

"CONFIDENTIAL"

ENCOUNTER REPORT

F/O M. L. BYRD

- a. Combat
- b. 14 January 1944
- c. 79th Fighter Squadron
- d. 1505
- e. Rouen
- f. Visibility good
- g. FW 190
- h. Destroyed 1 FW 190 shared with Lt. Col. B. M. Russell
- i.

I was flying White 2 northeast of Rouen at about 1505 at 17000 ft. on the starboard side of bombers coming in. We saw 2 FW 190s approaching at our altitude about 4 or 5 miles away. White 1, (Group Leader) turned towards them and E/A dived towards the deck with White 1 and myself following in about a 45 deg. dive. White 1 was dead astern and opened fire. I was above and to the right and opened fire at about 400 yds. and closed to 100 yds. firing a short burst then a long burst of approximately 4 sec. Flames shot out of right side of engine followed by pieces flying out of side and top and black smoke. Altitude was about 4000 ft. When I first opened fire it was about a 20 deg. angle from above and gradually closed to dead astern.

Claim: Destroyed 1 FW 190 - shared with Lt. Col. Russell

j. Ser. No. of a/c : 42-67717

Marking of a/c: MC-I

Ammunition Expended: 282 rds. 50 cal.
60 rds. 20 mm.

M. L. Byrd
M. L. Byrd
F/O, Air Corps
20th F. Group

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

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NND 745805

Authority
By *CEC* NARA Date 9/28/10

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ENCOUNTER REPORT

Lt. HARVEY MEDNICK

- a. Combat
- b. 14 January 1944
- c. 79th Fighter Squadron
- d. Approximately 1520
- e. South of Pecamp
- f. Visibility Good
- g. FW 190s
- h. Destroyed: 1 FW 190 - shared with Maj. R. L. Ott
Damaged: 1 FW 190

i.

I was flying Red 2 at 15,000 ft. when 6 FW 190s bounced the flight. We turned into them and made a head on attack. I singled out one plane that was firing and opened fire at about 300 yds while indicating about 200 mph. I still had my belly tanks on. Saw pieces fly off the plane probably from the cowling. E/A went down and under. I turned left on Red Leader's wing and was trying to get rid of my belly tanks when Red 3 yelled for me to break and I did violently. I then dropped my tanks with manual release and rejoined Red Leader. Weaved over B24s about 10 minutes and saw a B24 explode far out of our area to the southwest at about 10,000 to 12,000 ft and saw a FW 190 coming from that area and towards the bombers. We maneuvered up sun and came down on his tail in a slow diving turn to the left. I slid on the inside of the turn. At this time we were at 10,000 ft. Red Leader opened fire. I gave about 3 rings deflection and opened fire at about 300 yards and closed to 200 yds. or less. Red leader was also firing. E/A took no evasive action, just a gentle diving turn to the left. Fired about 4 sec. Black smoke poured from the engine. Strikes were all on the engine and fuselage. We broke off at 4000 ft. as the E/A went into a steep dive apparently out of control. I fired on at least two other lanes in the encounter but observed no hits.

Claim: Destroyed: 1 FW 190 - shared with Maj. R. L. Ott
Damaged: 1 FW 190.

- j. Serial No. of A/C 42-67206
A/C Marking: MC-X
Ammunition Expended: 668 rds. 50 caliber
66 rds. 20 mm.

Harvey Mednick
HARVEY MEDNICK
2nd Lt., Air Corps
20th Ftr. Group

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

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ENCOUNTER REPORT

LT. F. E. LEFEVRE

- a. Combat
- b. 14 January 1944
- c. 1944 Fighter Squadron, 20th Fighter Group
- d. 1915
- e. South of Rouen
- f. Clear - visibility good.
- g. Me 109
- h. 1 Probably Destroyed
- i.

Flying Blue 2 I followed Blue Leader into a steep turning climb to the right with combat flaps down and full rpm. I was unable to control violent buffeting which occurred in that turn and the plane fell into a spin from 16,000 ft. recovering at about 10,000 ft. in a vertical dive. I then noticed 2 Me 109s about 1500 to 2000 feet below orbiting to the left. The lead a/c made for the deck and I opened fire on No. 2 with three rings deflection from 60 degrees above observing a few strikes around the cockpit. The E a/c started smoking, slowly straightened out and went into a shallow straight dive. I was directly astern about 500 yards, gave another 5 sec. burst, and observed continued smoke from the right side of the fuselage and wing root. At approximately 5000 ft. realizing I still had flaps down and that I was alone I broke off and left the area. Afterwards I joined Yellow 1 and 2 who were giving protection to one of our planes on single engine.

Claim: I believe the E/A was probably destroyed.

- j. Serial No. of A/C 42-67725

A/C Markings: MC-U

Ammunition Expended: 600 rounds 50 caliber
100 rounds 20 mm.

F. E. Lefevre
F. E. LEFEVRE
2nd Lt., Air Corps
20th Ftr. Gp.

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

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ENCOUNTER REPORT

LT. LEONARD S. SMUTKO

- a. Combat
- b. 14 January 1944
- c. 79th Fighter Squadron
- d. 1530
- e. Rouen
- f. Visibility good
- g. Me 109s
- h. 1 Me 109 Damaged
- i.

I was flying yellow 2 and our flight was weaving with blue flight about 20 miles south of Rouen at 14,000 ft. about 1530. We were covering B24s. Seven s.e. E/a went over us heading south-east. We followed about 10 miles and as we were not gaining we turned back to the bombers. On our second weave as we were crossing each other we were bounced by 7 Me 109s - yellow orange on belly and blue gray on top. I looked back and saw a 109 firing at yellow 4. I called him to break. Yellow leader broke and put down his flaps in a left turn. White leader turned to the right and fired at a 109. I was on the inside and fired a short burst at the 2nd 109 at a range of 400 yds. and a 40° deflection. We straightened out and I fired from 400 yds. directly astern and slightly above. Fired about 1 sec. burst. Yellow 3 called for help so we broke off. I saw strikes on the wing of the 109.

Claim: 1 Me 109 Damaged

- j. Ser. No. of A/C 42-67471

A/C Marking: MC-S

Ammunition Expended: 131 rds. 50 cal.
35 rds. 20 mm.

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

Leonard S. Smutko
LEONARD S. SMUTKO
2nd Lt., Air Corps
20th Ftr. Group

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ENCOUNTER REPORT

LT. T. A. HANZO

- a. Combat
- b. 14 January 1944
- c. 79th Fighter Squadron, 20th Fighter Group
- d. Approximately 1520
- e. South of Fecamp
- f. Visibility good.
- g. 2 FW 190s
- h. Damaged 2 FW 190s
- i.

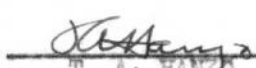
I was Red 3 flying at 15,000 ft. with belly tanks on when six FW 190s bounced Red Flight. I turned into them and upon the completion of a 360 deg. turn I fired at a FW 190 that was breaking out of the Luftberry. We were both in a vertical bank - opposite banks, range about 200 yds., indicated air speed about 280. I gave a 2 sec. burst and observed strikes on his left wing. I could not follow because of other E/A on my tail. Claim: Damaged

I took large deflection shots at 2 other planes in this encounter but observed no hits and then while in a climbing turn I saw a FW 190 on the tail of Red 2 500 ft. above me. I called Red 2 to break and the FW 190 peeled off to the left in a steep dive. I pushed over violently and fired a long burst at about 500 yds and observed strikes in the fuselage behind the cockpit. I broke off to cover the tail of Red Leader who was attacking another FW 190. Claim: Damaged


Total Claim: 2 FW 190s damaged.

- j. Serial No. of a/c : 42-67502
- A/C Marking: MC-H
- Ammunition Expended: 222 rds. 50 cal.
59 rds. 20 mm.


EDWARD A. STEIN
1st Lt., Air Corps
Intelligence Officer


T. A. HANZO
1st Lt., Air Corps
20th Ftr. Group

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ENCOUNTER REPORTS

LT. M. B. NICHOLS

- a. Combat
- b. 14 January 1944
- c. 79th Fighter Squadron
- d. 1505
- e. Rouen
- f. Visibility good
- g. FW 190
- h. Destroyed 1 FW 190
- i.

I was flying White 3 N. E. of Rouen at about 1505 at 17000 ft. on the starboard side of B24s coming in. Saw 2 FW 190s approaching to make passes at bombers both of them at our altitude. They were South of us about 4 or 5 miles away. White 1 (Group Leader) turned towards them. E/A dived towards deck. White 1 and 2 overtook 1 FW 190 and fired causing heavy smoke to pour out. I was following and covering. White 1 and 2 broke off and made 180 deg. turn to the left climbing slowly. I circled over them and when at 11 o'clock to White 1 I saw a FW 190 coming in and firing. I called White 1 to break and he did quickly. I turned onto the ~~FW 190~~ tail of the FW 190 taking him down to the deck firing from astern when coming out of the dive at about 500 ft. altitude at about 350 yds. and closed in to 250 yds. with a 3 sec. burst. Strikes were in engine; smoke poured out and plane was still in a gentle dive as I broke off and returned to Group Leader who was on single engine. With the rest of the Flight I covered Grp. Leader out of enemy territory. 6E/A followed us part way out made no attack.

Claim: Destroyed 1 FW 190.

j. Ser. No. of a/c 42-67515

A/C Marking : MC-N

Ammunition Expended: 218 rds. 50 cal.
4 rds. cannon

The above encounter was witnessed by me and the plane was then seen burning on the ground.

Markel L. Byrd
MARKEL L. BYRD

F/O, Air Corps
20th Ftr. Gp.

Edward J. Steiner

EDWARD J. STEINER
1ST. Lt. Air Corps
Intelligence Officer

Merle B. Nichols

MERLE B. NICHOLS
1st. Lt., Air Corps
20th Group - Ftr.

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ENCOUNTER REPORT

CAPT. ROBERT J. MEYER

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NND 745805
Authority
By CEC NARA Date 9/28/10

- a. Combat
- b. 14 January 1944
- c. 79th Fighter Squadron
- d. 1530
- e. Rouen
- f. Visibility good
- g. Me 109s
- h. 2 Me 109s Damaged
- i. Blue leader

I was in a slight right turn at about 15,000 ft. with a flight of four, abreast of another flight of four on my right when 3 Me 109s bounced us from 4 o'clock slightly above. I called them in and broke into them but because of the belly tanks we were carrying could not turn sharp enough to ward off the attack. I released the tanks as soon as possible - by then 4 more Me 109s had joined the attack. Two of these passed across the front of me at 90° and I fired a short burst at about 300 yds. I then chased 2 other 109s in a slight left turn and expended nearly all my ammunition firing from 600 yds. to 300 yds. starting at 90° deflection and closing to about 5°. I saw strikes on the wings of one plane and my wingman saw pieces fly off the other. I claim 2 damaged Me 109Es. These were reported as FW 190s in the mission report because of the square wing tips. My wingman spun out on the first break and my element leader then joined me.

Claim: 2 Me 109s Damaged

- j. Ser. No. of A/C 42-67652

A/C Marking: MC-M

Ammunition Expended: 772 rds. 50 cal. (1-50 jammed after 20 rds.)
149 rds. 20 mm.

Robert J. Meyer
ROBERT J. MEYER
Capt., Air Corps
20th Ftr. Group

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

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ENCOUNTER REPORT

CAPT. L. F. GRAHAM

- a. Combat
- b. 14 January 1944
- c. 79th Fighter Squadron
- d. 1530
- e. Rouen
- f. Visibility good
- g. Me 109s
- h. 1 Me 109 Damaged
- i.

I was leading yellow flight and was weaving the flight with blue flight about 20 miles South of Rouen at 14,000 ft. about 1530. We were covering B24s. Seven s.e. E/a went over us heading southeast. We followed about 10 miles and as we were not gaining we turned back to the bombers. On our second weave as we were crossing each other we were bounced by 7 Me 109s which appeared to have clipped tips but possibly no tail struts as in the Me 109 E. I turned into them to the right. Yellow 4 was hit, lost an engine and went to the deck. Yellow 3 yelled that he had two on his tail. I threw flaps down, dropped my tanks and broke left. One of the 109s peeled off but the other stayed on Yellow 3's tail. I turned inside him and at 300 yds. and an angle of 40 deg. I opened fire. I saw hits on the left side of the fuselage and a puff of smoke. The 109 half rolled and went straight down. I broke off to help Yellow 3 who had a smoking right engine.

Claim: 1 Me 109 Damaged

j. Ser. No. of A/C 42-67497

A/C Marking: MC-1

Ammunition Expended: 236 rds. 50 cal.
52 rds. 20 mm.

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

Lindol F. Graham
LINDOL F. GRAHAM
Capt., Air Corps
20th Ftr. Group

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By CEC NARA Date 9/28/10

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ENCOUNTER REPORT

MAJ. R. L. OTT

- a. Combat
- b. 14 January 1944
- c. 79th Fighter Squadron
- d. 1515
- e. S. of Pecamp
- f. Visibility good
- g. FW 190s
- h. 1 FW 190 Destroyed - shared with Lt. H. Mednick
1 FW 190 Damaged
- i.

I was flying Red Leader. While patrolling the area from Pecamp to Abbeville about 25 B24s headed inland and separated into two sections. White and Red Flights took the westerly section and weaved at about 15,000 ft. with the bombers at 12,000 ft. We were about 1 mile to the rear of the bombers when 2 FW 190s diving past and in front of us about 2000 ft. below headed for the bombers. White Flight followed these two and was covered by Red Flight. Six FW 190s immediately bounced from 3000 ft. above us, in the sun and about 5 o'clock to us. Red Flight turned into them and made head on passes turning into several luffberrys. I made a 180 Deg. turn and got on the tail of a FW 190. We were in a shallow dive. I opened fire at about 400 yds., closed to 300 yds giving a 3 sec. burst. Strikes were on the fuselage and a piece flew off apparently from the canopy. E/A did a half roll and went down in a steep dive. I broke off because of the presence of other E/A. Claim: Damaged

I fired at about 3 or more FW 190s most of the shots being 90 deg. deflection shots with no hits observed.

After these encounters we went back to the bombers and about 10 minutes later we saw a B24 explode SW of our area and S. of leHavre. There was a lone FW 190 in this area heading east about 5 miles away. Our altitude was 15,000 ft. We maneuvered up sun and came down on his tail in a slow diving turn to the left. At 8000 ft. I was above and behind him and opened fire with a short burst at 400 yds. I then withheld my fire and opened again at 300 yds. closing to 200 yds. with a 3 sec. burst. My wingman was behind me and on my left. Strikes were seen on engine and fuselage and smoke came from the engine, first light then heavy black smoke. E/A went into a steep dive. We broke off at 3500 ft.

We picked up Yellow 3 who was on single engine and brought him home. Also picked up and escorted a lone B24 in trouble.

Claim: Destroyed: 1 FW 190 - shared with Lt. Mednick
Damaged: 1 FW 190

- j. Ser. No. 42-67708; Marking MC-P
Ammun. Expended: 547-50 cal; 149 - 20 mms.

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

Richard L. Ott
RICHARD L. OTT
Major, Air Corps
20th Group

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ENCOUNTER REPORT

LT. COL. B. M. RUSSELL

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 745805
By CEC NARA Date 9/28/10

- a. Combat
- b. 14 January 1944
- c. 79th Fighter Squadron
- d. 1505
- e. Rouen
- f. Visibility good
- g. FW 190
- h. Destroyed 1 FW 190 shared with F/O M. L. Byrd
- i.

While supporting a box of B-17's NE of Rouen two bogies were reported at 2 oclock same level to our position. They made an attempt on the front of the bombers which we broke up. The bogies were then identified as FW 190's painted grey. The 190's then made a wide 180° to the right and dropped to 12,000 ft. I turned my flight with them keeping between them and the bombers. As they came abreast the rear of the bombers they made an attack on the rear of the bombers at which time we bounced them causing them to dive for the ground. We followed, closing slowly from about 880 yds to 400 yds. I fired a short burst from this distance then held my fire until I was dead astern and at 150 yds where I again opened fire and continued to 50 yds. Engine trouble kept me from seeing him crash but heavy smoke was seen rising from that vicinity a few moments later.

Claim: 1 FW 190 Destroyed - shared with F/O Byrd.

- j. Ser. No. of a/c: 42-67672
- Marking of a/c: MC-Y
- Ammunition Expended: 320 rds. 50 cal.
40 rds. 20 mm.

B. M. RUSSELL,
Lt. Col. Air Corps,
20th Fighter Group.

D. J. NIGHTINGALE,
Major, Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer.

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