

PILOT'S PERSONAL ENCOUNTER REPORT

LT. COL. ROBERT P. MONTGOMERY

- a. Combat.
- b. 5 February 1944.
- c. Hq. 20th Fighter Group (leading 77th Fighter Squadron).
- d. 1100.
- e. Bourges Airfield.
- f. Clear.
- g. FW 200 and HE 111.
- h. 1 FW 200 Destroyed (Shared with Capt. Sabo and 2nd Lt. Davis).
- i. Account of Combat.

I was leading the 77th Fighter Squadron on close escort of a combat wing of B-17's. They were bombing an airfield in the Ste. Avord area from about 16,000 feet. Just prior to bombs away it was noticed that several large ships were taking off from the aerodrome below us. Col. Russell leading the group sent the 77th Squadron down after them with the 55th Squadron as high cover at about 10,000 feet. We dropped belly tanks and dove down to the deck. I located a FW 200 almost immediately at about 50 feet and closed in on him. I fired three 2-second bursts at him while he was in a vertical bank to the left. On the first burst I led him about $\frac{1}{2}$ a ring and missed him. On the second and third bursts I corrected my lead to nearly a full ring and saw one burst making strikes on his fuselage and the other hit both right engines which immediately burst into flames. Then I pulled off to one side to let the other boys shoot at him before he went down. A total of about six ships fired at him before he blew up and went into the ground.

I then located a HE 111 about five miles away at an altitude of 500 feet. I closed in on his tail and fired one long burst at him. I did a certain amount of wiggling to confuse the rear gunner who was firing at me. I saw strikes on his fuselage and also on the right wing. This was a dead astern shot closing from 300 yards to about 100 yards. I pulled off to one side to give someone else a shot. My wingman, Lt. Frakes, fired and I saw strikes all over the fuselage. Lt. Morris, the third man in my flight, opened fire and both engines burst into flames. The left wing flew off and the ship rolled over and went into the ground.

I claim one (1) FW 200 Destroyed (Shared with Capt. Sabo and 2nd Lt. Davis).

No claim made on HE 111.

- j. Ser. No. of A/C: 42-68036
- A/C Markings: LC-M
- Ammunition expended: 746 rds. 50 cal.
58 rds. 20 mm.

ROBERT P. MONTGOMERY,
Lt. Colonel, Air Corps.

CONFIRMATION OF CLAIM

I was flying Lt. Col. Montgomery's wing when he bounced a FW 200 flying about 50 feet off the ground. I saw Lt. Col. Montgomery open fire on the E/A at 5-10 degrees deflection. I saw the inboard starboard engine catch on fire and strikes on the right wing and cockpit. I pulled off to the right and looking back saw the FW 200 go into the ground and explode.

ROBERT L. FRAKES
2nd Lt., Air Corps.

Francis E. Larkin
FRANCIS E. LARKIN,
1st Lt. Air Corps,
Asst. Gp. Intelligence O.

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~~PILOT'S PERSONAL AND PRIVATE PROPERTY~~

2ND LT. JOHN W. REID

- A. Combat
- B. February 5, 1944
- C. 77th Fighter Squadron, 20th Fighter Group
- D. 1125
- E. Bourges Airfield
- F. Clear
- G. FW-200
- H. No claim
- I.

I was flying White four position at 18,000 feet. The Group leader told Rebuke leader to go down for bounce on aircraft taking off from airfield below. Followed Colonel Montgomery down to fifty (50) feet where, after first three ships had fired, I fired a two-second burst at 20° from 200 yards. As I went by I noticed ship blazing from right inboard engine to fuselage.

No claim.

- J. Flying plane LC-Y
Serial No. 42-67716
Ammunition expended: 90 rounds of 50 caliber
20 rounds of 20mm cannon.

/s/ John W. Reid
JOHN W. REID
2nd Lieut., Air Corps

/s/ Francis W. Barkley
FRANCIS W. BARKLEY
1st Lieut., Air Corps
Intelligence Officer

TRUE COPY

Frederic F. Costello
FREDERIC F. COSTELLO
Captain, Air Corps
Asst A-2, 67 FW

E-1)

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By *CEC* NARA Date 9/28/10

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PILOT'S PERSONAL ENCOUNTER REPORT

2nd LT JACK E. DAVIS

- A. Combat
- B. 5 February 1944
- C. 77th Fighter Squadron
- D. 1122
- E. Bourges Airfield
- F. Clear
- G. FW 200
- H. 1 FW 200 DESTROYED (Shared with Capt Sabo and Lt Col Montgomery)

I. First sighted e/a low on deck while flying at 13,000 feet. Capt Sabo and flight dove down to a position dead astern and slightly above. E/a appeared to have small fire in tail. We closed to approximately 100 yards I gave a two (2) second burst and saw strikes all over e/a and then saw it explode and crash. Capt Sabo was firing at the same time.

I claim one (1) FW 200 DESTROYED (Shared with Capt Sabo and Lt Col Montgomery).

- J. Flying Plane LC-4 Serial No 42-67442
Ammunition Expended 120 rounds of 50 caliber
28 rounds of 20mm cannon

/s/ Jack E. Davis,
JACK E. DAVIS,
2nd 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,
Captain, Air Corps,
ASS't A-2, 67 FW.

(D-12)

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PILOT'S PERSONAL UNCOMBATED REPORT

2ND LT. ROBERT L. FRANKS

- A. Combat
- B. February 6, 1944
- C. 77th Fighter Squadron, 20th Fighter Group
- D. 1124
- E. Bourges Airfield
- F. Clear
- G. He-111 and FW-200
- H. He-111 destroyed (shared with 1st Lt. JAMES M. MORRIS).

I.

I was flying White 2. White leader peeled off at 16,000 feet and dove to deck approaching FW-200 from 7 o'clock position, turning in to attack. Both of us fired at same time getting its inboard starboard engine which caught on fire. I was about 100 yds. behind leader on inside of turn and slightly above and got a 20° deflection shot. We broke right and climbed for altitude. Immediately after reaching about 1000 ft, He-111 was seen to my left. We made a pass at him by diving and turning slightly to left. I led one radius at 10° and opened fire at 250 yds., closing in to 100 yds. I saw strikes all over cockpit. Leader and I broke left very gently and climbed to regain altitude. He-111 was seen to go straight on and broke into flames after being fired upon by another plane after us.

I claim one (1) He-111 destroyed (shared with 1st Lt. James M. Morris).

- J. Flying plane - LC-7
- Serial No. 42-67229

Ammunition expended: 14 rounds of 20mm cannon
235 rounds of 50 caliber.

/s/ Robert L. Franks
ROBERT L. FRANKS
2nd Lt., Air Corps

/s/ Joseph E. Genest
JOSEPH E. GENEST
1st Lieut., Air Corps
Intelligence Officer

A TRUE COPY

Griff F. Castillo
GRIFF F. CASTILLO
Captain, Air Corps
Asst A-2, 67 FW

(D-1)

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PILOT'S PERSONAL ENCOUNTER REPORT

1st Lt EVAN J. MACHEN

- A. Combat
- B. February 5, 1944
- C. 77th Fighter Squadron
- D. 1125
- E. Clear
- G. FW 200
- H. No claim

I. After leading Red flight down from 18,000 feet to deck to attack e/a taking off, I leveled off on tail of FW-200. I fired 2-3 second burst at 15° deflection at 300 yards closing to 200 yards. When I broke off aircraft was burning and I saw it hit ground and explode.

No claim.

- J. Flying Plane - LC-J Serial No. 42-67281
Ammunition Expended 109 rounds of 50 caliber
25 rounds of 20mm cannon

/s/ Evan J. Machen
EVAN J. MACHEN
1st Lt, A. C.

/s/ JOSEPH R. GERESE,
1st Lt, A. C.,
Intelligence Officer.

TRUE COPY

Gerald F. Costello
GERALD F. COSTELLO,
Captain, Air Corps,
Ass't A-2, 67 FW.

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PILOT'S PERSONAL ENCOUNTER REPORT

CAPT. PAUL J. SABO

- A. Combat
- B. 5 February 1944
- C. 77th Fighter Squadron
- D. 1122
- E. Bourges Airfield
- F. Clear
- G. FW 200 - HE 111
- H. 1 FW 200 DESTROYED (Shared with 2nd Lt Davis and Lt Col Montgomery)
No claim on HE 111

I. We sighted plane taking off airfield while flying at 18,000 feet. We dove down at dead astern slightly above them. At the time airplane appeared to have small fire in tail. I fired five (5) second burst closing to within 100 yds to 50 yds. Saw strike on left wing and center fuselage and cockpit. E/A immediately burst into flames and exploded. I flew over the wreckage.

I fired on HE 111 at 100 yds from dead astern about 1-2 second burst. Just as I fired the HE 111 went up on left wing and split-s into ground and exploded.

I claim one (1) FW 200 DESTROYED (Shared with Lt Col Montgomery and Lt Davis). No claim on HE-111.

- J. Flying Plane - LC-8 Serial No 42-87523
Ammunition Expended 482 Rounds of 30 Caliber
64 Rounds of 20MM Cannon

/s/ Paul J. Sabo
PAUL J. SABO
Capt, Air Corps

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

VERIFICATION OF CLAIM OF CAPT SABO

I was flying 3rd ship behind Capt. Sabo. There was two ships in front of Capt. Sabo who made an attack on FW 200 which was approximately 200 feet off ground. I saw flames coming from tail of FW 200 from strikes made by 1st two ships that fired. Capt. Sabo fired at the ship and the ship exploded.

/s/ Robert L. Holmes
ROBERT L. HOLMES,
Capt., Air Corps.

A TRUE COPY

Frank F. Costello
FRANK F. COSTELLO,
Captain, Air Corps,
Ass't G-2, 67 PW.

(D-12)

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By GCE NARA Date 9/28/00

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PILOT'S PERSONAL ENCOUNTER REPORT

2ND LT ALBERT L. GESE

- A. Combat
- B. 5 February 1944
- C. 77th Fighter Squadron
- D. 1123
- E. Bourges Airfield
- F. Clear
- G. FW 200
- H. No claim

I. I was flying Lt Machen's wing at 18,000 feet when FW 200 was sighted on deck and followed him down. Lt Col Montgomery's flight was in front of us and put the FW 200 in flames just as we got in range. I shot a two (2) second burst into the FW 200 and pulled away.

No claim.

- J. Flying Plane - LC-4 Serial No. 42-67758
- ammunition Expended 100 rounds of 50
- 19 rounds of 20mm

/s/ Albert L. Gese
ALBERT L. GESE,
2nd 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,
Captain, Air Corps,
Ass't A-2, 67 FW.

(D-12)

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PILOT'S PERSONAL ENCOUNTER REPORT

1ST LT; MERLE J. GILBERTSON

- A. Combat
- B. February 5, 1944
- C. 77th Fighter Squadron, 20th Fighter Group
- D. 1126
- E. Bourges Airfield
- F. Clear
- G. He-111 and FW-200
- H. One (1) He-111 destroyed, shared with Lt. Frakes and Lt. Morris

I. Flying Yellow No. 3 at 18,000 feet heard Group Leader tell Rebuke go down for bounce on aircraft taking off from field below. Four or five P-38s were in turn firing on FW-200 flying at 50 feet. As last P-38 broke off flame and smoke was coming out of right inboard engine. I cut across the circle and opened fire with about one radius lead at 300 yards. Strikes appeared all over the target. After about five seconds of firing the entire target burst into flame, I flew through the smoke and saw FW-200 crash.

After this we made turn to port and saw He-111 about 200-300 feet off ground. Three P-38s fired at this ship and I slid under third ship and as he broke off I opened fire at 250 yards dead astern and closed to 50 yards firing a five-second burst. Strikes seen on He-111 on both fuselage and right wing root. Tail assembly and right wing seemed to disintegrate and large pieces of wing flew back over my plane. Saw He-111 cartwheel flaming and crash and then explode.

I claim one (1) He-111 destroyed (shared with
Lts. Morris and Frakes pending assessment of film).

- J. Flying plane LC-P
Serial No. 42-67819
Ammunition expended: 150 rounds of 20mm cannon.
800 rounds of 50 caliber.

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

/s/ Francis W. Barkley
FRANCIS W. BARKLEY
1st Lieut., Air Corps
Intelligence Officer

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Gerald F. Costello
GERALD F. COSTELLO
Captain, Air Corps
Ass't A-2, 67 FW

(D-1)

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PILOT'S PERSONAL ENCOUNTER REPORT

CAPT. ROBERT W. HOLMES

- A. Combat
- B. 5 February 1944
- C. 77th Fighter Squadron, 90th Fighter Group
- D. 1122
- E. Bourges Airfield
- F. Clear
- G. FW 200
- H. No claim
- I.

I was flying 3rd ship behind Capt. Sabo. There were two ships in front of Capt. Sabo who made an attack on FW 200 which was approximately 200 feet off ground. I saw flames coming from tail of FW 200 from strikes made by first two ships that fired. Capt. Sabo fired at the ship and the ship exploded. I fired a short burst for good measure but the ship had already been totally destroyed.

No Claim.

- J. Flying plane - LC-X
Serial No. 42-67901
Ammunition expended 54 rounds of 50 Caliber
11 rounds of 20mm cannon

/s/ Robert W. Holmes
ROBERT W. HOLMES
Capt., Air Corps

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

TRUE COPY

[Signature]
GERALD F. COSTELLO
Captain, Air Corps
Asst A-2, 67FW

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PILOT'S PERSONAL ENCOUNTER REPORT

LT. COL. ROBERT P. MONTGOMERY

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NND 745805
Authority
ECC NARA Date 9/28/10

- A. Combat
- B. 5 February 1944
- C. Hq. 20th Fighter Group (leading 77th Fighter Sq)
- D. 1100
- E. Bourges Airfield
- F. Clear
- G. FW 200 and He 111
- H. 1 FW 200 Destroyed (Shared with Capt. Sabo and 2nd Lt. Davis)
- I.

I was leading the 77th Fighter Squadron on close escort of a combat wing of B-17s. They were bombing an airfield in the Ste. Avord area from about 16,000 feet. Just prior to bombs away it was noticed that several large ships were taking off from the aerodrome below us. Col Russell leading the group sent the 77th Squadron down after them with the 56th Squadron as high cover at about 10,000 feet. We dropped belly tanks and dove down to the deck. I located a FW 200 almost immediately at about 50 feet and closed in on him. I fired three 2-second bursts at him while he was in a vertical bank to the left. On the first burst I led him about $\frac{1}{2}$ a ring and missed him. On the second and third bursts I corrected my lead to nearly a full ring and saw one burst making strikes on his fuselage and the other hit both right engines which immediately burst into flames. Then I pulled off to one side to let the other boys shoot at him before he went down. A total of about six ships fired at him before he blew up and went into the ground.

I then located a He 111 about five miles away at an altitude of 500 feet. I closed in on his tail and fired one long burst at him. I did a certain amount of wiggling to confuse the rear gunner who was firing at me. I saw strikes on his fuselage and also on the right wing. This was a dead eastern shot, closing from 300 yards to about 100 yards. I pulled off to one side to give someone else a shot. My wingmen, Lt. Frakes, fired and I saw strikes all over the fuselage. Lt. Morris, the third man in my flight, opened fire and both engines burst into flames. The left wing flew off and the ship rolled over and went into the ground.

I claim one (1) FW 200 Destroyed (Shared with Capt. Sabo and 2nd Lt. Davis).
No claim made on He 111.

- J. Ser. No. of A/C: 42-68036
- A/C Markings: LC-M
- Ammunition expended: 746 rds. 50 cal.
58 rds. 20mm.

/s/ Robert F. Montgomery
ROBERT F. MONTGOMERY
Lt. Colonel, Air Corps

CONFIRMATION OF CLAIM

I was flying Lt. Col. Montgomery's wing when he bounced a FW 200 flying about 50 feet off the ground. I saw Lt. Col. Montgomery open fire on the E/A at 5-10 degrees deflection. I saw the inboard starboard engine catch on fire and strikes on the right wing and cockpit. I pulled off to the right and looking back saw the FW 200 go into the ground and explode.

/s/ Francis E. Larkin
FRANCIS E. LARKIN
1st Lt., Air Corps
Asst. G-2 Intelligence O.

/s/ Robert L. Frakes
ROBERT L. FRAKES
2nd Lt., Air Corps

VERIFICATION

Flying white 4 I saw Colonel Montgomery open fire on FW-200 at approximately 200 feet. I saw strikes on fuselage and right inboard engine. As he pulled away I saw right engine break into flame. I fired short bursts and then also pulled away. I looked back and saw FW-200 burning on ground.

/s/ John W. Reid
JOHN W. REID,
2nd Lt., Air Corps.

/s/ Francis W. Barkley
FRANCIS W. BARKLEY,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer.

TRUE COPY

Ernest F. Costello
ERNEST F. COSTELLO,
Captain, Air Corps,
ass't A-2, 67 Fd.

D-7)

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PILOT'S PERSONAL ENCOUNTER REPORT

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Authority
By CC NARA Date 9/28/10

1ST LT. JAMES M. MORRIS

- A. Combat
- B. February 5, 1944
- C. 77th Fighter Squadron, 20th Fighter Group
- D. 1123
- E. Bourges Airport
- F. Clear
- G. He-111
- H. He-111 destroyed. (Shared by Lt. James M. Morris and Lt. R. L. Frakes.)
- I.

Saw E/A taking off from airfield below and Group leader told Rebuke leader to take squadron down. Bounce was made from 18,000 feet to 50 feet. I was flying White No. 3 and leading second element of this first flight. Levelled off and rapidly drew up on FW 200 and E/A took evasive action turning sharply to left. White leader chandelled up and came back on E/A tail. I approached E/A at 15° deflection firing three (3) second burst from 400 yards to 300 yards. Saw strikes on left wing. Filled by E/A and looking back saw FW 200 crash in field and explode.

Continuing turn 180° saw He-111 at altitude of approximately 500 feet. Lead element overshot He-111 very rapidly and I throttled back and opened fire dead astern at approximately 450 yards. Fired 10-12 second burst closing to 200 yards. Saw pieces flying from wing and fuselage and broke off as E/A started toward ground. Saw He-111 hit and explode.

I claim one (1) He-111 destroyed (Shared with 2nd Lt. Robert L. Frakes).

- J. Flying plane LC-6
Serial No. 42-67871
Ammunition expended: 862 rounds of 50 caliber
150 rounds of 20mm cannon.

/s/ James M. Morris
JAMES M. MORRIS
1st Lieut., Air Corps

CONFIRMATION OF CLAIM

I was third ship behind Lt. Morris when he attacked He-111 approximately 100 to 200 feet off the ground. Lt. Morris fired several bursts, the last burst cutting right wing off about midway. The enemy aircraft then rolled over, hit the ground and burst into flame.

A. TRUE COPY

Gerald F. Costello
GERALD F. COSTELLO
Captain, Air Corps
Ass't A-2, 67FW
(L-1)

/s/ Robert W. Holmes
ROBERT W. HOLMES
Capt., Air Corps

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

PILOT'S PERSONAL ENCOUNTER REPORT

LT. COL. ROBERT F. MONTGOMERY

- A. Combat
- B. 5 February 1944
- C. Hq. 20th Fighter Group (leading 77th Fighter Sq)
- D. 1100
- E. Bourges Airfield
- F. Clear
- G. FW 200 and He 111
- H. 1 FW 200 Destroyed (Shared with Capt. Sabo and 2nd Lt. Davis)
- I.

I was leading the 77th Fighter Squadron on close escort of a combat wing of B-17s. They were bombing an airfield in the Ste. Avord area from about 16,000 feet. Just prior to bombs away it was noticed that several large ships were taking off from the aerodrome below us. Col Russell leading the group sent the 77th Squadron down after them with the 58th Squadron as high cover at about 10,000 feet. We dropped belly tanks and dove down to the deck. I located a FW 200 almost immediately at about 50 feet and closed in on him. I fired three 2-second bursts at him while he was in a vertical bank to the left. On the first burst I led him about $\frac{1}{2}$ a ring and missed him. On the second and third bursts I corrected my lead to nearly a full ring and saw one burst making strikes on his fuselage and the other hit both right engines which immediately burst into flames. Then I pulled off to one side to let the other boys shoot at him before he went down. A total of about six ships fired at him before he blew up and went into the ground.

I then located a He 111 about five miles away at an altitude of 500 feet. I closed in on his tail and fired one long burst at him. I did a certain amount of wiggling to confuse the rear gunner who was firing at me. I saw strikes on his fuselage and also on the right wing. This was a dead astern shot, closing from 300 yards to about 100 yards. I pulled off to one side to give someone else a shot. My wingman, Lt. Frakes, fired and I saw strikes all over the fuselage. Lt. Morris, the third man in my flight, opened fire and both engines burst into flames. The left wing flew off and the ship rolled over and went into the ground.

I claim one (1) FW 200 Destroyed (Shared with Capt. Sabo and 2nd Lt. Davis).
No claim made on He 111.

- J. Ser. No. of A/C: 42-68036
- A/C Markings: LC-M
- Ammunition expended: 746 rds. 50 cal.
58 rds. 20mm.

/s/ Robert F. Montgomery
ROBERT F. MONTGOMERY
Lt. Colonel, Air Corps

CONFIRMATION OF CLAIM

I was flying Lt. Col. Montgomery's wing when he bounced a FW 200 flying about 50 feet off the ground. I saw Lt. Col. Montgomery open fire on the E/A at 5-10 degrees deflection. I saw the inboard starboard engine catch on fire and strikes on the right wing and cockpit. I pulled off to the right and looking back saw the FW 200 go into the ground and explode.

Francis E. Larkin
FRANCIS E. LARKIN
1st Lt., Air Corps
Asst. Gd. Intelligence O.

/s/ Robert L. Frakes
ROBERT L. FRAKES
2nd Lt., Air Corps

Flying White 4 I saw Colonel Montgomery open fire on FW -200
t approximately 200 feet. I saw strikes on fuselage and right
nboard engine. As he pulled away I saw right engine break into
flame. I fired short bursts and then also pulled away. I looked
back and saw FW-200 burning on ground.

/s/ John W. Reid
JOHN W. REID,
2nd Lt., Air Corps.

/s/ Francis W. Barkley
FRANCIS W. BARKLEY,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer.

A TRUE COPY

Gerald F. Costello
GERALD F. COSTELLO,
Captain, Air Corps,
Ass't A-2, 67 FH.

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Authority
BCE NARA Date 9/28/10

PILOT'S PERSONAL ENCOUNTER REPORT

DECLASSIFIED
NND 745005
Authority
BCE NARA Date 9/28/10

A. TYPE OF ACTION:

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

B. DATE: February 5, 1944

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

D. TIME ATTACK MADE: 1123

E. GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF ATTACK: Bourges Airport.

F. WEATHER: Clear.

G. TYPE OF ENEMY AIRCRAFT: He-111

H. ENEMY CASUALTIES (Pilot's claim): He-111 destroyed. (Shared by Lt. James M. Morris and Lt. R. L. Frakes)

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

Saw E/A taking off from airfield below and Group leader told Rebuke leader to take squadron down. Bounce was made from 18,000 feet to 50 feet. I was flying White No. 3 and leading second element of this first flight. Levelled off and rapidly drew up on FW 200 and E/A took evasive action turning sharply to left. White leader chandelled up and came back on E/A tail. I approached E/A at 15° deflection firing three (3) second burst from 400 yards to 300 yards. Saw strikes on left wing. Pulled by E/A and looking back saw FW 200 crash in field and explode.

Continuing turn 180° saw He 111 at altitude of approximately 500 feet. Lead element overshot He-111 very rapidly and I throttled back and opened fire dead astern at approximately 450 yards. Fired 10-12 second burst closing to 200 yards. Saw pieces flying from wing and fuselage and broke off as E/A started toward ground. Saw He-111 hit and explode.

I claim One (1) He-111 destroyed (Shared with 2nd Lt. Robert L. Frakes).

- J. Flying Plane - LC-4 Serial No. 42-67871
Ammunition expended 862 rounds of 50 caliber
150 rounds of 20mm Cannon.

James M. Morris
JAMES M. MORRIS,
1st Lieut., Air Corps.

CONFIRMATION OF CLAIM

I was third ship behind Lt. Morris when he attacked He-111 approximately 100 to 200 feet off ground. Lt. Morris fired several bursts, the last burst cutting right wing off about mid-way. The enemy aircraft then rolled over, hit the ground and burst into flames.

Robert W. Holmes
ROBERT W. HOLMES,
Capt, Air Corps.

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

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PILOT'S PERSONAL ENCOUNTER REPORT

A. TYPE OF ACTION:

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

B. DATE: February 5, 1944

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

D. TIME ATTACK MADE: 1125

E. GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF ATTACK: Bourges Airfield.

F. WEATHER: Clear.

G. TYPE OF ENEMY AIRCRAFT: FW-200

H. ENEMY CASUALTIES (Pilot's claim): No claim.

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

After leading Red flight down from 18,000 feet to deck to attack E/A taking off I leveled off on tail of FW-200. I fired 2-3 second burst at 15° deflection at 300 yards closing to 200 yards. When I broke off Aircraft was burning and I saw it hit ground and explode.

No claim.

J. Flying Plane - LC-J Serial No. 42-67281
Ammunition expended 109 rounds of 50 caliber.
25 rounds of 20 mm Cannon.

Evan J. Machen

EVAN J. MACHEN,
1st Lieut., Air Corps.

Joseph R. Genest

JOSEPH R. GENEST,
1st Lieut., Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer.

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By *CEC* NARA Date 9/28/10

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PILOT'S PERSONAL ENCOUNTER REPORT

A. TYPE OF ACTION:

- (1) Combat, if casualties or damage is inflicted.
- (2) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
- (3) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

B. DATE: **5 February 1944**

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

D. TIME ATTACK MADE: **1122**

E. GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF ATTACK: **Bourges Airfield**

F. WEATHER: **Clear**

G. TYPE OF ENEMY AIRCRAFT: **F W 200**

H. ENEMY CASUALTIES (Pilot's claim): **One (1) F W 200 Destroyed (Shared with Capt. Sabe and Lt. Col. Montgomery)**

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

First sighted E/A low on deck while flying at 15,000 feet. Capt. Sabe and flight dove down to a position dead astern and slightly above. E/A appeared to have small fire in tail. We closed to approximately 100 yards I gave a two (2) second burst and saw strikes all over E/A and then saw it explode and crash. Capt. Sabe was firing at the same time.

I claim one (1) F W 200 Destroyed (shared with Capt. Sabe and Lt. Col. Montgomery)

J. **Flying Plane LG-4 Serial No. 42-67442**
Ammunition Expended 120 rounds of 50 Caliber
25 rounds of 20mm Cannon

Joseph R. Gurnett
JOSEPH R. GURNETT,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer.

Jack E. Davis
JACK E. DAVIS,
2nd Lt., Air Corps,

DECLASSIFIED
NND 745005
Authority
By *CEC* NARA Date *9/28/10*

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PILOT'S PERSONAL ENCOUNTER REPORT

A. TYPE OF ACTION:

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

B. DATE: 5 FEBRUARY 1944

C. UNIT: 77TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, 20TH FIGHTER GROUP.

D. TIME ATTACK MADE: 1123

E. GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF ATTACK: BOURGES AIRFIELD.

F. WEATHER: CLEAR

G. TYPE OF ENEMY AIRCRAFT: F.V. 200

H. ENEMY CASUALTIES (Pilot's claim): NO CLAIM.

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

I WAS FLYING LT. MACHEN'S WING AT 15,000 feet WHEN F V 200 WAS SIGHTED ON DECK AND FOLLOWED HIM DOWN. LT. COL. MONTGOMERY'S FLIGHT WAS IN FRONT OF US AND PUT THE F V 200 IN FLAMES JUST AS WE GOT IN RANGE. I SHOT A TWO (2) SECOND BURST INTO THE F V 200 AND PULLED AWAY.

NO CLAIM.

J. FLYING PLANE - LG-4 SERIAL NO. 42-67758
AMMUNITION EXPENDED 100 rounds of 90
19 rounds of 20mm

Albert L. Gese
ALBERT L. Gese,
2ND LT., AIR CORPS.

Joseph R. Genest
JOSEPH R. GENEST,
1ST LT., AIR CORPS,
INTELLIGENCE OFFICER.

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NND 745005
Authority
By CEC NARA Date 9/28/10

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PILOT'S PERSONAL ENCOUNTER REPORT

A. TYPE OF ACTION:

- (1) Combat, if casualties or damage is inflicted.
- (2) ~~Engagement, if engagement occurred.~~
- (3) ~~Encounter, if encounter occurred.~~

B. DATE: February 5, 1944

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

D. TIME ATTACK MADE: 1124.

E. GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF ATTACK: Bourges Airfield.

F. WEATHER: Clear.

G. TYPE OF ENEMY AIRCRAFT: He-111 and FW 200.

H. ENEMY CASUALTIES (Pilot's claim): He-111 destroyed (shared with 1st Lt. JAMES M. MORRIS)

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

I was flying White 2. White leader peeled off at 16,000 ft and dove to deck approaching FW 200 from 7 o'clock position, turning in to attack. Both of us fired at same time getting it's inboard starboard engine which caught on fire. I was about 100 yds. behind leader on inside of turn and slightly above and got a 20° deflection shot. We broke right and climbed for altitude. Immediately after reaching about 1000 ft, He 111 was seen to my left. We made a pass at him by diving and turning slightly to left. I led one radii at 10° and opened fire at 250 yds. closing in to 100 yds. I saw strikes all over cockpit. Leader and I broke left very gently and climbed to regain altitude. He-111 was seen to go straight on and broke into flames after being fired upon by another plane after us.

I claim One (1) HE-111 destroyed (Shared with 1st Lt. James M. Morris)

J. Flying Plane - LG-T Serial No. 42-67229
Ammunition expended 14 rounds of 20mm Cannon.
235 rounds of 50 caliber.

Robert L. Frakes
ROBERT L. FRAKES,
2nd Lieut., Air Corps.

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

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

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PILOT'S PERSONAL ENCOUNTER REPORT

A. TYPE OF ACTION:

- (1) Combat, if casualties or damage is inflicted.
- (2) ~~Engaged enemy aircraft.~~
- (3) ~~Engaged enemy ground targets.~~

B. DATE: February 5, 1944

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

D. TIME ATTACK MADE: 1125

E. GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF ATTACK: Bourges Airfield.

F. WEATHER: Clear.

G. TYPE OF ENEMY AIRCRAFT: FW-200

H. ENEMY CASUALTIES (Pilot's claim): No claim.

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

I was flying White four position at 18,000 feet. The Group leader told Rebuke leader to go down for bounce on aircraft taking off from airfield below. Followed Colonel Montgomery down to fifty (50) feet where, after first three ships had fired, I fired a two second burst at 200 from 200 yards. As I went by I noticed ship blazing from right inboard engine to fuselage.

No claim.

J. Flying Plane LG-1 Serial No. 42-67716

Ammunition expended: 90 rounds of 50 caliber.
20 rounds of 20mm cannon.

John W. Reid
JOHN W. REID,
2nd Lieut., Air Corps.

Francis W. Barkley
FRANCIS W. BARKLEY,
1st Lieut., Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer.

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By *CEC* NARA Date 9/28/10

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PILOT'S PERSONAL ENCOUNTER REPORT

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

A. TYPE OF ACTION:

- (1) Combat, if casualties or damage is inflicted.
- (2) ~~Encounter if aircraft sighted~~
- (3) ~~Encounter if aircraft sighted~~

B. DATE: **5 FEBRUARY 1944**

C. UNIT: **77TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, 20TH FIGHTER GROUP.**

D. TIME ATTACK MADE: **1122.**

E. GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF ATTACK: **BOURGES AIRFIELD.**

F. WEATHER: **CLEAR**

G. TYPE OF ENEMY AIRCRAFT: **F W 200 - HE 111.**

H. ENEMY CASUALTIES (Pilot's claim): **ONE (1) F W 200 DESTROYED (SHARED WITH 2ND LT. DAVIS AND LT. COL. MONTGOMERY)
NO CLAIM ON HE 111.**

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

WE SIGHTED PLANE TAKING OFF AIRFIELD WHILE FLYING AT 18,000 FEET. WE DROVE DOWN AT DEAD ASTERN SLIGHTLY ABOVE THEM. AT THE TIME AIRPLANE APPEARED TO HAVE SMALL FIRE IN TAIL. I FIRED FIVE (5) SECOND BURST CLOSING TO WITHIN 100 YDS TO 50YDS. SAW STRIKE ON LEFT WING AND CENTER FUSELAGE AND COCKPIT. E/A IMMEDIATELY BURST INTO FLAMES AND EXPLODED. I FLEW OVER THE WRECKAGE.

I FIRED ON HE 111 AT 100 YDS FROM DEAD ASTERN ABOUT 1-2 SECOND BURST. JUST AS I FIRED THE HE 111 WENT UP ON LEFT WING AND SPLIT-S INTO GROUND AND EXPLODED.

I CLAIM ONE (1) F W 200 DESTROYED (SHARED WITH LT. COL. MONTGOMERY AND LT. DAVIS)
NO CLAIM ON HE 111.

J. FLYING PLANE - **IG-S SERIAL NO. 42-67523**
AMMUNITION EXPENDED **432 ROUNDS OF 50 CALIBER**
64 ROUNDS OF 20MM CANNON

Joseph R. Genest
JOSEPH R. GENEST,
1ST LT., AIR CORPS,
INTELLIGENCE OFFICER.

Paul J. Sano
PAUL J. SANO,
CAPT., AIR CORPS.

(CONFIRMATION REPORT ON OTHER SIDE)

VERIFICATION OF CLAIM OF

CAPT. SABO

I WAS FLYING 3RD SHIP BEHIND CAPT. SABO. THERE WAS TWO SHIPS IN FRONT OF CAPT. SABO WHO MADE AN ATTACK ON F W 200 WHICH WAS APPROXIMATELY 200 FEET OFF GROUND. I SAW PLANES COMING FROM TAIL OF F W 200 FROM STRIKES MADE BY 1ST TWO SHIPS THAT FIRED. CAPT. SABO FIRED AT THE SHIP AND THE SHIP EXPLODED.

Robert W. Holmes

ROBERT W. HOLMES,
CAPT., AIR CORPS.

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PILOT'S PERSONAL ENCOUNTER REPORT

A. TYPE OF ACTION:

- (1) Combat, if casualties or damage is inflicted.
- (2) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
- (3) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

B. DATE: 5 February 1944

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

D. TIME ATTACK MADE: 1122

E. GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF ATTACK: Bourges Airfield.

F. WEATHER: Clear

G. TYPE OF ENEMY AIRCRAFT: F W 200.

H. ENEMY CASUALTIES (Pilot's claim): No Claim

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

I was flying 3rd ship behind Capt. Sabe. There was two ships in front of Capt. Sabe who made an attack on F W 200 which was approximately 200 feet off ground. I saw flames coming from tail of F W 200 from strikes made by 1st two ships that fired. Capt. Sabe fired at the ship and the ship exploded. I fired a short burst for good measure but the ship had already been totally destroyed.

No Claim.

J. Flying Plane - LG-1 Serial No. 42-67901
Ammunition Expended 64 rounds of 50 Caliber
11 rounds of 20mm Cannon

Robert W. Holmes
ROBERT W. HOLMES,
Capt., Air Corps.

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

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

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PILOT'S PERSONAL ENCOUNTER REPORT

A. TYPE OF ACTION:

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

B. DATE: February 5, 1944

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

D. TIME ATTACK MADE: 1126

E. GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF ATTACK: Bourges Airfield.

F. WEATHER: Clear.

G. TYPE OF ENEMY AIRCRAFT: He-111 and FW-200.

H. ENEMY CASUALTIES (Pilot's claim): One (1) He-111 destroyed, shared with Lt. Frakes and Lt. Morris.

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

Flying Yellow No. 3 at 18,000 feet heard Group Leader tell Rebuke go down for bounce on aircraft taking off from field below. Four or five P-38s were in turn firing on FW-200 flying at 50 feet. As last P-38 broke off flame and smoke was coming out of right inboard engine. I cut across the circle and opened fire with about one radii lead at 300 yards. Strikes appeared all over the target. After about five seconds of firing the entire target burst into flame. I flew through the smoke and saw FW-200 crash.

After this we made turn to port and saw He-111 about 200-300 feet off ground. Three P-38s fired at this ship and I slid under third ship and as he broke off I opened fire at 250 yards dead astern and closed to 50 yards firing a five second burst. Strikes seen on He-111 on both fuselage and right wing root. Tail assembly and right wing seemed to disintegrate and large pieces of wing flew back over my plane. Saw He-111 cartwheel flaming and crash and then explode.

I claim one (1) He-111 destroyed (shared with Lts. Morris & Frakes pending assessment of film)

J. Flying Plane LC-P Serial No. 42-67819

Ammunition expended: 150 rounds of 20mm cannon.
800 rounds of 50 caliber.

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

Francis W. Barkley
FRANCIS W. BARKLEY,
1st Lieut., Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer.

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