

PILOT'S PERSONAL ENCOUNTER REPORT

A. TYPE OF ACTION:

- (1) Combat, if casualties or damage is inflicted.
- (2) ~~Encounter, if no casualties or damage~~
- (3) ~~Encounter, if no casualties or damage~~

B. DATE: 30 January 1944.

C. UNIT: 77th Fighter Squadron, 20th Fighter Group.

D. TIME ATTACK MADE: 1210.

E. GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF ATTACK: Vicinity of Osnabruck.

F. WEATHER: Clear - 10/10 clouds at 6,000 - 3/10 clouds at 26,000.

G. TYPE OF ENEMY AIRCRAFT: DO-217.

H. ENEMY CASUALTIES (Pilot's claim): One (1) DO-217 Damaged.

I. ACCOUNT OF COMBAT (In narrative form, stressing ours and enemy's tactics.)

I was leading my wingman home due to difficulties he encountered in flying his aircraft at high altitude. From 22,000 feet we sighted E/A off to starboard at about 15,000 feet. The E/A was quite some distance away which ruined any element of surprise I might have had. With 2 Radii lead and range about 150 yards I opened fire. About one second later the E/A half rolled and attempted to dive away. I followed firing several bursts and had to use combat flaps to keep from over running. A dark object about the size of an ordinary wing flap seemed to come off the right wing of the E/A near the wing root. My speed had increased by now to the point where I was forced to pull out. Coming out of the dive I again turned after same E/A who was heading towards Germany. The E/A immediately dove into the overcast.

I Claim: One (1) DO-217 Damaged.

J. Flying Plane - LC-P Serial No. 42-67819.
Ammunition Expended: 460 rounds 50 caliber
26 rounds 20mm Cannon.

Merle J. Gilbertson
MERLE J. GILBERTSON,
1st Lt., Air Corps.

Joseph R. Genest
JOSEPH R. GENEST,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer.

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Authority 745805
NARA Date 9/28/40

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ENCOUNTER REPORT

LT. MERLE J. GILBERTSON

- A. Combat
- B. 30 January 1944
- C. 77th Fighter Squadron, 20th Fighter Group
- D. 1210
- E. Vicinity of Osnabruck
- F. Clear - 10/10 clouds at 6,000 - 3/10 clouds at 26,000.
- G. Do 217
- H. One (1) Do 217 DAMAGED
- I.

I was leading my wingman home due to difficulties he encountered in flying his aircraft at high altitude. From 22,000 feet we sighted E/A off to starboard at about 15,000 feet. The E/A was quite some distance away which ruined any element of surprise I might have had. With 2 Radii lead and range about 150 yards I opened fire. About one second later the E/A half rolled and attempted to dive away. I followed firing several bursts and had to use combat flaps to keep from over running. A dark object about the size of an ordinary wing flap seemed to come off the right wing of the E/A near the wing root. My speed had increased by now to the point where I was forced to pull out. Coming out of the dive I again turned after same E/A who was heading towards Germany. The E/A immediately dove into the overcast.

I Claim: One (1) Do 217 DAMAGED.

- J. Ser No of A/c: 42-67819
- A/c Markings: LC-P
- Ammunition Expended: 480 rounds 50 caliber
26 rounds 20mm Cannon.

/s/ Merle J. Gilbertson
MERLE J. GILBERTSON,
1st Lt., Air Corps,

/s/ Joseph R. Genest
JOSEPH R. GENEST,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer.

A TRUE COPY:

Gerald F Costello
GERALD F. COSTELLO, 408
Captain, Air Corps,
Asst A-2, 67 FW.

(D-3)

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Authority
DCC NARA Date 8/25/10

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ENCOUNTER REPORT

CAPT. RICHARD P. GATTERDAM

- A. Combat
- B. 30 January 1944
- C. 79th Fighter Squadron
- D. 1200
- E. Brunswick, Germany
- F. Visibility good
- G. Me 210s
- H. 1 Me 210 DESTROYED - shared with Lt. J.T. Martin.
- I.

Leading red flight, having lost my second element, saw a flight of 4 Me 210s. Starting to press attack on bombers they split and I followed right 2 down, started chase at 25,000 feet down to 20,000 feet started firing at 400 yards observing strikes and pieces falling from just outside of left engine. Closed to about 25 feet and silenced rear barbettes. Strikes observed all over cockpit and left engine smoking. Believe pilot was killed, as first part of attack he was taking evasive action, but after a few bursts the rear gunner stopped firing and plane went into steeper dive. I over ran, so my wingman took over, and I noticed strikes from his gun before he pulled up.

Claim: 1 Me 210 DESTROYED - shared with Lt J.T. Martin.

J. Ser No of A/c: 42-67491
A/c Markings: MC-G
Ammunition Expended: 400 rds 50 cal
74 rds 20 mm.

/s/ Richard P. Gatterdam
RICHARD P. GATTERDAM,
Capt., Air Corps,
20th Ftr Group.

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

A TRUE COPY:

Gerald F. Costello
GERALD F. COSTELLO, 405
Captain, Air Corps,
Asst A-2, 67 FW.

(D-3)

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Authority 745005
NARA Date 9/25/00

ENCOUNTER REPORT

Robert J. Meyer, 1st Lt., Air Corps.

A. Engagement; B. 12/31/43; C. 79th F. Sq. 20th F. Gp.
D. 1210; E. Bordeaux; F. Visibility good;
G. Me 109 F or G; H. None.

- I. Followed by my wing man, I was in a loose climbing circle to the left with a Me 109 180° across the circle from me. I had previously dropped my belly tanks. I cut directly across the circle putting my nose on him. He dove in and down and pulled up level-with me following astern. He then did a violent skid to the right and pushed over into a steep dive. I followed and finding I couldn't close - fired two short bursts at about 600 yards and then broke off at about 20,000 feet by pulling up into a sharp right climb. My wing man followed me at about 200 yards the whole time.

Robert J. Meyer
ROBERT J. MEYER,
1st Lt., Air Corps.

Edward J. Steiner
1st Lt. AC
S-2

ENCOUNTER REPORT

Lindell F. Graham, 1st Lt. A. C.

A. Engagement; B. 12/31/43; C. 79th F. Sq. 10th F. Gr.
D. 1157; E. Bordeaux; F. Visibility good; G. FW 190;
H. 1 a/c damaged.

- I. I was leading the 79th Squadron flying lead ship in white flight. We were sweeping the target area and we were slightly south and west of the target at 22,000 feet. I saw 2 FW 190's below just as the group leader reported them. I peeled off with my flight and started down keeping my belly tanks because I wanted the gas in case of a fight on the way home. I used 50 inches and 2650 R.P.M. to gain speed in the dive. My wing man was F/O Ryd and he was following me down. The 190 was in a gentle turn as I approached from 15°. In order to pull out and follow him I used combat flap to help come out of my dive. The plane came out of the dive very nicely even with belly tanks and an indicated speed of over 375. I followed the 190 and at about 350 yards and an angle of 10° I opened fire with four 50's. I was closing slowly and saw four or five hits on his right wing just before he went into the overcast. I pulled up and started climbing back up from 10,000 feet. My second element stayed about 3,000 feet over me during the engagement and another flight stayed at 20,000 feet. My wing man and the rest of the flight provided protection during the whole engagement.

Lindell F. Graham
LINDELL F. GRAHAM,
1st Lt., Air Corps.

Edward Steiner
1st Lt. A. C.
S-2

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ENCOUNTER REPORT

CAPT. R. P. GATTERDAM

- a. Combat
- b. 30 January 1944
- c. 29th Fighter Squadron
- d. 1200
- e. Brunswick, Germany
- f. Visibility good
- g. Me 210s
- h. 1 Me 210 Destroyed shared with Lt. J.T. Martin
- i.

Leading red flight, having lost me second element, saw a flight of 4 Me 210s. Starting to press attack on bombers they split and I followed right 2 down, started chase at 26,000 feet down to 20,000 feet started firing at 400 yards observing strikes and pieces falling from just outside of left engine. Closed to about 25 feet and silenced rear barbettes. Strikes observed all over cockpit and left engine smoking. Believe pilot was killed, as first part of attack he was taking evasive action, but after a few bursts the rear gunner stopped firing and plane went into steeper dive. I over ran, so my wingman took over, and I noticed strikes from his gun before he pulled up.

Claim: 1 Me 210 Destroyed - shared with Lt. J. T. Martin

- j. Ser. No. of A/C 42-67491

A/C Marking: MC-G

Ammunition Expended: 400 rds. 50 cal.
74 rds. 20 mm.

Richard P. Gatterdam
RICHARD P. GATTERDAM
Capt., Air Corps
20th Ftr. Group

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

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ENCOUNTER REPORT

LT. MACK D. FALL (M.I.A.)
LT. FRANK H. ROARK JR.


- a. Combat
- b. 30 January 1944
- c. 79th Fighter Squadron
- d. 1250
- e. Near Minden
- f. Visibility good
- g. Do 217s
- h. 1 Do 217 Destroyed shared by Lt. Mack D. Fall
- i.

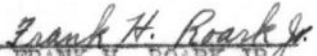
While Major Ott was firing at the Do 217, 1st Lt. Mack D. Fall and I were firing at the other Do 217. More strikes were observed on the left side of the fuselage and flames came out. Two men bailed out of the right side of the Do 217 and I saw them float down. The Do 217 nosed down and went down to the left flaming. I could not stay around to watch as Me 109s and FW 190s were in the vicinity.

Claim: 1 Do 217 Destroyed Shared by Lt. Mack D. Fall

- 1. Lt. Fall Ser. No. of A/C 42-67646
A/C Marking: MC-A
Ammunition expended: Unknown

Lt. Roark Ser. No. of A/C 42-67206
A/C Marking: MC-X
Ammunition expended: 140 rds. 50 cal.
25 rds. 20 mm.


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


FRANK H. ROARK JR.
2nd Lt., Air Corps
79th Fighter Squadron

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J. Ser No. of A/C 42-67516
A/C Marking: MC-L
Ammunition Expended: Unknown

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

Melvin H. Orr
MELVIN H. ORR
1st Lt., Air Corps
79th Fighter Squadron

Frank H. Roark Jr.
FRANK H. ROARK JR.
2nd Lt., Air Corps
79th Fighter Squadron

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ENCOUNTER REPORT

LT. JACK T. MARTIN

- a. Combat
- b. 30 January 1944
- c. 79th Fighter Squadron
- d. 1200
- e. Brunswick, Germany
- f. Visibility good
- g. Me 210
- h. 1 Me 210 Destroyed shared with Capt. R.P. Gatterdam
- i.

Lt. Martin was flying Red 2 when Red leader (Capt. Gatterdam) saw a flight of 4 Me 210s. Red leader attacked and 2 Me 210s split away from the other two. Chase was started at 26,000 feet. At 20,000 feet Red leader fired at one from 400 yards and pieces fell from outside of left engine. Red leader closed to 25 yards and silenced rear barbettes and as he passed E/A, called Red 2 to take over. Red 2 fired from 350 yards dead astern and closed to about 50 yards firing short bursts. Strikes were observed by Red Leader and Red 2.

E/A was badly hit on left engine, wing root and all over cockpit, left engine was smoking and plane stopped all evasive action which had been violent at first and went into a steep dive. It is believed that the pilot was killed.

On the way home Lt. Martin was severely wounded when bounced by Me 109s. He flew the plane back to England on single engine and has been hospitalized since that time. (Awarded Purple Heart and DFC for extraordinary achievement).

No previous encounter report was filed by Lt. Martin on this claim but Capt. Gatterdam claimed this Me 210 destroyed shared with Lt. Martin and this claim of Capt. Gatterdam's was confirmed.

Claim: 1 Me 210 Destroyed - Shared with Capt. R.P. Gatterdam

- j. Ser. No. of A/C 42-67514
- A/C Marking: MC-3
- Ammunition Expended: Unknown

Edward J. Steiner
EDWARD J. STEINER
Capt., Air Corps
Intelligence Officer

Richard P. Gatterdam
RICHARD P. GATTERDAM
Capt., Air Corps

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Authority
By CCC NARA Date 9/23/10

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

ENCOUNTER REPORT

LT JACK T. MARTIN

- a. Combat
- b. 30 January 1944
- c. 79th Fighter Squadron
- d. 1200
- e. Brunswick, Germany
- f. Visibility good
- g. Me 210
- h. 1 Me 210 Destroyed shared with Capt. R.P. Gatterdam.

i.

Lt Martin was flying Red 2 when Red Leader (Capt. Gatterdam) saw a flight of 4 Me 210s. Red Leader attacked and 2 Me 210s split away from the other two. Chase was started at 26,000 ft. At 20,000 ft Red Leader fired at one from 400 yds and pieces fell from outside of left engine. Red Leader closed to 25 yds and silenced rear barbettes and as he passed E/A, called Red 2 to take over. Red 2 fired from 350 yds dead astern and closed to about 50 yds firing short bursts. Strikes were observed by Red Leader and Red 2.

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No previous encounter report was filed by Lt. Martin on this claim but Capt. Gatterdam claimed this Me 210 destroyed shared with Lt. Martin and this claim of Capt. Gatterdam's was confirmed.

Claim: 1 Me 210 Destroyed - Shared with
Capt. R. P. Gatterdam.

- j. Serial No. of A/C: 42-67514
- A/C Markings: MC-Q
- Ammunition Expended: Unknown

/s/ Richard P. Gatterdam
RICHARD P. GATTERDAM
Capt., Air Corps,

/s/ Edward J. Steiner,
EDWARD J. STEINER,
Capt., Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer.

A TRUE COPY:

Karl S. Elebash
KARL S. ELEBASH,
2nd Lt., Air Corps,
Ass't A-2, 67 Fw.

(D-7)

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

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Authority 745805
By GCE NARA Date 9/28/40

ENCOUNTER REPORT

Robert J. Meyer, 1st Lt., Air Corps.

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D. 1210; E. Bordeaux; F. Visibility good;
G. Me 109 F or G; H. None.

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Robert J. Meyer

ROBERT J. MEYER,
1st Lt., Air Corps.

Edward Steiner
1st Lt. AC

S-2