

12  
MISSION SUMMARY REPORT

29 APRIL, 1944  
BOMBER ESCORT - FIELD ORDER #320  
TARGET - BERLIN  
2 SORTIE CREDITS

- A. 55TH FIGHTER SQUADRON - CAPT. TAYLOR LEADING
- B. 17 UP 0905 - 15 DOWN 1335
- C. 2
- D. BOMBER ESCORT - FIELD ORDER #320
- E. THRU H. NIL

1. L/F IN 1004, 20,000 FEET AT BRIEFED POINT. FAILED TO MAKE R/V DUE TO PRESENCE OF E/A. 8 SILVER 109'S SEEN OVERHEAD 33-35,000 FEET. BOMBERS CALLED IN THAT THEY WERE BEING BOUNCED BY 100 PLUS E/A AND HAD NO ESCORT. GROUP SAW WHAT WAS BELIEVED TO BE FIRST BOX OF FIRST A.T.F. BOUNCED BY 5 P-51'S WHO DROPPED BELLY TANKS AND MADE PASS, CONTINUING UNDER OUR FORMATION. GROUP REFORMED AND SEARCHED FOR BOMBERS, BUT COULD NOT LOCATE. GROUP LEADER CALLED W/D AT 1230 AT 25,000 FEET, LOCATION NOT KNOWN. L/F OUT 1300, 23,000 FEET, THE HAGUE. HEAVY INTENSE FLAK OVER THE RUHR. RED-NOSED P-47'S SEEN COMING IN AT L/F OUT.

PILOTS ON TODAY'S MISSION:

TAYLOR	BAKER	SCRUTCHFIELD	PANNELL
LARRABEE	ANDERSON	SHULTZ	MARTIN
WATSON	HALLBERG	ROWLEY	RIEMENSMIDER
BURFORD	FORD	LOEHNERT	PIERSON

SPARE: CONNOR - REPLACED ROWLEY

RELAYS: BAIN  
BOELE

## MISSION SUMMARY REPORT April 29, 1944

- A. 77th Fighter Squadron, 20th Fighter Group, Capt. Reihmer leading.
- B. 18 up at 0909. Down at 1335
- C. Nil.
- D. Withdrawal support, Field Order No. 320.
- E. Nil.
- F. 1 Cat. AC (enemy aircraft)
- G. Nil.
- H. ~~Nil~~. 0-0-2
- I. In at 1002 at 20000 ft on course. In area E of Magdeburg SE E/A seen above and squadron increased altitude to 24000 ft. Me 109s were above in small groups and one would come down at intervals. Squadron tried to get up to e/a but at 30000 e/a were still above. One one pass 109 got cannon hit on Yellow Two and on another pass White leader got strikes on one Yellow nosed Me-109. White leader also got strikes on another 109 diving on bombers, approx. 25 SE E/A seen. W/D from area S of Berlin at approx. 1145. 3 bombers seen going down, no chutes. Closest squadron was to bombers was approx. 10 miles. Flak at Magdeburg on way out and squadron skirted N edge of Ruhr Valley on way out. Out at approx. 1245 from 15-20000 ft unknown due to overcast.
- J. Two (2) Me-109s damaged by Capt. D. A. Reihmer.

14  
MISSION REPORT

29 April 1944

- A. 79th Fighter Squadron Major R.C. Franklin, Jr., leading  
B. 15 P-38s Up: 0910 Down: 1340  
C. 4 P-38s  
D. Ramrod: Withdrawal Support 1st Task Force; F. O. No. 320  
E. Nil.  
F. Nil.  
G. Nil.  
H. Nil.  
I: In: 1000 - IJmuiden - 20,000 ft. (Position determined by fix).

R/V: Group was scheduled to be withdrawal support but passed 2nd and 3rd Task Forces on the way in. Group was heading east and bombers were heading northeast. Group was on port side of bombers. At 11:05 at 25,000 ft. ~~Group leader~~ turned southeast to meet 1st Task Force at scheduled R/V after target and went between 2nd and 1st task forces. Box of 60 B17s was seen about 20 to 30 miles South of main bomber formation in direction Group was heading. Bombers were ~~probably~~ ~~seen~~ Vinegrove 1-4 and ~~solid formation~~ were being attacked by 50 plus E/A. Group joined these bombers about 30 miles west of Berlin and saw solid formation of approx. 50 E/A attacking with what appeared to be rockets. All E/A were Me 109s and on same level as bombers. At the same time 60 to 80 E/A were flying high above the bombers waiting to attack. Group tried to position between top fighters and bombers and at same time drive away E/A on same level. 8 or 10 E/A from top bunch bounced Cp apparently trying to draw fighters away from bomber formation but Cp did not follow and engage. Driving away of fighters took from 1110 to 1130 and bombers had gone on towards target while Cp ended up about half way between Hannover and R/V area in Magdeburg area.

At 1140 Bombers were contacted and Vinegrove 1-4 said it was over the target (about 25 minutes late). Vinegrove 1-3 called that it was over Hannover (about 15 minutes early). Group did not have enough gas left to go back to pick up 1-4 and so headed for 1-3 but did not catch the bombers.

Out: Due to solid overcast time and place unknown. Estimated about 1238, 20,000 ft. Dutch Islands.

E/A: About 200 Me 109s seen - all in large formations of 50 plus.

Friendly fighters: No P47s or P51s seen with bombers on way in except P47s with one box of B24s. About 4 P51s seen later. No P47s seen on way out.

R/T: Good but "C" channel occasionally jammed. "A" Channel was bad part of the time due to stuck mike button. *this occurred while engaged with E Mc + prevented CRG from controlling disposition of groups.*  
Bombers in Trouble: Approximately 6 seen shot down and approx. 12 chutes seen. Place - about 30 to 50 miles west of Berlin.

Bomber formation: Good except that Vinegrove 1-4 was so far from main bomber formation that Group had to use all planes to protect this formation and could not be with entire Task Force. Group Leader suggests that if small bomber formations cannot join main formations that they abort. Fighter Groups cannot divide to protect both formations in event of concentrated attacks.

Winds were not as briefed and courses were consequently wrong. Time from Hannover to Dutch Coast was about half of planned time.

EDWARD J. STEINER  
Capt., A. C.  
Intelligence Officer

15

TELEPHONE FLASH REPORT

F.O. 320

DATE 20 29 Apr 44.

(Not to be teletyped)

(to be teletyped)

a. Designation of Unit	20TH FIGHTER GROUP.
b. Time of Landing	1340
c. Aircraft NYR (State if believed Lost)	NIL.
d. Estimated Claims	Destroyed 0 Probable 0 Damaged 2
e. Brief description of Mission	L/F IN, 1000, SOUTH EGMOND, 20,000 FEET. PASSED 1ST AND 2ND A.T.F'S ENROUTE TO R/V, GP PASSED 2ND & 3RD. A.T.F'S. 20MILES WEST BRIEFED R/V, 1110 1145 E. OF MAGDEBURG, TO R/V. L.F. OUT 1245, S. EGMOND, 20,000 FEET. 50 ME 109'S CONSTANLY ATTACKED EAST MAGDEBURG.,R/V....
f. Weather - Battle damage	

16

TELEPHONE FLASH REPORT

F.O. 320

DATE 29 APRIL 1944.

(Not to be teletyped)

(Not to be teletyped)

a. Designation of Unit	55TH FIGHTER SQUADRON.
b. Time of Landing	1335
c. Aircraft NYR (State if believed Lost)	NIL.
d. Estimated Claims	Destroyed 0 Probable 0 Damaged 0
e. Brief description of Mission	L/F, 1004, 20,000 FEET, BRIEFED. FAILED TO R/V @VINEGROVE 11 SEEN SOUTH TGT. 10 MILES WEST. WENT SOUTH 1230 -WALNUT CALLED W/D. OUT 1300 THE HAGUE 23,000 FEET. SE/A 109'S. P-51'S DROPPED THANKS PASSED AT SQUADRON NINE MINUTES FROM R/V. RED NOSED P-47'S ENTERED AS WE MADE L/F OUT....
f. Weather - Battle damage	



17

TELEPHONE FLASH REPORT

F.O. 320

DATE 29 APRIL 1944.

(Not to be teletyped)

(Not to be teletyped)

a. Designation of Unit	77TH FIGHTER SQUADRON.
b. Time of Landing	1335.
c. Aircraft NYR (State if believed Lost)	NYR 2 NYR'S.
d. Estimated Claims	Destroyed 0 Probable 0 Damaged 2
e. Brief description of Mission	L/F IN 1002, 20,000 FEET. ON COURSE. AREA E. OF MAGDEBURG E/A ABOVE SQ. SQ. STARTED CLIMBING UP TO 30,000 FEET BUT 109(S STAYED ABOVE. SEVERAL E/A IN AREA. 15-20 SE SEEN.
f. Weather - Battle damage	L/F OUT 1245, 15-20,000 FEET....

18

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DATE 29 APRIL 1944.

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a. Designation of Unit	79TH FIGHTER SQUADRON.
b. Time of Landing	1340
c. Aircraft NYR (State if believed Lost)	NIL.
d. Estimated Claims	Destroyed 0 Probable 0 Damaged 0
e. Brief description of Mission	DUTCH COAST 1000 , COMPLETE OVERCAST. R/V, PASSED ALL THREE T.F'S 1105, HEADED FOR R/V - 1 & 2 T.FORCES NEAR R/V, VINEGROVE 1-4 <del>XXXXXX</del> ANSWERED CALL 20-30 MILES SOUTH BEING ATTACKED BY 50 EA/C. (60-80 ABOVE THE 50) <del>XXXXXX</del> VINEGROVE 1-1 ATTACKED BY 200 EA/C DIDN'T REACH THEM.
f. Weather - Battle damage	109 WITH ROCKETS. 6 BOMBERS SEEN TO GO DOWN IN FLAMES. APPROXIMATELY 12 CHUTES , BOMBER FORMATION GOOD. VINEGROVE 1-4 TO FAR AWAY.  2000 200 - 109 30-50 WEST BERLIN,



