

CONFIDENTIAL

ENCOUNTER REPORT

LT. MERLE B. NICHOLS

- a. Encounter
- b. 4 January 1944
- c. 79th Fighter Squadron
- d. Approximately 1115
- e. Kiel
- f. Visibility good
- g. Do 217
- h. Damaged
- i.

I was flying at 31,000 feet on Lt. Col. Jenkins', the Group leader, wing. A Do 217 passed under us at right angles about 6,000 feet below. We made a wide circle to lose altitude without gaining too much speed and approached him from the rear and above. As he was heading for cloud cover we fired from about 700 yards closing to about 600 yards before he disappeared into the clouds. He received strikes. We had good cover and could have closed to a better firing range had the overcast not been so high.

- j. Ser No of A/C: 42-67515
A/C Markings: MC-N
Ammunition expended: 55 rounds each machine gun
30 rounds cannon

Merle B. Nichols
MERLE B. NICHOLS,
1st Lt., Air Corps.

Edward J. Steiner
EDWARD J. STEINER,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer.

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NND 745005
Authority
By *CC* NARA Date *9/28/10*

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ENCOUNTER REPORT

LT. DONALD A. REIHER

- a. Encounter
- b. 4 January 1944
- c. 79th Fighter Squadron
- d. Approximately 1115
- e. Kiel
- f. Visibility good
- g. Do 217
- h. Unknown
- i.

I was flying second element leader to Lt. Col. Jenkins in White flight of 79th Fighter Squadron when at 3 o'clock we sighted 3 Do 217's at 29,000 feet. At that time we were at 31,000 feet. Visibility was unlimited. The time was 1115 and we were S.W. of Kiel. Col. Jenkins bounced 2 which were flying together; the other crossed under our formation. Group Leader told me to bounce that. I made a diving turn followed by my wingman, Lt. Wyman. We made the bounce at approximately 27,000 feet. I started firing at about 700 yards - his one top gun returned the fire and he went into a vertical dive through a very light overcast. I continued the burst for 3-4 seconds then joined the formation at which time my left prop ran away. I feathered it and came home on right engine. No claim. Pending assessment of film.

j. Ser No of A/C: 42-67511

A/C Markings: NC-R

Ammunition expended: Unknown. Plane is at another base.

Donald A. Reihner
DONALD A. REIHER,
1st Lt., Air Corps.

Edward J. Steiner

EDWARD J. STEINER,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer.

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