broken built-up cumulus over continent with stratus top at 12,000 feet. 5/10 around 8 AM, increasing to solid at 8 PM with tops at 33,000 feet. No fighter opposition encountered and moderate but accurate light flak over ISMIDEN. R/T good.

Eugene F. de Nigra
EUGENE F. DE NIGRA,
Capt, AC,
3-2 C.

CONFIDENTIAL

RESTRICTED

GENERAL ORDER)
NUMBER.....31)

HEADQUARTERS VIII FIGHTER COMMAND
APO 637 AAF STATION F-341
15 April, 1944.

EXTRACT

* * *
AWARDS OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS.....SECTION II
AWARDS OF THE AIR MEDAL.....SECTION VII
AWARDS OF THE OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO THE AIR MEDAL.....SECTION VIII
AWARDS OF TWO OAK LEAF CLUSTERS TO THE AIR MEDAL.....SECTION IX
* * *

II. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September, 1943 and pursuant to authority contained in Section I, Circular 32, Hq., ETOUSA, 20 March, 1944, and letter Hq., Eighth Air Force, Subject: "Awards and Decorations", 2 April, 1944, the DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS is awarded to the following named Officers:

SITUATION: For extraordinary achievement in accomplishing fifty (50) fighter combat missions, or the equivalent thereof, over enemy occupied Continental Europe. The skillful and zealous manner in which these Officers have sought out the enemy and engaged him in aerial combat, their devotion to duty and courage under all conditions serve as an inspiration to their fellow flyers. Their actions on all these occasions reflect the highest credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States:

* * *
DONALD W. BOCHKAY, O-742834, 1st Lt., Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement. Lt. Bochkay has accomplished twenty fighter combat missions, or the equivalent thereof, over enemy occupied Continental Europe and has destroyed three enemy airplanes in aerial combat. The skillful and zealous manner in which Lt. Bochkay has sought out the enemy and destroyed him, his devotion to duty and courage under all conditions serve as an inspiration to his fellow flyers. His actions on all these occasions reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military service from California.

ELLIS A. ROGERS, O-739339, 1st Lt., Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement. Lt. Rogers has accomplished forty fighter combat missions, or the equivalent thereof, over enemy occupied Continental Europe and has destroyed one enemy airplane in aerial combat. The skillful and zealous manner in which Lt. Rogers has sought out the enemy and destroyed him, his devotion to duty and courage under all conditions serve as an inspiration to his fellow flyers. His actions on all these occasions reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military service from California.

* * *
VII. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September, 1943 and pursuant to authority contained in Section I, Circular 32, Hq., ETOUSA, 20 March, 1944 and letter Hq., Eighth Air Force, Subject: "Awards and Decorations", 2 April, 1944, an AIR MEDAL is awarded to the following named Officers:

R E S T R I C T E D

G. O. #31 (Cont'd).

CITATION: For meritorious service in aerial flight in the completion of ten operational sorties, or the equivalent thereof, over enemy occupied Continental Europe.

CHARLES E. PARRISH O-886199 1st Lt. 3900 Lilac Ave., Lansing, Mich.

VIII. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September, 1943, and pursuant to authority contained in Section I, Circular 32, Hq., AFMAG, 70 March, 1944 and letter Hq., Eighth Air Force, Subject: "Awards and Decorations", 2 April, 1944, an OAK LEAF CLUSTER is awarded to the following named Officers in addition to the Air Medal previously awarded:

CITATION: For meritorious service in aerial flight in the completion of ten (10) operational sorties, or the equivalent thereof, over enemy occupied Continental Europe.

1st OAK LEAF CLUSTER

JAMES W. BROWNING	O-740361	1st Lt.	Syracuse, Kansas
PAUL H. DEWRIES	O-728607	Captain	225 W. Cambridge, Orange, Calif.
WILLIAM B. RICHARDS	O-745456	1st Lt.	920 East Mercury St., Butte, Mont.
ROBERT H. MOORE	O-745466	1st Lt.	Ravine Dr., Matawan, N. J.
WILLIAM R. O'BRIEN	O-730583	Captain	920 S. Ash, McPherson, Kansas
MARSCHELL T. PASCOE	O-745490	1st Lt.	P.O. Box 1316, Hayden, Arizona

CLARENCE E. ANDERSON, O-730324, Captain, Army Air Forces, United States Army. For meritorious achievement in aerial flight while participating in an operational mission against the enemy on 8 March, 1944, when he by his skill and courage successfully destroyed one aircraft. Home Address: Box 176, Newcastle, California. (2nd Oak Leaf Cluster).

WILLIAM R. O'BRIEN, O-730583, Captain, Army Air Forces, United States Army. For meritorious achievement in aerial flight while participating in an operational mission against the enemy on 6 March, 1944, when he by his skill and courage successfully destroyed one aircraft. Home Address: 920 So. Ash, McPherson, Kansas. (2nd Oak Leaf Cluster).

ROBERT E. PARRIS, O-602952, 2nd Lt., Army Air Forces, United States Army. For meritorious achievement in aerial flight, while participating in an operational mission against the enemy on 6 March, 1944, when he by his skill and courage successfully destroyed one aircraft. Home Address: 204 Union Blvd., Michigan City, Indiana. (1st Oak Leaf Cluster).

CHARLES K. PETERS, O-745495, 1st Lt., Army Air Forces, United States Army. For meritorious achievement in aerial flight while participating in an operational mission against the enemy on 5 March, 1944, when he by his skill and courage successfully destroyed one aircraft. Home Address: 340 E. Ward Ave., Biloxi, Mississippi. (1st Oak Leaf Cluster).

RESTRICTED

G. O. #2 (Cont'd)

JOSEPH V. PIERCE, O-742819, 1st Lt., Army Air Forces, United States Army. For meritorious achievement in aerial flight while participating in an operational mission against the enemy on 5 March, 1944, when he by his skill and courage successfully destroyed one aircraft. Home Address: Route 43, Box 39, Lincoln, Oklahoma. (1st Oak Leaf Cluster).

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September, 1943 and pursuant to authority contained in Section I, Circular 32, Hq., STCUSA, 20 March, 1944 and letter Hq., Eighth Air Force, Subject: "Awards and Decorations", 2 April, 1944, two OAK LEAF CLUSTERS are awarded to the following named Officers in addition to the Air Medal previously awarded.

CITATION: For meritorious service in aerial flight in the completion of twenty (20) operational sorties, or the equivalent thereof, over enemy occupied Continental Europe.

DONALD H. BOCHKAY, O-742834, 1st Lt., Army Air Forces, United States Army. For meritorious achievement in aerial flight while participating in two operational missions against the enemy on 5 March, 1944 and 6 March, 1944, respectively, when he by his skill and courage successfully destroyed two enemy airplanes. Home Address: 6406 Bolman Ave., N. Hollywood, California. (2nd and 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster).

ELIAS A. ROBERTS, O-739339, 1st Lt., Army Air Forces, United States Army. For meritorious achievement in aerial flight while participating in an operational mission against the enemy on 5 March, 1944, when he by his skill and courage successfully destroyed two enemy airplanes. Home Address: PO Box 1034, El Centro, California. (2nd and 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster).

By command of Major General KLEMM:

FRANCIS H. GRISOLD,
Brig. General, USA,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

s/ John J. Sailors
t/ JOHN J. SAILORS,
Colonel, A.G.D.
Adjutant General.

A TRUE EXTRACT

Steve Willett
DAVE C. WILLETT,
Capt, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

RESTRICTED

363RD FIGHTER SQUADRON
347th Fighter Group, AAF
PO 437, USA Army

15 Apr '43 1944

SUBJECT: (U)

REFERENCE: (U)

In accordance with T/O and A, 1-27, dated 22 December, 1943, 1st Lt HOWARD J. WILSON, O-2, 0422, in addition to his other duties, is appointed Squadron Gunnery Officer, vice Capt. [REDACTED], O-2, 03034, relieved, effective 15 March 1944.

MONTGOMERY W. THORP, JR.,
Captain, Air Corps,
Commanding.

OFFICIAL:

Montgomery W. Thorp, Jr.
MONTGOMERY W. THORP, JR.,
Captain, Air Corps,
Commanding.

NO 108

RESTRICTED
Hq STCUSA

17 Apr 1944

*
EXTRACT
*

25. Announcement is made of the temp promotion of the following C, AC, Eighth AF, to the gr indicated in AUS w/rank fr date of this order:

2nd Lt to 1st Lt

DONOVAN D. SIVERTS

0751469

*
By command of General EISENHOWER:
*

R. B. LORD
Brigadier General, GSC
Deputy Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

R. B. LOVETT
Brigadier General, USA, Adjutant General.

A TRUE EXTRACT COPY

True copy
DAVE C. WILLET,
Capt, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

CONFIDENTIAL

363rd FIGHTER SQUADRON
357th Fighter Group, Army Air Forces
USAAF Station F-373

D-2

AFD 637,
18 Apr 44

SUBJECT: S-2, S-3 Mission Report Number 32

TO : S-2 Officer, 357th Fighter Group, Army Air Forces, USAAF Station
F-373, AFD 637.

- A. 363rd Fighter Squadron - Capt. CLARENCE E. ANDERSON, JR, leading
- B. 16 -- 1152 -- 1715
- C. Four (One Escort)
- D. Penetration - Target Support - Withdrawal. F.O. #304
- E. Nil
- F. Nil
- G. Nil
- H. Nil
- I. 1/F in at IJMUIDEN at 1343 hours at 23,000 feet. R/V 15 miles southwest
FRITZWALK 1455 hours at 23,000 feet. Left bombers 20 miles southwest of
HAMBURG at 1540 hours at 23,000 feet. 1/F out IJMUIDEN at 1620 hours
at 18,000 feet. Meager flak encountered on the way in to target area
over airfield north of DUMMER LAKE. No fighter opposition whatsoever
encountered or observed. Large fires and smoke over target area. One
B-17 without American markings seen approximately 4,000 feet below
lowest box of bombers south of target proceeding in southwesterly
direction, in no apparent distress. This bomber fired the top turret
at one of our flights which went down to see if it was in distress.
New airport under construction south southwest of NEPPPEL. Light
haze only over channel. Layers of stratus clouds east of target and
no clouds below 23,000 feet over continent to target. Non-persistent
contrails approximately 2,000 feet. Excellent visibility ground-to
air and air-to-air. R/T good.

Ernest E. De Nickis
ERNEST E. DE NICKIS,
Capt, AC,
S-2 O. C.

DOCUMENT (42)

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RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS AAF STATION F-373
 APO 637
 18 April 1944

SPECIAL ORDER
 NO 106

EXTRACT

1. Having been asgd 357th Fi Gp & having reported this Sta in compliance w/par 1; SC #102, Hq CCRC #8, AAF Sta F-345, 16 Apr 44, following C are further asgd & M organs indicated. No travel involved.

NAME	RANK	ASN	AC	ORGN
RALPH H. DOMMILL	1ST LT	0479422	AC	363rd Fi Sq

By order of Lieutenant Colonel GRAHAM:

LAWRENCE B. LEE,
 Captain, Air Corps,
 Asst Adjutant.

OFFICIAL:

s/ Lawrence B. Lee
 t/ LAWRENCE B. LEE
 Captain, Air Corps,
 Asst Adjutant.

A TRUE EXTRACT

DAVE C. WILLET
 DAVE C. WILLET,
 Capt, Air Corps,
 Adjutant.

CONFIDENTIAL

363rd FIGHTER SQUADRON
357th Fighter Group, Army Air Forces
HRAAF Station F-373

-2

AFD 637,
19 Apr 44.

SUBJECT: S-2, S-3 Mission Report Number 33

TO : S-2 Officer, 357th Fighter Group, Army Air Forces,
HRAAF Station F-373, AFD 637.

- A. 363rd Fighter Squadron - Lt. Col DONALD W. GRAHAM, leading.
- B. 16 -- 0819 -- 1216
- C. Two
- D. Penetration - Target Support -- Withdrawal F.O. No. 305
- E. Nil
- F. Nil
- G. Nil
- H. Nil
- I. 1/F in north of HAGUE at 0912 at 20,000 feet, 1/V east of DENHAM COVE at 0950 at 22,000 feet. Escorted assigned bombers through the target where the squadron then picked up other formations of bombers and escorted them to just south of BIELLEUX leaving them at 1148 hours at 22,000 feet. 1/F out alone between BIELLEUX and OUFEND at 1158 hours at 19,000 feet. haze over channel and continent to target with an 1/10 to 2/10 low scattered clouds throughout and complete low overcast east of target. Contrails above 27,000 feet moderate flak observed over all targets in the area. One to three h/a seen by squadron. One B-17 was seen to disintegrate and we could burning west of target and only one chute was seen to emerge from it. R/T good.

Ernest F. Higgins
CENSTAF, DE NISSEIS,
Capt, AD,
S-2 O.

CONFIDENTIAL

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363rd Fighter Squadron
357th Fighter Group, Army Air Forces
USAAF Station F-373

AFD 637,
20 Apr 44.

SUBJECT: C-2, C-3 Mission Report No. 34.

TO : C-2 Officer, 357th Fighter Group, Army Air Forces, AF Station
F-373, AFD 637.

A. 363rd Fighter Squadron - Lt. Col. ~~Charles W. Graham~~, leading.

B. 12 -- 1716 -- 1955

C. Nil

D. Fighter-Bomber

F.O. #307

E. Nil

F. Nil

G. Nil

H. Nil

I. 1/F in R. of DUNKIRK at 1757 hours at 20,000 ft. 1/F out 10 miles
at 1924 hours at 16,000 ft. Dive-Bombing mission. Squadron unable
to drop bomb load on assigned target because of solid 10/10 overcast
with base approx. 12,000 ft. On way back Squadron bombed airfield
in vicinity of CAMBRAI releasing 22 bombs weighing 500 lbs each
type A & M 64 Al with M103 Instantaneous Nose Fuse and .025 delay
A & M 101A1 Tail Fuse. 45 degree angle of dive begun at 18,000 -
19,000 ft. and bombs released at 12,000-13,000 ft. The ship returned
with its bomb load as it took off late and never caught up with the
squadron. Pilots report excellent bombing results with hits observed
in two building areas and several hits on the runways. Over 1111
greenish exploding flash, fairly accurate was experienced. No 8/4
seen. Weather over channel as briefed and over target 10/10 lower
cloud with base at 12,000 ft. Clear break of 2,000 ft. over this
cloud and then another layer of heavy 8/10 cloud rose in altitude.
Contrails 17,000 ft. R/T good. Escort failed to make R/V and did
not catch Squadron on way in to target.

Ernest F. De Nigro
ERNEST F. DE NIGRO,
Capt, AC,
C-2 O.

DOCUMENT (45)

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363rd FIGHTER SQUADRON
357th Fighter Group, Army Air Forces
USA F Station F-373

APD 637,
22 Apr 44.

TO : D-2 Officer, 357th Fighter Group, Army Air Forces, USAF
Station F-373, APO 637.

- A. 363rd Fighter Squadron - Captain WOOTEN, JR., leading.
E. 18 -- 1640 -- 2025
C. Nil
D. Fighter Sweep
E. Nil
F. Nil
G. Nil
H. On Ground -- 5 locomotives destroyed
1 tugboat damaged
1 barge damaged
FO #309
- I. L/F at 1727 hours at WANDER at 20,000 ft. Arrived over assigned area at DUMMER LAKE at 1750 hours at 15,000 ft. Patrolled assigned area for 80 minutes from ground to 15,000 ft. L/F out at 1950 hours at 18,000 feet. Haze to 18,000 ft. over channel with thin cirrus at 24,000 feet. 5/10 scattered cumulus from 5,000 to 6,000 ft. over continent with thin layer of cirrus at 22,000 ft. Persistent contrails at 27,000 ft. Inaccurate heavy flak over Rhein and accurate heavy flak over QUACKENBROCK. No fighter opposition. Camouflaged airfield 15 SW of OLDENBURG located with no planes observed on the ground. Heavily bombed airfield with new runway and temporary building seen 20 miles SE of LEUARDEN. Dark and white smoke was observed on QUACKENBROCK airfield on NW side of airfield which appeared to be from burning planes on the field. A mushroom explosion observed on ground north of MUNSTER believed to be a B-17. R/T good.
- J. Three locomotives destroyed by Lt. COL. JAMES H. HENNING, 1st Lt. AC, and HOWARD S. HENNING, 1st Lt. AC. One "Armed" locomotive destroyed by three flights S. of DIERHO. One locomotive destroyed by this flight 35 miles S. of BREMEN. One tugboat straggled and damaged by WOOTEN, JR., Capt. AC, and RALPH R. DONNELL, 1st Lt. AC at ROYA on ELBE RIVER. One barge damaged by RALPH R. DONNELL, 1st Lt. AC.
- DOCUMENT (45)
- John B. Snyder*
JOHN B. SNYDER, 1st Lt. AC, S-2 C.

DOCUMENT (46)

JOHN B. MYERS, 1st Lt. AC, S-2 O.

CONFIDENTIAL

363rd Fighter Squadron
357th Fighter Group, Army Air Forces
HAF Station F-373

D-2

APG 637,
23 Apr 44.

SUBJECT: -2, -3 Mission Report No. 36

TO : 1st Lt., 357th Fighter Group, Army Air Forces, HAF Station
F-373, APG 637.

- A. 363rd Fighter Squadron, Captain JOHN B. MILAS, Jr., leading.
- B. 15 -- 1316 -- 1610
- C. One
- D. Fighter - 363rd Fighter Wing FO 55
- E. Nil
- F. Nil
- G. Nil
- H. Nil

1. L/T in LONINGEN at 1410 hours at 19,000 ft. L/T out LONINGEN at 1535 hours at 10,000 ft. Dive bombing mission - Due to 8/10 scattered cumulus over target area bombs were dropped on airfield at LONINGEN instead of OACEBEEUCBatt1223bunns, which fact was not known until after the bombing. These bombs were 28 in number, weighing 500 lbs each type A&N 64A1 with M103 instantaneous nose fuse and A&N 101A1 tail fuse with .025 delay, and were dropped from an angle of 45 degrees dive beginning at 17,000 ft. altitude and being released at 10,000 ft. alt. One ship returned with its bomb load immediately after take-off as the cooling shutter was inoperative. The LONINGEN airfield was well camouflaged and approx. six hits were observed on the runway and perimeter track at the north corner of the field. Several planes were observed in the woods in the east side of the field, apparently parked on a roadway that ran through the woods. Light haze with scattered cumulus from 7,000 to 8,000 ft. over the channel and 8/10 cumulus from 7,000 to 8,000 ft. with high cirrus from 23,000 ft. over the target area. No fighter opposition. High inaccurate flak over LONINGEN and light accurate flak over OOSTERHUSELEN. R/T good.

John B. Milas, Jr.
JOHN B. MILAS, JR.,
1st Lt, AC,
S-2 G.

DOCUMENT (47)

CONFIDENTIAL

363rd Fighter Squadron
357th Fighter Group, Army Air Forces
USAF Station F-373

D-2

AFM 637,
28 Apr 44.

SUBJECT: S-2, S-3 Mission Report No. 37.

TO : S-2 Officer, 357th Fighter Group, Army Air Forces, USAF
Station F-373, APO 637.

A. 363rd Fighter Squadron - Captain MONTGOMERY H. THROOP, JR, leading.

B. 18 -- 1135 -- 1620

C. One

D. Bomber Escort -

FO 312

E. Nil

F. Nil

G. HOWARD S. HINMAN, 1st Lt, AC

RALPH H. DONNELL, 1st Lt, AC

H. Destroyed - One Ju 88 - JOSEPH F. PIERCE, 1st Lt, AC

One Me. 109 - JOSEPH F. PIERCE, 1st Lt, AC

One Me. 109 - DONALD H. BOCKWAY, 1st Lt, AC

One Me. 109 - MONTGOMERY H. THROOP, JR, Capt, AC

One Me. 109 - EDWIN W. HIR, Capt, AC

One Me. 109 - JAMES W. BRUMMING, 1st Lt, AC

I. 1/F in at WALCHENSEN ISLAND at 1213 hours at 17,000 ft. R/V bombers
North of AUGSBURG at 1332 hours at 25,000 ft. Left bombers N. of STUTTGART
at 1445 hours at 23,000 ft. 1/F out KALEX KROCK at 1550 hours at
16,000 ft. Low thin haze over channel 8/10 stratus 2,000 to 5,000 ft.
half-way over channel. C A V U over target with cirrus from 22,000 to
27,000 ft. Moderately accurate heavy flak over FLASHING and heavy
accurate flak over MUNICH. Squadron escorted 1st two cws of B-17s
over target area. 1st Lt JOSEPH F. PIERCE, a spare, had joined Dolar's
Red Flight and, in a dive from 24,000 ft. to 10,000 ft. while attacking
109s, observed a wing come off of one of the P-51s of that flight when
it pulled out of a dive at 10,000 ft. Plane was believed to be G4 D.
Approximately 100 ac, consisting of Ju88s, Me 109s, and Me 110s were
observed on airfield just west of MUNICH which is believed to be
at ME MAISACH. Also about 50 109s and 25 110s were observed on air-
field E. of STUTTGART believed to be at ~~NECKARHOF~~ HALLINGEN. 1st Lt
HINMAN was last seen 20 miles east of MUNICH at 27,000 ft.

CONFIDENTIAL

WITNESS REPORT

PILOT: JOSEPH F. LEECH, 1st Lt, AC, 074889

- A. GCMC-T
- B. 24 April 1944 PO 4312
- C. 363rd Fighter Squadron, 357th Fighter Group
- D. 1355
- E. 35 miles west of MUNICH
- F. C & 7 U
- G. Ju. 88
- H. One Ju. 88 destroyed
- I. ACCOUNT OF CHASE: I was on the deck coming home by myself when I saw a Ju. 88 coming south at about 300 feet altitude. I approached the E/A from the tail and 200 feet below. I fired at 250 yards - my first burst was low. The next burst I observed strikes on the wings. I then overshot and made another pass, fired at about 200 yards and observed strikes on the left engine and fuselage. The left engine was on fire. He or she landed the ship which was burning. I then made two passes at the E/A on the ground, getting strikes along the wing roots and cockpit, the plane being still on fire. Three men got out of the ship after it crash landed.

I claim one ~~Marx~~ Ju. 88 destroyed.

- J. AMMUNITION USED: 1160 rounds .50 cal MG.

Joseph F. Leech
1st Lt, AC,
Pilot.

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REPORTING STATEMENT

NOTE: RONALD H. BOCKLEY, 1st Lt, AC, 0742834

- B. combat
- C. 24 April 1944 -- FO #312
- D. 1350
- E. Northeast of MUNICH
- F. Good
- G. Me. 109
- H. One Me. 109 destroyed
- I. ACCOUNT OF COMBAT: I was flying second element for Captain THROOP, leading Cement Red Flight, when six Me. 109s passed under us. We were flying at approximately 23,000 feet. We dumped our drop tanks and Capt. THROOP dove for attack on the last 1/2 as it went under us. I pulled up to cover the first element. As Capt THROOP was shooting, the lead 1/2 broke hard to the left, making a 360° turn, coming out on Capt THROOP's wingman. I dove down for attack, closing in to about 250 yards. I gave him a short burst and hits were seen around tail and right wing. 1/2 then went into a violent clip to the right. I gave him another burst hitting him just in front of the tail assembly. His whole tail broke off, making his plane tumble in.
- J. I claim one Me. 109 destroyed.
- J. AMMUNITION EXPENDED: 109 rounds .50 cal MG.

Ronald H. Bockley
 RONALD H. BOCKLEY,
 1st Lt, AC,
 Pilot.

REPORTING STATEMENT

I was flying Lt. BOCKLEY's wing in the second element of Cement Red Flight. He pulled off at 23,000 ft. to cover the flight leader's element in an attack on several Me. 109. One Me. 109 came in to attack the lead element and Lt. BOCKLEY opened fire. The tail assembly flew off the Me. 109 and it went into a violent spin. I saw the enemy pilot bail out and his chute open. Action took place at 1350 hours, North of MUNICH.

George C. George
 GEORGE C. GEORGE,
 2nd Lt, AC,
 Pilot.

DOCUMENT (51)

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ENCOUNTER REPORT

PILOT: MONTGOMERY H. THROOP, Capt, AC, C-433426

- A. COMBAT
- B. 24 April 1944 -- FO #312
- C. 363rd Fighter Squadron, 357th Fighter Group
- D. Approx. 1350
- E. North of MUNICH
- F. C A V U
- G. Me. 109
- H. One Me. 109 destroyed
- I. ACCOUNT OF COMBAT: About 15 minutes after rendezvous, my flight, Cement Red, bounced a flight of approximately 6 Me. 109s. I tagged onto the last man and started firing from directly astern at about 400 yards. He went into slight evasive jinking and I kept firing throughout getting strikes much of the time. I definitely saw a couple of strikes on the left side of the engine. The canopy was jettisoned or was shot off and as I over-shot I thought I saw the pilot trying to get out. The plane went into a sort of tumbling spin, smoking heavily, after that and finally a regular even spin. I noticed then a chute blossom out beside it. The plane remained in the spin and was still spinning at low altitude when I last saw it.

I claim one Me. 109 destroyed.

- J. AMMUNITION EXPENDED: 692 rounds .50 cal MG.

Montgomery H. Throop, Jr.
MONTGOMERY H. THROOP, JR.,
Capt, AC,

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

I was flying Capt. THROOP'S wing, Cement Red #2, when he peeled off on the last ship of a six ship flight of Me. 109s. He made a stern attack and fired from about 400 yards. There were strikes on the fuselage and the canopy was jettisoned. The Me. 109 was smoking heavily and went into a smoking spin. I then saw a chute open near the spinning ship. The action took place at approximately 1350 hours, north of MUNICH.

August C. Tiede, Jr.
AUGUST C. TIEDE, JR.,
1st Lt, AC,

CONFIDENTIAL

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION

PILOT: EDWIN W. HIRSH, Capt, AC, 0728041

- A. COMBAT
B. 24 April 1944 -- FO #312
C. 363rd Fighter Squadron, 357th Fighter Group.
D. 12:00
E. Southeast of MUNICH
F. C-47
G. Me. 109
H. One Me. 109 destroyed
I. NO DATA ON COMBAT: Me. 109 approached us at 6,000 feet from 12:00 O'clock so I made a 180° win/over as he turned to the left. He first spiralled about 2 circles and I gave him a burst about two radii and he straightened out into a steep dive. I followed and closed to about 100 yards and fired about four bursts dead astern. I saw the canopy fly off about 100 feet off the ground but no pilot bailed out. He hit the ground in about a 15° dive and burst into flames. I claim one Me. 109 destroyed.
J. ASSURANCE OF RESULTS: 614 rounds, 50 Cal. MG.

Edwin W. Hirsch
1st Lt, AC,
Capt, AC.

CONFIDENTIAL

On 24 April 1944, at approximately 1400 hours, I was flying Capt. HIRSH's wing about 20 miles southeast of MUNICH when we bounced a Me. 109 at 7,000 feet. Capt. Hirsch followed him down to the deck where he opened fire. I saw pieces fly off including the canopy. This was about 50 to 100 feet off the ground. The 109 then hit the ground and exploded. The pilot did not get out.

William S. Michalsky
1st Lt, AC.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

ENCOUNTER REPORT

PILOT: JAMES W. BROWNING, 1st Lt, AC 0740361

A. COMBAT

B. 24 April 1944 - F0 131

C. 363 Fighter Squadron, 357th Fighter Group.

D. 1330

E. North of Augsburg

F. Good

G. Me. 109

H. One Me. 109 destroyed

I. ACCOUNT OF COMBAT: I was flying second element for Capt. ANDERSON of the Blue Flight. We had come in sight of the bombers and saw quite a few airplanes milling around and split 5-ing. I recognized them as 109s. Red Flight made a turn to the left and two of the planes came back firing at them but out of range. We crossed over the top of White Flight in the turn and the 109s split up. One went up and the other made a diving turn to the left. I dropped my tanks after my leader dropped his and fired a burst at the 109 turning to the left. I observed hits in his belly and he leveled out. I fired another long burst with no deflection and observed more hits. He then did a roll to the right. I did not roll with him but fired at him at the way around the roll. He then rolled to the left and I rolled with him, still firing and observing a few hits. He then went into a spin and closed to about 200 yards and fired a long burst before breaking away to join my leader. The plane continued spinning into the ground. The combat was from 23,000 ft. to about 15,000 ft. I claim one Me. 109 destroyed.

J. AMMUNITION USED: 395 rounds .50 Cal

James W. Browning
James W. Browning,
1st Lt, AC.

DEBATING THE CASE

I led Green Flight and saw Capt. ANDERSON's flight go after two Me. 109s. Lt. BRO WING, flying second element, attacked a 109 which finally went into a violent spin, definitely out of control as it continued toward the ground. I last saw it, still in a spin and out of control about 2,000 ft. I believe the pilot was killed.

Edwin W. Hino
Edwin W. Hino,
Capt, AC.

at about 1350 hours. He was flying No. 3 position in white flight. He was last seen by 1st Lt. CHARLES S. PEARSON, in a sharp turn as the flight attacked an Me. 109, and Lt. PEARSON went into a spin. When last seen Lt. HINMAN'S ship was under control. 1st Lt. DONNELL was last heard of by Captain MONTGOMERY H. THROOP, Jr, at 145 hours ~~xxxxxx~~ over MUNICH. Lt. DONNELL had called in over the R/T, saying that he was lost from his flight. Captain THROOP advised him to join up with anybody. One Category "A". R/T good.

John B. Myer, Jr
JOHN B. MYER, JR.
1st Lt, AC,
S-2 O.

CONFIDENTIAL

303rd Fighter Group
357th Fighter Group, Army Air Forces
Station F-373

L-2

APG 637,
25 Apr 44.

SUBJECT: Narrative Report re Personnel MIA - HOWARD S. NIMMAN, 1st Lt., AC.

TO : L-2 Officer, 357th Fighter Group, Army Air Forces, Station F-373, APG 637.

1. Following is a narrative report of circumstances relative to the reporting MIA of HOWARD S. NIMMAN, 1st Lt., AC, ASN 0740422, on 24 April 1944, while on a Combat Mission - Field Orders Number 312.

2. Lt. NIMMAN was flying Number 3 position in Cement White Flight, Captain EDWIN S. KING leading. His wingman, Number 4 of the flight, was 1st Lt. CHARLES E. PETERSON. Captain KING was chasing a Me. 109, which turned sharply and came in around behind Lt. NIMMAN. Lt. PETERSON turned toward the Me. 109 and, because his fuselage tank was still full, he spun. When Lt. PETERSON came out of the spin Captain KING was ahead of him. He then joined Captain KING. When Lt. PETERSON had started the spin, Lt. NIMMAN had been ahead of him. That was the last that was seen of Lt. NIMMAN.

Ernest F. DeNegro.
ERNEST F. DE NEGRO,
Capt, AC,
S-2 C.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

1. Following is a narrative report of circumstances relative to the reporting of SA of SA H H. [redacted], 1st Lt, [redacted], 423 [redacted], on 21 April 1944, while on a combat mission - Field Order Number 312.

Ernest F. de Vries
Capt., 42.
-2 4.

2

Subj: 1-2, -3 - 1x3 on report no. 39

B. 18 -- 0750 -- 1245

C. Two

C. Two
D. Band ration - target support - with crew 40 313

2. ALL One SIR - reason unknown.

F. N11 2nd Lt, AC, 668.632

U. 44.2
H. 23.2

1. 1/T in at 0830 LXXX at 0830 hours at 17,000 ft. Bombers 20 min or later and R/V was made OK of 0130X at 0930 at 13,000 ft. Hosts were escorted to 1/T out N. of 0130X at 1130 hours at 13,000 ft. Over channel 10/10 cloud from 17,000 ft. extending to 5,000 ft., layer of haze at about 25,000 ft. Over continent stratus cumulus & S/C clouds with top at about 10,000 ft. Over target 1/10 cumulus clouds. Bomb hits observed in building area located west side of the field. Light accurate flick and entered vicinity 0130X. No enemy aircraft observed excepting one bogie flying above & apparently acting as a spotter. R/V good.

lt. RAY was last seen by 0130X at 1130, 1st Lt. RAY, at about 4,000 ft. over the THAB. 1/T RAY at about 1240 hours. The flight was just entering a cloud and when it emerged lt. RAY was not with the formation.

Ernest F. DeNigro

Ernest F. De Vries
Capt, C,

CONFIDENTIAL

363rd Fighter Squadron
357th Fighter Group, Army Air Forces
Station F-373, APO 637

APO 637,
16 April 1944

SUBJECT: 3-2, 3-3 mission report Number 40.

TO : 3-2 officer, 357th Fighter Group, Army Air Forces, USAF
Station F-373, APO 637.

- A. 363rd Fighter Squadron - Captain MONTGOMERY H. TOWLER, Jr., leading
- B. 18 -- 0747 -- 1110
- C. Two
- D. Fighter Group substituted for Bomber report PO 8315
- E. Nil
- F. Nil
- G. Nil
- H. Nil
- I. 1/ in KNOWN at 0827 hours at 21,000 ft. 0900 hours Group told to get out of designated area on a fighter sweep. Unknown Group made a turn and several minutes later crossed the coast north of KNOWN and then made another turn and proceeded on the briefed course again crossing the coast line north of KNOWN. Solid undercast made it impossible for the Squadron to determine its exact position in proceeding to the assigned area. 1/7 out was made over KNOWN at 1045 hours at 25,000 ft. 1/10 low scattered cumulus clouds over channel, while over Salinas and Southern part of MOUNTAIN 9/10s low stratus cumulus clouds prevailed with tops approx. 10,000 ft. Patches of 5/10s low cumulus stratus clouds over what is believed to be western MOUNTAIN. No enemy A/C seen. Only one flight reports accurate files over undetermined locality. R/T good

Ernest F. McVigors
Capt, AC,
3-2 G.

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363rd FIGHTER SQUADRON
357th Fighter Group, Army Air Forces
USAAF Station F-373

D-2

APO 637,
27 Apr 44.

SUBJECT: S-2, S-3 Mission Report Number 41.

TO : S-2 Officer, 357th Fighter Group, Army Air Forces, USAF
Station F-373, APO 637.

- A. 363rd Fighter Squadron - Captain MONTGOMERY H. THOMP, leading.
- B. 18 -- 0940 -- 1304
- C. Nil
- D. Fighter Sweep FO #316
- E. Nil
- F. Nil
- G. Nil
- H. Nil
- I. L/F in at BLANKENBURG at 1019 hours at 20,000 ft. Swept area to east of FONTAINEBLEU to ORLEANS to west of CHARTRES making L/F out at 1231 hours at 16,000 ft. Very meager light flak encountered at undeterminable locality. No fighter opposition encountered. A balloon barrage of about 12 balloons forming a circle and evenly spaced was observed at an altitude of 3,000 ft. 2 miles SW of ORLEANS and extending over both banks of LOIRE RIVER. Coordinates being 47 degrees 44 minutes N and 01 degrees 48 minutes E. Layer of stratus clouds at 7,000 ft. over enemy coast to C A V U in south of PARIS area, with a high light haze, clear with light haze to 4,000 ft. over enemy coast descending to Channel to nil over ENGLAND. R/T good.

John B. Myers, Jr.
JOHN B. MYERS, JR.
1st Lt, AC,
S-2 O.

CONFIDENTIAL

363rd FIGHTER SQUADRON
357th Fighter Group, Army Air Forces
USAAF Station F-373

AFG 637,
27 Apr 44.

SUBJECT: S-2, S-3 Mission Report Number 42.

TO : S-2 Officer, 357th Fighter Group, Army Air Forces, USAAF
Station F-373, AFG 637.

- A. 363rd Fighter Squadron - Lt Col Graham, leading.
- B. 17 - 1652 - 2115
- C. 2
- D. Penetration- Target support- withdrawal. F/O #317
- E. Nil
- F. Nil
- G. Nil
- H. Nil
- I. 1/T in SUMMIT 1737 hours at 21,000 ft. B/V north east CON. LEONE
1801 hours at 24,000 ft. escorted bombers to England leaving them
at 2105 hours at various altitudes above 1,000 ft. Haze over
channel to 6,000 ft with low scattered cumulus clouds. Haze also
over conti ate to target with low scattered cumulus to 10,000 ft.
CAVU above-contrails noted at 27,000 ft. No E/A seen. Heavy flack
experienced by bombers at 20,000 ft over OSTEND AND TARGET AREA,
very accurate. Heavy flak in wooded area in vicinity of St. Bizer at
bomber level directed at lead bomber. This flak appeared to come from
a series of batteries in line and accurately led the lead bomber and
succeeded in hitting two lead bombers which were seen to go down in
flames--no chutes. 1 B-17 was seen hit 2 of PARIS go down in flames
and explode at 14,000 ft--no chutes. 1 B-17 seen spiraling downward N.
of LILLE --no chutes. 1 B-17 on fire off shore of OSTEND and 5 chutes
seen to open. B/T good.

Ernest F. Le Nigro
ERNEST F. LE NIGRO
Capt. AC
S-2 O.

CONFIDENTIAL

363rd FIGHTER SQUADRON
357th Fighter Group, Army Air Forces
USAAF Station F-373

APD 637,
28 Apr 44.

SUBJECT: S-2, S-3 Mission Report No. 44.

TO : S-2 Officer, 357th Fighter Group, Army Air Forces, USAAF
Station F-373, A/C 637.

- A. 363rd Fighter Squadron - Captain E.W. NIRO, leading.
- B. 17--0951--1405 C. 2
- D. Penetration--Target Support--Withdrawal F.O.# 318
- E. Nil
- FF. Nil
- G. Nil
- H. Nil
- I. I/F in LE TILPORT at 1050 hrs at 18000 ft. R/V CHATEAUX at 1118 hrs
- J. 18000 ft. I/B 50 M south of LE HANVE at 1248 hrs at 16000 ft. I/F out
LE HANVE 1300 hrs at 16000 ft. Over channel low scattered cumulus
from 3500 to 4500 ft with haze below, thin patches of cirrus at 26000 ft.
E/C to R/V same low clouds and high thin cirrus at 26000 ft. Over target
clear but hazy to 10,000 ft. S of ORLEANS 20-30 Me 109's and FW 190's
making head-on pass at bombers--engaged by Ss but lost when they dove
into undercast. 1 B-17 seen burning over target going down--6 'chutes
seen; another B-17 seen to explode over target--no 'chuted from this
bomber. Excellent bombing results--buildings and runways hit by num-
erous explosions. . Heavy moderate accurate flak at bomber level of
15,000 ft over target area. R/T good.

Ernest F. DeWig
ERNEST F. DE WIG
Capt. AC
S-2 O.

CONFIDENTIAL

363rd FIGHTER SQUADRON
357th Fighter Group, Army Air Forces
USAF Station F-373

AFPO 637,
29 Apr 44.

SUBJECT: S-2, S-3 Mission Report No. 45

TO : S-2 Officer, 357th Fighter Group, Army Air Forces, USAF
Station F-373, AFPO 637.

- A. 363rd Fighter Squadron - Capt. MONTGOMERY H. THURMAN, Jr., leading
- B. 16 - 0855 - 1405
- C. One
- D. Penetration - Target Support - Withdrawal PO 320
- E. Nil
- F. Nil
- G. Nil
- H. Damaged - One Me. 109 - 1st Lt. JOSEPH V. FLEMING - 0742889
- I. L/F in IJWIDEN at 0945 hours at 21,000 ft. We R/V with the lead box of bombers of 1st A1 Task Force north of HANOVER at 25,000 ft. at bringing them to west of WITTEBURG where the Squadron then turned back and R/V with our own bombers northeast of GELLS at 1115 hours at 25,000 ft. Left bombers southwest of GARDELEGEN at 1235 hours at 25,000 ft. L/F out north of THE HAGUE at 1325 hours at 18,000 ft. Light haze over channel with thin layer of cirrus at 12,000 ft. Non-persistent contrails at 29,000 ft. Overcast over continent to DUMMEN LAKE to 12,000 ft. - 1/10 to 7/10 high built-up cumulus to 15,000 ft. to Target and over BERNIN. Heavy, moderate accurate flak over UTRACHT. Flak experienced on route back from ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ target area to home base. 2 Me. 109s seen around target, attacking a B-17 which went down in flames - 6 'chutes observed. At 1225 hours a B-17 hit by flak blew up over MADGEBURG - no 'chutes observed. R/T go d.

Ernest F. De Nigdis
ERNEST F. DE NIGDIS,
Capt, AC,
S-2 O.

Joseph B. Pierce

Henry H. Kayser

DOCUMENT (63)

Montgomery D Throop Jr
Capt, 1st Regt,
Mass.

CONFIDENTIAL

363rd FIGHTER SQUADRON
357th Fighter Group, Army Air Forces
Main Station 7-373

B-2

APO 637,
30 Apr 44

SUBJECT: B-2, B-3 Mission Report No. 46

TO : B-2 Of Lear, 357th Fighter Group, Army Air Forces, USA F
Station 7-373, APO 637.

- A. 363rd Fighter Squadron, Captain EDWIN W. HISS, leading
- B. 16 -- 0842 -- 1336
- C. Nil
- D. Penetration - target support - withdraw wail PO 321
- E. Nil
- F. Nil
- G. Nil
- H. Destroyed - JG 274 F. PIANCE, 1st Lt, AC, 0742889 - Two PW 190s
CLARENCE E. ANDERSON, Capt, AC 0730324 - One PW 190

I. 1/F in at 0929 hours at 18,000 ft. We met the last box of bombers bearing tri-angle identification on tail fin over target at 1051 hours at 24,000 ft., as they had no fighter protection - at 1105 we picked up our own bombers 15 miles E of KANAKAKAKA. Escort broken 50 miles E of FAIR at 1200 hours at 18,000 ft. - 1/F cut w s made at 12 TERNIT at 1200 hours at 14,000 ft. Thin haze layer over Channel to 8,000 ft. and high cirrus at about 30,000 ft. Over continent 2/10s low scattered cumulus to 7,000 ft. and high cirrus at 30,000 ft. No contrails seen. No flak. 30 miles E of GILGAWA at approximately 14 PW 190s attacked lead box of bombers from 7:00 o'clock and Squadron engaged them with above results. Here, it is reported, a P-17 was seen heading east losing altitude, but not burning or smoking - One 'chute seen. In this area two more P-17s were seen going down smoking as result of attacks from E/A. No 'chutes seen. 6 to 10 large E/A reported on grass field of target airfield. 3 seaplanes observed on lake just north of CLEWONT FERRAND. Excellent bombing results reported with hits centered in the barracks area. R/T good.

The seaplanes were observed at 45° 49' N - 03° 05' E. -

Ernest F. De Nigris
ERNEST F. DE NIGRIS,
Capt, AC,
B-2 G.

DOCUMENT (65)

CONFIDENTIAL

ENCOUNTER REPORT

PILOT: CLARENCE E ANDERSON, JR, Capt, AC, 0730324

- A. COMBAT
- B. 30 April 1944 - Field Order # 321
- C. 363rd Fighter Squadron, 357th Fighter Group
- D. 1145
- E. 30 miles southeast of ORLEANS
- F. "azy
- G. F 190
- H. One FW 190 destroyed
- I. ACCOUNT OF COMBAT: I was leading Cement White, following Red section and we had left our bombers about ten minutes and were proceeding home. We approached a box of bombers and I saw many fighters buzzing around them. I called Red section and we went over full throttle. Six FW 190s came thru my section head on - two broke down and the others turned right. By using 20° flaps and a full throttle I pulled around on their tails in one turn and started firing; it must have scared hell out of them as they all hit the deck - I then picked out 2 together and followed attacking the last man and got three good bursts. He was smoking bad and pieces flew off. I then had to pull up as I was overrunning him. He straightened out and ran; I then rolled back and followed. As I closed again a blue nosed P-51 came in very steep and fast in front of me, he pulled up and out, the FW 190 pulled up and the pilot bailed out - the ship crashed - I don't know whether the blue nose even fired. He was coming in so fast and at such an angle I don't think could have hit him if he did fire.
I claim one FW 190 destroyed.
- J. AMMUNITION EXPENDED: 289 rounds .50 Cal MG.

Clarence E Anderson Jr
CLARENCE E ANDERSON, JR.,
Capt, AC.

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

I was flying Cement No. 2, White Flight, we had left our bombers and were on the way out, when we sighted a small box of bombers unescorted, being attacked by FW 190s. Cement White Flight bounced the FW 190s who broke for the deck. Altitude was approx. 18,000 ft. Capt ANDERSON, Cement White leader, and myself chased two E/A to the deck.

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Capt ANDERSON fired four bursts, all of which hit the E/A very hard. The pilot bailed out, his plane exploded on the ground. Time was approx 1145. A blue nosed P-51 also made a pass at the E/A in a vertical dive, just before the E/A's pilot bailed out, I'm certain the blue nose didn't hit the E/A.

Edward K. Simpson Jr.

EDWARD K SIMPSON, JR,
1st Lt, AC

CONFIDENTIAL

ENCLOSURE 100-100

PILOT: JOSEPH F. PIERCE, 1st Lt, AG, 0742889

- A. COMBAT
- B. 30 April 1944, Field Order #321
- C. 363rd Fighter Squadron, 357th Fighter Group
- D. 1150
- E. 30 miles southeast of ORLANDO
- F. Light Haze
- G. FW 190
- H. Two FW 190s destroyed
- I. ACCOUNT OF COMBAT: I was flying element leader in Cement White Flight as a flight of four FW 190s attacked head on. I got on number four's tail took him to the deck after firing two bursts at altitude. On the deck I got a good burst in at slight deflection from a tail pass. Got several hits on the fuselage and wings. He started smoking and the pilot bailed out. By this time there was another 190 on my tail getting ready to fire. I broke sharply to the right getting a head on pass with a good burst, observing strikes on the engine and fuselage. He did a snap roll to the left as he passed me. His canopy came off and he bailed out. Both planes exploded as they crashed to the ground. I claim two FW 190s destroyed.
- J. AMMUNITION EXPENDED: 715 rounds .50 Cal MG.

Joseph F. Pierce
 JOSEPH F. PIERCE,
 1st Lt, AG,
 Pilot.

9-FI-300-1

1 MAY 64

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UNIT HISTORY

DECLASSIFIED
DOD DIR 5200.9

81st AIR FORCE
VIII FIGHTER COMMAND
65TH FIGHTER WING
307th Fighter Group
363rd Fighter Squadron

May 1964

45478

DECLASSIFIED
DOD DIR 5200.9

96-697

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Classified "SECRET"
 With VIII For Cond
 Ltr 129-1
 Dated 13 November 1943. *7403*

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UNIT HISTORY

363rd Fighter Squadron

CHRONOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

OF

EVENTS

Month of May, 1944

FORESAID: May was, for the 363rd Fighter Squadron, a typical month during which there were days of feverish activity followed by days of waiting and in turn followed by more days of feverish activity. There were days when both the Pilots and the Ground Crews found themselves tired to the bone - and other days when they found so very time to catch up on very sorely needed rest and to again put bodies and ships into perfect maintenance and repair. It was a month of great victories over the German Air Force and a month in which many of the pilots of the unit were missing in action, a month of rejoicing and a month of worrying as to the eventual fate of those who were no longer amongst those at the mess table. Here then is the story of the '363rd' for May----

1 May Announcement is made of the following awards to Pilots of the Squadron:

MONTGOMERY H. THURSP, J., Capt, AC - Oak Leaf Cluster to Distinguished Flying Cross.

WILLIAM B. GILBERTSON, JR, 1st Lt, AC - Air Medal

IRVING A. SMITH, 1st Lt, AC - Air Medal

LEWIS W. BIRD, Capt, AC - Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal

CHARLES H. FLETCHER, 1st Lt, AC - Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal

--(See Document (1) appended)

And of the following awards:

ROBERT C. CRANFORD, 2nd Lt, AC - Air Medal

HENRY R. RAYSON, 2nd Lt, AC - Air Medal

DONOVAN D. SIVARS, 1st Lt, AC - Air Medal

ERNEST C. TILLEY, 1st Lt, AC - Air Medal

CLARENCE E. ANDERSON, JR, Capt, AC - Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal

ROBERT W. FOLY, 1st Lt, AC - Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal

WILLIAM E. O'BRIEN, Capt, AC - Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal

ROGER E. FACHS, 2nd Lt, AC - Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal

EDWARD H. SHIPPOCK, JR 1st Lt, AC - Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal

---(See Document (2) appended)

Announcement made of the promotion to Captain of 1st Lt ELLIS A. ROGERS.

(See Document (3) appended)

Announcement of the following Awards to Pilots of the Squadron: Pilots who are now reported as Missing in Action:

FREDERICK W. MUST, 1st Lt, AC - Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal

CHARLES E. BRASER, F/C, AC - Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal

(See Document (4) appended)

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and this day was really a day of hard work for the Squadron - perhaps a forerunner of days to come - for there were two missions for the fighter pilots of the Squadron. The first of these missions was a Fighter Sweep in the CANTAL-PAULS area. And no enemy aircraft were seen, which made it just a milk run for the pilots. (See Document (5) appended) The second mission of the day was another Fighter Sweep, this time to the FUSLAGE-FRANKFORT area - and again the fighters of the G.A.F. kept well under cover and on the ground, so that the score for enemy aircraft shot down had to be 'nil'. (See Document (6) appended)

Announcement was made of the promotion to 1st Lt. of the following Officers of the Squadron:

ROBERT C. GANGEWICK
HERBERT B. HAYLER

GEORGE C. GEORGE
HAROLD E. HENNETT

(See Document (7) appended)

2 May

Announcement is made of the following promotions - from 2nd Lt. to 1st Lt.:

ROBERT B. SMITH

ROGER L. PAULS

(See Document (8) appended)

The following pilots were assigned to the Squadron:

WILLIAM A. DAVIS, 2nd Lt, AC ASN 091 925
JOHN R. SMITH, 2nd Lt, AC, ASN 0759099
THOMAS (HUI) HORA, 2/C, AC, ASN T-61493

(See Document (9) appended)

3 May

Award of an Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal is made to the following

Pilot Missing in Action:- HOWARD S. HENKEL, 1st Lt, AC

(See Document (10) appended)

4 May

A bomber escort mission - one that the pilots dream about - is recalled. This was one of those missions to BERLIN and the disappointment of the pilots at the recall was evident as most of them thought that this was the day that they would build up the score of Mustangs on their ships.

(See Document (11) appended)

Promotion was announced of the following Officers:

MONTGOMERY F. THORP, 1st Lt, AC, to be Major
STANLEY M. CHENIER, 2nd Lt, AC, to be 1st Lt.

(See Document (12) appended)

The promotion to Major of our Squadron Commander was particularly pleasing to all of the personnel of the Squadron - for it gave our C.O. another step toward the rank that the G.I. of the 363rd Fighter Squadron should have.

6 May

Awards were made as follows to the pilots of the Squadron:

CLARENCE E. ANDERSON, 1st Lt, AC - Distinguished Flying Cross
STANLEY M. CHENIER, 1st Lt, AC - Air Medal
JAMES A. BROWNING, 1st Lt, AC - Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal
GEORGE C. GEORGE, 1st Lt, AC - Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal
ROBERT H. MOORE, 1st Lt, AC - Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal
WILLIAM D. OVERSTREET, JR., 1st Lt, AC - Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal
CHARLES S. PEARSON, 1st Lt, AC - Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal
JOSEPH F. PIERCE, 1st Lt, AC - Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal
EDWARD R. SIMPSON, JR., 1st Lt, AC - Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal
RICHARD W. STAUDT, 1st Lt, AC - Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal
LUTHER D. WOOD, 1st Lt, AC - Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal

(See Document (13) appended)

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7 May

A trip to BILM at bomber escort -- but with the exception of heavy intense and accurate flak over the city of KARWI, there was no excitement for our Pilots. All ships and Pilots came home safely -- no enemy aircraft were even seen. (See Document (21) appended)

Announcement was made of the promotions of the following Officers:

RONALD R. BOCHAY, 1st Lt, AG to be Captain
JAMES W. BROCKING, 1st Lt, AG to be Captain

8 May

At last the Squadron gets into action again -- action with the opportunity of watching ships and skill and bravery and boldness against the fighter Pilots of the G.A.F. This was another trip to BILM as bomber escort and this time there was an opportunity of fighting it out with some of the fighters of the Luftwaffe. On this trip Capt. BROCKING destroyed a FW 190 and Lt. PIRCE shot one down to destruction (See Documents (17) and (18) appended). But on this trip one of the finest and best Pilots of the Squadron had to be reported as missing in action. Captain WILLIAM A. MCCOMB failed to return from the mission. It is hoped that Capt. BROCKING did not get over BILM, Germany (See Document (19) appended).

9 May

A Fighter Sweep to THORNTON. On this mission the ship of the Squadron accompanied B-24s and then swept on across the area. (See Document (20) appended) One FW 190 was destroyed by Lt. WILLIAM D. MCCOMB. (See Document (21) appended) Two of our Pilots failed to return from this mission: -- Lt. CHARLES R. GARDIN (See Document (22) appended) and Lt. DONALD D. GIVENS (See Document (23) appended).

10 May

Another Fighter Sweep -- this time clear over to KARWI. And this really was a 'dry run' in so far as opposition was concerned as the report reads "No enemy aircraft seen -- no flak encountered" (See Document (24) appended).

11 May

Bomber escort to BILM -- with no enemy aircraft seen. Except for a certain amount of accurate heavy flak there was little in this trip except to realize again that at certain times the Luftwaffe was allowing unopposed bombing of German cities and German industries. (See Document (25) appended).

JOSEPH P. PIRCE, 1st Lt, AG is appointed Squadron Oxygen Officer vice WILLIAM A. MCCOMB, Capt, AG, MIA and DONALD R. BOCHAY, Capt, AG is appointed Flight Leader "A" Flight vice WILLIAM A. MCCOMB, Capt, AG, MIA. (See Document (26) appended).

12 May

This was a rather big day for the 363rd -- on this day on a bomber escort mission to BILM the Squadron engaged 120 plus (cases of the Luftwaffe) about fifty miles northeast of THORNTON -- (See Document (27) appended). The results of this encounter:

One Me. 109 destroyed -- CAPTAIN CHARLES R. GARDIN, (See Document (28) appended).

One FW 190 destroyed -- Captain PAUL R. DE VRIES (See Document (29) appended).

One Me. 109 destroyed -- Capt WILLIAM R. O'BRIEN (See Document (30) appended).

One Me. 109 destroyed -- Lt. JOSEPH P. PIRCE (See Document (31) appended).

One FW 190 damaged -- Major DONALD R. THORNTON (See Document (32) appended).

And on the ground:--

Two Me 109s and One Ju. 52 -- Capt. ANDERSON, Lt. PIRCE and Lt. OVERSTREET (See Document (33) appended).

One locomotive -- Capt ANDERSON, Lt. OVERSTREET, Lt. PIRCE, Lt. MICHAEL (See Document (34) appended).

All of the Pilots of this Squadron returned safely -- and that is just exactly the sort of punishment that the Squadron likes to deal out to the Reich -- and the sort of homecoming that the Squadron welcomes.

Announcement is made of the following award to one of the Pilots of the Squadron now MIA.

HOWARD R. HINMAN, 1st Lt, AG -- Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal.

(See Document (35) appended)

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13 May Today the weather is as a whole - good. (See Document (36) appended). In this mission Lt. HIGHTON, CO, is proud with the destruction of the B-24s. (See Document (37) appended). This was Lt. HIGHTON's first entry into the victory column, and he made it a double-header.

14 May Sgt. John C. Halsey is TRANSFERRED FROM 363rd Squadron. (See Document (38) appended).

15 May Another new piece in bomber escort was experienced by the squadron on this date as the squadron went out in two groups. Ten ships of the squadron took off at 0815 and ten very fifteen minutes later to join in separate escort missions. The first unit also escorted a fighter group following their escort duty. (See Documents (39) and (40) appended). Neither mission was eventful in the way of victories as again the enemy aircraft were few, hence was fought without heavy opposition.

And this date the squadron was informed of the fact that their Commanding Officer, Major Kenneth W. Highton, was to leave the 363rd Squadron and join the 1st Fighter Group on 19 May 1944. On 1 February 1944, he was promoted to Captain and a few days later was promoted to Major. He came to the Squadron with a long record of missions and battles - an experienced officer to lead us, as you experienced together. That is the fact that the Squadron was operational on 10 February 1944. The results of the past operations of the 363rd Squadron have been noticed in the records of the unit. With the bomber escort mission of 10 May to Italy, Major Highton had finished 100 hours of escort duty - had completed weeks and weeks of hard, eye-wrecking work. So, that was to Major Highton some days of relief from these duties, some days to get rest from these tasks. As a preliminary to the granting of this rest, Major Highton was today transferred to 1st Lt. Col. 1st Pz Inf Gr. (See Document (41) appended).

Three enlisted men of the Squadron are transferred to other units:-

Sgt. Floyd Dulack to the 404th Service Sq.

Cpl. Carl J. Langer to 104th Pz-Comp Sq. (See Document (42) appended).

Pvt. John Louis, Jr. to 404th Service Sq.

16 May Sometimes these rumors are almost too good to be true - and on very rare occasions these "too good to be true" rumors are actually confirmed. Such a confirmation came today with the announcement that Captain EDWIN W. HINC was to be Commanding Officer of the 363rd Fighter Squadron. Absolutely everyone of the personnel of the Squadron - Commissioned Officers - "The First Three Grades" - the other Non-Commissioned Officers - and even the lowest Privates in the Squadron - were excitedly pleased by this announcement. For Captain HINC was 'one of our own'. Captain HINC had been assigned to the Squadron way back in the days of its activation at HAMILTON FIELD. Immediately upon his assignment to the Squadron he had been appointed Squadron Operations Officer, which assignment he had held until his appointment to be Commanding Officer this date. And just as Captain HINC is 'one of our own', so are we 'his own'. For Captain HINC came to this Squadron as a 2nd Lieutenant way back on 2 March 1943, almost fifteen months ago. He went through TONOPAH, SANTA ROSA, CASPER, CHAMCO, THE QUARTER LILABERRY, MONTECK and now HAMILTON with the Squadron. His promotions have been in the Squadron -- 1st Lt on 19 March 1943 while the Squadron was at TONOPAH, Captain on 26 October 1943, while the Squadron was at CASPER. The 363rd has always, through its almost eighteen months of activation, been a squadron that really "did things". With the new Commanding Officer, a G.O. that the personnel, Officers and enlisted men, feel that they know as we do feel that we know Captain HINC, it will do things "in an even greater way. For when the Officers and the enlisted men feel, as they do feel about Captain HINC - "that we know all about him, and all that we know about him is good" -- then the Squadron is certain to really do things and really do places.

The 16 May 1944, was a great day for the 363rd.

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- 18 May Capt PAUL W. DE WILDE appointed Operations Officer, vice Captain HIRSH, relieved. (See Document (43) appended)
Capt. CHARLES W. BROWNING appointed Flight Leader, Flight "B", vice Captain DE WILDE, relieved. (See Document (43) appended)
- 19 May This day was another in which the enemy fighters finally did come up to fight. On this date our P-51s escorted bombers on another of those missions once thought to be the ideal of all missions - the bombing of BERLIN - but now become commonplace because of their constant successful completion and because even the bombing of the capital of the Reich does not often bring the Luftwaffe up to do combat. (See Document (44) appended).
On this mission they did come up to contest the right of the American bombers to bombard their principal city. Fifteen miles north of BERLIN approximately 100 plus Me. 109s were engaged by the Squadron. The results were - the destruction of two Me. 109s by Captain HIRSH (See Documents (45) and (46) appended), One Me. 109 was destroyed by Lt. FARRIS (See Document (47) appended) and Lt. FOY accounted for the destruction of three Me. 109s. (See Documents (48) and (49) appended). In addition, Captain HIRSH damaged one Me. 109 (See Document (50) appended) and Lt. FARRIS damaged one Me. 109 (See Document (47) appended). A further Me. 109 was damaged by Captain HIRSH.
- 20 May An uneventful bomber escort mission to GELN to bomb the airfield. No enemy aircraft were seen. It seems as though when the time comes that the German fighters do come into the air, they are given such a plectering as to keep them on the ground for days to come. (See Document (51) appended)
- 21 May A penetration fighter sweep to E. BERLIN (See Document (52) appended)
On this mission the entire squadron was 'in on' the destruction of two locomotives and the destruction of a warehouse and numerous workers. Capt. BROWNING, Lt. FARRIS and Lt. JONES joined forces to destroy a radio tower. Two of our pilots failed to return from this mission - 1st Lt. JOSEPH P. FARRIS (See Document (53) appended) and 1st Lt. WILLIAM D. MICHAEL (See Document (54) appended). Both of these pilots had been with the Squadron for a long time--and both were so well liked and so much admired by their fellow pilots and by the other Officers and Enlisted men of the Squadron that the mission of 21 May will long be a sad memory in the hearts of the personnel of the 363rd.
- 22 May The P-51 pilots of the Squadron accompanied bombers in the bombardment of KIEL. The trip was uneventful in so far as opposition by enemy aircraft is concerned. There was flak, but it was inaccurate, and the bombers did a good job of laying their eggs on this German base. All of the pilots of this squadron returned to home base. (See Document (55) appended)
- 23 May Bombers are escorted to TROYES. No enemy aircraft answered the challenge of our P-51s - the pilots report that there was not even any activity on any of the roads or the railroads. So, there was no score to report except for the fact that the B-24s were able to bomb their target with no opposition. (See Document (56) appended)
- 24 May Another mission to BERLIN - bomber escort (See Document (57) appended)
The score: Capt O'BRIEN destroyed one Me. 109 (See Document (58) and probably destroyed one FW 190 by Captain HIRSH (See Document (59) appended)
Also, our pilots destroyed two locomotives in a little 'on the side' Ground Strafing: Lts. TIDE, DAVIS, WOOD, GEORGE shared this strafing endeavor.

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And a second mission - all sort of a change for the pilots of the 33rd Fighter Squadron, for today's second mission is to be glide bombing in the SC13 CH's area. On this mission the pilots of the Squadron reported the destruction of five locomotives, three tanks, two trucks two flat cars and two railroad cars. (See Document (60) appended).

All personnel of the Squadron were called together at 1645 as a part of a meeting of all personnel of the base held at the command of Colonel DONALD W. SMITH, Group Commander and ranking officer of the base. At this meeting the Group Commander emphasized the vulnerability of this base and its likelihood of attack, especially under conditions that might arise in the foreclosing invasion of the continent by Allied Forces. So, orders were that all personnel of the Squadron would henceforth be fully armed at all times and that ammunition would be drawn at once by all personnel and would be carried by all personnel at all times.

Announcement is made of the following awards to pilots of the Squadron:-

RANDOLPH H. HANCOCK, 1st Lt, AG - Air Medal
ROBERT E. FIELDS, 1st Lt, AG - Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal
CHARLES A. HETTER, 1st Lt, AG - Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal
IRVING A. SMITH, 1st Lt, AG - Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal

--(See Document (61) appended).

25 May The mission of this day was one of the varied silk runs of all of these missions upon which our pilots have flown. On a further escort mission to the HANCOCK-13 Y area in occupied FRANCE there were no enemy aircraft encountered and no flak experienced. The logical score for the Squadron - No Hits-No Runs-No errors. (See Document (62) appended)

But there was a real cause for rejoicing in the Squadron - for Flight Officer CHARLES A. YANKEE came back to us for a time. P/O YANKEE had been reported Missing in Action on 5 March 1944 (See page 3, installment of March 1944, Unit History and Documents (8), (9) and (10) of the March 1944 installment of the Unit History of the Squadron). P/O YANKEE had bailed out due to a lucky shot by the enemy making his ship incapable of being controlled. Armed with Escape and Evasion Equipment, with the knowledge of Escape and Evasion procedure drilled into him by the J-2 Officers of the Squadron, with a naturally strong and vigorous body - kept in shape - he was able to make his escape through a circuitous route and return to England. P/O YANKEE has been temporarily assigned to the Squadron (See Document (63) appended) pending his return to the States.

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Six additional pilots were assigned to the 363rd:--

ERICK B. BURDET, 2nd Lt, AG
 JOHN A. CHILDS, 2nd Lt, AG
 WILLIAM H. FRICKER, 2nd Lt, AG

TICED J. HAINES, 2nd Lt, AG
 ROBERT B. TITUS, 2nd Lt, AG
 NORMAN C. FISHER, F/O, AG
 --(See Document (64) appended).

27 May

A bomber escort mission to BRUNSBURG in which our pilots really have a big day -- for the fighters of the Luftwaffe again came up to us and the pilots of the 363rd again felt out proper punishment to them. (See Document (65) appended). CLARENCE A. ANDERSON, JR, Capt, AG had a field day for himself in the destruction of two Me. 109s. (See Document (66) appended); WILLIAM A. O'BRIEN, Capt, AG boosted his score by the destruction of an Me. 109 (See Document (67) appended); JAMES W. BROOKING, Capt, AG destroyed an Me. 109 (See Document (68) appended); ROBERT L. CHANDLER, 1st Lt, AG entered the lists of pilots with enemy aircraft destroyed to their credit by the destruction of a Me. 109 (See Document (69) appended) and EDWARD J. SHAFER, 1st Lt, AG destroyed an Me. 109 (See Document (70) appended). Lt. SHAFER, in this encounter was flying a P-51 named the "Flying Panther" which had been donated to the Army Air Corps by the pupils of the East Orange (N.J.) High School. Since Lt. SHAFER is a citizen of East Orange and an alumni of the East Orange High School, it is quite fitting that he should have scored the first victory in the "Flying Panther".

28 May

Another bomber escort mission to BRUNSBURG. The Squadron again made contact with the aircraft of the enemy and destroyed two of the enemy ships and damaged another. (See Document (71) appended). One Me. 109 was destroyed by CHARLES R. FETTER, 1st Lt, AG (See Document (72) appended) and one destroyed and one damaged by EDWIN A. HALL, Capt, AG (See Document (73) appended).

29 May

An escort to escort bombers to their target at TOSNA, POLAND. This was another of those long long missions - one of the sort that would have been thought to be impossible only a few months ago before the development of the long range possibilities of the P-51. Our Mustang pilots flew well over thirteen hundred miles through the Reich and through other enemy occupied territory but no enemy aircraft were reported. A long trip for all of the pilots - a very successful one for the bombers - and one that had no results to chart as enemy aircraft destroyed, probably destroyed or even damaged. If they are not there - you can't shoot 'em down. (See Document (74) appended)

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30 May The mission was bomber escort to SCHWETZBURG. The P-51 Pilots of the squadron appeared three groups of an approximate total of 30 plus Lt. 109s with excellent results. (See Document 75 appen.) Captain WOODCOCK accounted for one Me. 109 (See Document (76) appended), Captain O'BRIEN got two Me. 109s (See Documents (77) and (78) appended), Lt. MOORE again got onto the score sheet with a Me. 109 shot down (See Document (79) appended) and Captain WOODCOCK shot down still another Me. 109 (See Document (80) appended).

31 May The Squadron finished up the month of May with the milk run of all milk runs so far as action in combat is concerned. On a bomber escort mission to STRASSBURG there were no enemy aircraft even seen and no flak was encountered. (See Document (81) appen.)

THROUGHOUT

THE MONTH - * The squadron carried on its daily life, settling down to life at the present station just as it has settled down to life in all of the other stations which have housed us; just as if that might be our permanent home. Along the line have grown up the 'houses' of the crew chiefs - tiny houses built of used belly tank boxes, old glass and window frames which have been picked up in odd places; a 1 furnished in unbelievable comfort with homelike furniture. All of the comforts of life and of home - except (MOORE) for the little women, of course - are to be found. A very excellent meal has been concocted in these huts from the pooling of food received from home and, we are afraid, from other sources not here to be mentioned.

The personnel of the squadron have been very active in the formation of the Base Baseball Team. Four of our men hold key positions on the team with 1st Sgt John J. Swartz, Catcher; 1st Sgt Robert H. Smith at Short stop; 1st Sgt Leo Wood playing third base; and 1st Sgt George Toomey at 1st base. The team won its first game with a team from a 1-3 base at WASHINGTON by a score of 14-13 and then lost to the same team at home by a score of 5-3.

Between missions volleyball has taken hold on an improvised court 'on the line'. The games usually become contests between Officers and E.M. So far the E.M. hold a distinct edge both in games won - and in endurance.

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During the month the Ground Personnel of the Squadron completed training in Chemical Warfare, in Louse Control and in Airborne Defenses. As the month advanced, if even, by the loudest louse on the - to all of us more welcome attack by the louse from Berlin--we are well ready for what may come.

The training of the Pilots of the Squadron in all of those subjects as Aircraft Recognition, Geography of England and of Europe, Use of Bombers, Prisoner of War and Escape and Evasion, Air/Sun Rescue, Landing Tactics, Flak, German Air Force, etc, etc, etc, has continued with greater and greater interest being shown by the Pilots of the Unit.

CONCLUSION We gear the story of the 362nd Fighter Squadron for May 1944-- a month of victories--a month in which we lost some of our best Pilots in Action--a month in which we continued to build up the best traditions of the "Best Damn Squadron in the World"

RESTRICTED

G-16

GENERAL ORDER)
:
NUMBER.....33)

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS VIII FIGHTER COMMAND
Hq (37) 8AF Station F-341
19 April, 1944.

EXTRACT

AWARDS OF ONE LEAF CLUSTER TO THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS.....SECTION V
AWARDS OF THE AIR MEDAL.....SECTION VI
AWARDS OF ONE LEAF CLUSTER TO THE AIR MEDAL.....SECTION VII
AWARDS TO G.A. #31, THIS HEADQUARTERS, 15 APRIL, 1944.....SECTION VIII

V. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September, 1943 and pursuant to authority contained in Section I, Circular 32, Hq., STOUA, 20 March, 1944, and letter Hq., Eighth Air Force, Subject: "Awards and Decorations", 2 April, 1944 an ONE LEAF CLUSTER is awarded to the following named Officers for wear with the Distinguished Flying Cross previously awarded:

MONTGOMERY H. THROOP, JR., O-433426, Captain, Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement. Captain Throop has accomplished forty fighter combat missions or the equivalent thereof, over enemy occupied Continental Europe and has destroyed one enemy airplane in aerial combat. The skillful and zealous manner in which Captain Throop has sought out the enemy and destroyed him, his devotion to duty and courage under all conditions serve as an inspiration to his fellow flyers. His actions on all these occasions reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military service from New York.

VI. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September, 1943 and pursuant to authority contained in Section I, Circular 32, Hq., STOUA, 20 March, 1944 and letter Hq., Eighth Air Force, Subject: "Awards and Decorations", 2 April, 1944, an AIR MEDAL is awarded to the following named Officers.

CITATION: For meritorious service in aerial flight in the completion of ten (10) operational sorties, or the equivalent thereof, over enemy occupied Continental Europe.

WILLIAM B. OVERSTREET, JR. O-745487 1st Lt. Clifton Forge, Virginia
IRVING A. SMITH O-681719 1st Lt. Grants Pass, Oregon

VII. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September, 1943, and pursuant to authority contained in Section I, Circular 32, Hq., STOUA, 20 March, 1944 and letter Hq., Eighth Air Force, Subject: "Awards and Decorations", 2 April, 1944 an ONE LEAF CLUSTER is awarded to the following named Officers in addition to the Air Medal previously awarded:

RESTRICTED

SECRET

G.O. #33 (Cont'd)

RESTRICTED

CITATION: For meritorious service in aerial flight in the completion of ten (10) operational sorties, or the equivalent thereof, over enemy occupied Continental Europe.

2ND AIR LEAF CLUSTER

EDWIN E. HIRC	O-728661	Captain	Chisholm, Minnesota
CHARLES K. PETERS	O-745495	1st Lt.	Wiloxi, Mississippi.

VIII. So much of Section I, General Order #31, this Headquarters, 15 April, 1944 as reads: "Lt. Rogers has accomplished forty fighter combat missions, or the equivalent thereof, over enemy occupied Continental Europe and has destroyed one enemy airplane in aerial combat." is amended to read: "Lt. Rogers has accomplished thirty fighter combat missions, or the equivalent thereof, over enemy occupied Continental Europe and has destroyed two enemy airplanes in aerial combat."

By command of Major General KIPNER:

FRANCIS H. GRIGGIE
Brig. General U. S. Army
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

s/ John J. Sailors
t/ JOHN J. SAILORS,
Colonel, A.C.D.
Adjutant General

A TRUE EXTRACT

Francis H. Griggie
DAVE C. WILLETT,
Capt. Air Corps,
Adjutant.

RESTRICTED

GENERAL ORDER)
:
NUMBER.....34)

HEADQUARTERS VIII FIGHTER COMMAND
APO 637 AAF Station F-341
27 April, 1944

EXTRACT

AWARDS OF THE AIR MEDAL.....SECTION VII
AWARDS OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO THE AIR MEDAL.....SECTION VIII

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VII. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September, 1943, and pursuant to authority contained in Section i, Circular 32, Hq., ETOUSA, 20 March, 1944 and letter Hq., Eighth Air Force, Subject: "Awards and Decorations", 2 April, 1944, an AIR MEDAL is awarded to the following named Officers:

CITATION: For meritorious service in aerial flight in the completion of ten (10) operational sorties, or the equivalent thereof, over enemy occupied Continental Europe:

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ROBERT C. GANGWISH	O-910497	2nd Lt.	Tonawanda, New York
HENRY R. KAYSER	O-682652	2nd Lt.	Pierre, South Dakota
DONOVAN D. SIVERTS	O-751469	1st Lt.	Minneapolis, Minnesota
ERNEST C. TIEDE, JR.	O-681743	1st Lt.	Buffalo, New York

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VIII. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September, 1943, and pursuant to authority contained in Section I, Circular 32, Hq., ETOUSA, 20 March, 1944 and Letter Hq., Eighth Air Force, Subject: "Awards and Decorations", 2 April, 1944 an OAK LEAF CLUSTER is awarded to the following named Officers in addition to the Air Medal previously awarded:

CITATION: For meritorious service in aerial flight in the completion of ten (10) operational sorties, or the equivalent thereof, over enemy occupied Continental Europe:

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CLARENCE E. ANDERSON, JR.	O-730324	Capt.	Newcastle, California
ROBERT W. FOY	O-745340	1st Lt.	Owego, New York
WILLIAM R. O'BRIEN	O-730583	Capt.	McPherson, Kansas
ROGER E. PAGELS	O-682952	2nd Lt.	Michigan City, Indiana
EDWARD K. SIMPSON, JR.	O-745529	1st Lt.	LaVerne, California

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By command of Major General, KOPNER:

FRANCIS H. GRISWOLD,
Brigadier General, USA,
Chief of Staff.

RESTRICTED

R E S T R I C T E D

G. O. #34 (Cont'd)

OFFICIAL:

s/ John J. Sailors
t/ JOHN J. SAILORS,
Colonel, AGD,
Adjutant General.

A TRUE EXTRACT

Dave C. Willett
DAVE C. WILLETT,
Capt, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

NO 119

RESTRICTED
Hq ETCUSA
SECRET
EXTRACT

28 Apr 1944

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21. Announcement is made of the temp promotion of the following O, AG, Eighth AF, to the gr indicated in AUS w/rank fr date of this order:

* * *

1st Lt to Capt

ELLIS R. ROGERS, 0739337

* * *

By command of General EISENHOWER:

R. B. LORD,
Brigadier General, GSC,
Deputy Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

OFFICIAL SEAL

R. B. LOVETT,
Brigadier General, USA, Adjutant General.

A TRUE EXTRACT

David C. Willitt
DAVE C. WILLITT,
Capt, Air Corps
Adjutant.

(3)

(2)

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CONFIDENTIAL

SFC Reg No. 40628
(3-21)GENERAL ORDER)
NUMBER.....25)

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS VIII FIGHTER COMMAND
RAF Station F-341
29 April, 1944.

AWARDS OF ONE LEAF CLUSTER TO THE AIR MEDAL..... SECTION VI

VI. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September, 1943, and pursuant to authority contained in Section I, Circular 92, HQ., STCUSA, 20 March, 1944 and letter HQ., Eighth Air Force, Subject: "Awards and Decorations", 2 April, 1944 an AIR LEAF CLUSTER is awarded to the following named Officers in addition to the AIR MEDAL previously awarded:

CITATION: For meritorious service in aerial flight in the completion of ten (10) operational sorties, or the equivalent thereof, over enemy occupied Continental Europe:

MISSING IN ACTION

FREDERICK W. REUST G-743093 1st Lt. Topeka, Kansas

CHARLES E. YEAGER, T-070, Flight Officer, Army Air Forces, United States Army. For meritorious achievement in aerial flight while participating in an operational mission against the enemy on 4 March, 1944, when he by his skill and courage successfully destroyed one enemy aircraft. Entered military service from West Virginia.

By command of Major General KEMMLER:

FRANCIS H. CRISWOLD,
Brig. General, USA,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

s/ John J. Sailors,
t/ JOHN J. SAILORS,
Colonel, A.C.D.,
Adjutant General

A TRUE EXTRACT

(4)

DAVE C. WILLET,
Capt, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

SECRET