

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

ENCOUNTER REPORT

LT. COL. H. J. RAU

- a. Combat
- b. 13 May 1944
- c. 55th Fighter Squadron
- d. 1615-1620
- e. Leck A/D and Boats off Romo Island.
- f. 8/10 (Heavy ground haze)
- g. Ground Targets.
- h. Damaged: 1 Hangar, 1 barrack, 1 factory, 1 tug and barge and 1 fishing boat.
- i. I was leading group on Bomber Escort. At Romo Island,

A/D with two flights and returned to strafe Leck A/D. We went to the deck from 4,000 ft. and strafed the hangar and dispersal area, making one pass. One element attacked a factory building just off A/D. Section proceeded to coast where elements strafed surface vessels, hits being seen in all these instances.

Claims: Damaged: 1 fishing boat - Lt Anderson.  
1 tug and barge - Capt Scrutchfield.  
1 barrack and 1 factory - Lt Wells.  
1 hangar - Lt Smeltz.

	J. Ser. No. of A/C	A/C Markings	Ammo Expended	
Capt Scrutchfield	43-28430	KI-N	303-50s	64-20s
Lt Anderson	42-68051	KI-D	440-50s	94-20s
Lt Smeltz	43-28451	KI-U	82-50s	15-20s
Lt Wells	42-67451	KI-R	493-50s	50-20s

NOTE: Extremely heavy haze makes sketch impossible.

HAROLD J. RAU,  
Lt. Col., Air Corps,  
Commanding.

D. J. NIGHTINGALE,  
Major, Air Corps,  
Group S-2 Officer.

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

Authority NN074505  
By Wc NARA Date 3/6/11

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 74505

By W.C. NARA Date 3/6/11

CONFIDENTIAL

MAJOR RUSSELL F. GUSTKE, JR.

PILOT'S PERSONAL ENCOUNTER REPORT

- A. Combat.
- B. 13 May 1944.
- C. 77th Fighter Squadron, 20th Fighter Group.
- D. 1620.
- E. Eggebek.
- F. 8/10 clouds at 8,000 feet, heavy below.
- G. Building and Gun emplacement.
- H. One (1) Building and One (1) Gun Emplacement Damaged by Major Gustke.  
One (1) Building and One (1) Gun Emplacement Damaged by Lt. Ferris.

I.

"At 1620 on May 13, 1944 after withdrawing I saw an airdrome believed to be in vicinity of Eggebek and prepared to lead my flight down to strafe it. Upon approaching it at deck level the flak was very heavy and my wing man warned me of this. I proceeded to strafe one gun emplacement and one building with many short rapid antennas about it. I observed many hits on both. My wing man also got a gun emplacement and a building of the same type. There was very much light accurate flak of small calibre on this field some of which got my right engine which I immediately feathered as I started for home. The flak must have been from multiple guns as I noticed many incendiary shells exploding at one time."

Claims: One (1) Building } Damaged by Major Gustke.  
One (1) Gun Emplacement }  
One (1) Building } Damaged by Lt. Ferris.  
One (1) Gun Emplacement }

J. Major Gustke flew plane IC-B, 42-68016.  
Ammo Exp 390 rounds of 50 Caliber  
85 rounds of 20mm Cannon.

Lt. Ferris flew plane IC-B, 42-67202.  
Ammo Exp 192 rounds of 50 Caliber  
24 rounds of 20mm Cannon.

*Russell F. Gustke*

RUSSELL F. GUSTKE,  
Major, Air Corps.

*Joseph R. Gierst*

JOSEPH R. GIERST,  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
Intelligence Officer.

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1ST LT. IRVING C. BAKER

PILOT'S PERSONAL ENCOUNTER REPORT

- A. COMBAT.
- B. 12 MAY 1944.
- C. 1500.
- D. 77TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, 20TH FIGHTER GROUP.
- E. S.W. OF KASSEL.
- F. CLEAR.
- G. ME-109.
- H. ONE (1) ME-109 DESTROYED (AIR).

I.

"I WAS NO 3 POSITION IN YELLOW FLIGHT AT 23,900 FEET. SAW FOUR ME-109S COMING UP BEHIND OUR BOMBERS. WE STARTED DOWN ON THEM IN A 90° TURN TO THE RIGHT AND AS WE PULLED UP TWO OF THE ME-109S MADE A CLIMBING TURN TO THE LEFT WITH YELLOW LEADER RIGHT BEHIND HIM. THE ME-109S BROKE HARD LEFT AND I MADE A HEAD ON PASS FIRING A 3-4 SECOND BURST FROM 400 YARDS TO 50 YARDS AND AS I PASSED UNDERNEATH I NOTICED WHITE SMOKE TRAILING. MY WINGMAN, LT. HEIDEN, SAW THIS ME-109 BURST INTO FLAME. YELLOW LEADER MEANWHILE WAS IN A TURN FIRING ON THIS OTHER ME-109 WHEN E/A BROKE AWAY AND I MADE A HEAD ON PASS WHICH RESEMBLED THE MANEUVER MADE ON THE FIRST ME-109."

I CLAIM: ONE (1) ME-109 DESTROYED (AIR).

- J. FLYING PLANE LC-7 SERIAL NO. 42-68045  
AMMUNITION EXPENDED 280 ROUNDS OF 50 CALIBER  
57 ROUNDS OF 20MM CANNON.

*Irving C. Baker*  
IRVING C. BAKER,  
1ST LT., AIR CORPS.

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

S T A T E M E N T

"I WAS FLYING YELLOW 4 ON L2 12 MAY 1944 AND BOUNCED 4 109S THAT WERE ATTACKING STRAGGLING BOMBERS. 109S BROKE 3 OF US WENT INTO LUFBERRY, YELLOW 3 BROKE OFF AND MADE HEAD ON PASS AT E/A. AS E/A PASSED OVER ME I SAW A MINOR EXPLOSION AND IT BURST INTO FLAMES."

/s/ ARTHUR W. HEIDEN  
ARTHUR W. HEIDEN  
2ND LT., AIR CORPS.