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

ENCOUNTER REPORT

LT WALKER L. WHITESIDE

a. Engagement
b. 5 April 1944
c. 77th Fighter Squadron, 20th Fighter Group
d. 1446
e. Near Barnstorf, Germany
f. 9/10-10/10 at 1500 up to 18,000 ft
g. Steel Bridge
h. No Claim
i.

"I was flying White three when White Leader took us down through break in clouds to the deck. I saw White Leader firing at what appeared to be an observation tower, getting a number of strikes. Proceeding on the deck White Leader fired at motor barge on a river getting many hits. White Leader then pulled up and to the left. In so doing I spotted large steel bridge directly ahead and fired two 2 second bursts just to clear my guns. Visability was very bad so climbed up through clouds to 18,000 feet and proceeded home."

No Claim

j. Ser No of A/C: 42-68176
A/C Markings: LC-I
Ammunition Expended: 80 rds of 50 Cal
18 rds of 20mm Cannon

/s/ Walker L. Whiteside

WALKER L. WHITESIDE,
1st Lt., Air Corps.

/s/ Francis W. Barkley

FRANCIS W. BARKLEY,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer.

A TRUE COPY:

Gerald F. Costello, Jr.

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

(D-3)

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

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 745005
By ED NARA Date 10-1-10

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

ENCOUNTER REPORT

LT HAL W. EVERETT

a. Engagement
b. 5 April 1944
c. 77th Fighter Squadron, 20th Fighter Group
d. 1445
e. Near Barnstorf, Germany
f. 9/10-10/10 at 1500 up to 18,000 feet
g. Observation Post
h. One (1) Observation Post Damaged
i.

"I was flying White two when my flight leader spotted a break in the clouds. We spiraled down through the hole coming out about one hundred feet off the ground. My canopy had frosted up and as I was wiping it off I noticed White Leader firing at what appeared to be an observation tower. He was getting a number of strikes and there appeared to be return fire so I opened up on the same target at about 700 yards firing a one second burst. About 30 seconds later White Leader spotted a motor barge on a river. We shot this up getting a large number of hits although the barge did not catch fire. White Leader then called and told us to go back up above the clouds as visibility was very bad. We climbed up through about 10,000 feet of clouds, reformed on top and proceeded to base."

I Claim: One (1) Observation Post Damaged.

j. Ser No of A/C: 42-68066
A/C Markings: LC-K
Ammunition Expended: 48 rds of 50 Cal
8 rds of 20mm Cannon

/s/ Hal W. Everett

HAL W. EVERETT,
2nd Lt., Air Corps.

/s/ Francis W. Barkley

FRANCIS W. BARKLEY,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer.

A TRUE COPY:

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

(D-3)

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

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Authority NND 745005
By ED NARA Date 10-1-10

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

ENCOUNTER REPORT

CAPT RUSSELL F. GUSTKE

a. Engagement
b. 5 April 1944
c. 77th Fighter Squadron, 20th Fighter Group
d. 1445
e. Near Barnstorf, Germany
f. 9/10-10/10 at 1500 up to 18,000 feet
g. Observation Post
h. One (1) Observation Post Damaged
One (1) Motor Barge Damaged
i.

"I took my flight (White) down to the deck to straff ground installations. I saw an observation tower about fifty feet high and apparently made of wood so attacked same at approximately 300 yards firing several two second bursts. Observed many hits on the tower. I saw a motor barge of about fifty feet in a river and attacked same at 300 yards firing a three second burst. Observed many hits all over barge. Visibility became too poor to continue on deck so went on instrument at 2000 feet coming out at 18,000 feet and continued home."

I claim: One (1) Observation Post Damaged
One (1) Motor Barge Damaged

j. Ser No of A/C: 42-68156
A/C Markings: LC-V
Ammunition Expended: 160 rds of 50 Cal
30 rds of 20mm Cannon

/s/ Russell F. Gustke
RUSSELL F. GUSTKE,
Captain, Air Corps.

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

VERIFICATION OF CLAIM

"I was flying White three when White Leader took us down through break in clouds to the deck. I saw White Leader firing at what appeared to be an observation tower, getting a number of strikes. Proceeding on the deck White Leader fired at motor barge on a river getting many hits."

/s/ Walker L. Whiteside
WALKER L. WHITESIDE,
1st Lt., Air Corps.

A TRUE COPY:

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

(D-3)

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 745005
By ED NARA Date 10-1-10

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

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: 5 April 1944.

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

D. TIME ATTACK MADE: 1445.

E. GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF ATTACK: Near Barnstorf, Germany.

F. WEATHER: 9/10-10/10 at 1500 up to 18,000 feet.

G. TYPE OF ENEMY AIRCRAFT: Observation Post.

H. ENEMY CASUALTIES (Pilot's claim): One (1) Observation Post Damaged.
One (1) Motor Barge Damaged.

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

"I took my flight (White) down to the deck to straff ground installations. I saw an observation tower about fifty feet high and apparently made of wood so attacked same at approximately 300 yards firing several two second bursts. Observed many hits on the tower. I saw a motor barge of about fifty feet in a river and attacked same at 300 yards firing a three second burst. Observed many hits all over barge. Visability became too poor to continue on deck so went on instrument at 2000 feet coming out at 18,000 feet and continued home."

I Claim: One (1) Observation Post Damaged.
One (1) Motor Barge Damaged.

J. Flying Plane LC-V Serial No. 42-68156
Ammunition Expended 160 rounds of 50 Caliber
30 rounds of 20mm Cannon.

Russell F. Gustke
RUSSELL F. GUSTKE,
Captain, Air Corps.

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

(Confirmation of Claim)
Over

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 745005
By ED NARA Date 10-1-10

VERIFICATION OF CLAIM

"I was flying White three when White Leader took us down through break in clouds to the deck. I saw White Leader firing at what appeared to be an observation tower, getting a number of strikes. Proceeding on the deck White leader fired at motor barge on a river getting many hits."

WALKER L. WHITESIDE,
1st Lt., Air Corps.