

CAPTAIN WILLIAMS

PILOT'S PERSONAL ENCOUNTER REPORT

- A. Combat.
- B. 25 May 1944.
- C. 77th Fighter Squadron, 20th Fighter Group.
- D. 0915.
- E. Brussels Area.
- F. Clear.
- G. Ground Targets .
- H.

- One (1) Locomotive Destroyed.
- Five (5) Locomotives Damaged.
- One (1) Pillbox Damaged.
- One (1) Motorcycle and Rider Damaged.
- One (1) Truck Damaged.
- One (1) Gun Emplacement Damaged.
- One (1) Switch Engine Damaged.
- One (1) Command Car and Personnel Damaged.

I. "I was leading Red Section when in Brussels area Squadron leader told us to hit deck. Second element of Blue Flight lost Blue Leader and stayed up with bombers.

I lost flight after one turn and after trying to locate them started searching roads. I fired one short burst at a motorcycle rider. After the peel-up saw motorcycle and rider sprawled on road.

Lts. Gjolme, Arthaud, and McCully strafed two trains in this area destroying one locomotive and damaging the other. Lt. McCully on way out fired at two locomotives in railroad yards at Furnes getting strikes on both engines. Lt. Arthaud damaged a locomotive on train N of Brussels and also got strikes on a pill box that was firing at him. Lt. Gjolme also got strikes on locomotive of train setting in this area. Lt. Gese got strikes on lorry truck on road between Brussels and Ghent and fired several bursts at a gun emplacement. Captain Gilbertson fired at a switch engine with tender N of Brussels obtaining strikes. Also sighted and fired on command car with personnel in this area getting many strikes.

Claims: One (1) Locomotive Destroyed - Lts. Arthaud, Gjolme, McCully.  
 One (1) Locomotive Damaged - Lts. Arthaud, Gjolme, McCully.  
 Two (2) Locomotives Damaged - Lt. McCully.  
 One (1) Locomotive Damaged - Lt. Arthaud.  
 One (1) Locomotive Damaged - Lt. Gjolme.  
 One (1) Switch Engine and Tender Damaged - Capt. Gilbertson.  
 One (1) Pillbox Damaged - Lt. Arthaud.  
 One (1) Motorcycle and Rider Damaged - Capt. Williams.  
 One (1) Truck Damaged - Lt. Gese.  
 One (1) Command Car And Personnel Damaged - Capt. Gilbertson.  
 One (1) Gun Emplacement Damaged - Lt. Gese.

J. Ser No of A/C:	A/C Markings:	Ammo Exp:
2nd Lt. McCully 42-67523	LC-S	245 rds 50 Cal 125 rds 20MM
Capt. Gilbertson 42-104069	LC-A	279 rds 50 Cal 60 rds 20 MM
Capt. Williams 42-68066	LC-K	72 rds 50 Cal 13 rds 20 MM
1st Lt. Gese 42-67462	LC-X	620 rds 50 Cal 140 rds 20 MM
1st Lt. Arthaud 42-68171	LC-C	Unknown
2nd Lt. Gjolme 42-67819	LC-U	740 rds 50 Cal 10 rds 20 MM

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

*Terrence M. Williams*  
 TERENCE M. WILLIAMS,  
 Captain, Air Corps.

LT. COL. HAROLD JACOB RAU  
PILOT'S PERSONAL ENCOUNTER REPORT

- A. Combat.
- B. 25 May 1944.
- C. 77th Fighter Squadron, 20th Fighter Group.
- D. 0950.
- E. Ghent Area.
- F. Clear.
- G. Ground Targets.
- H. One (1) Locomotive Destroyed  
Three (3) Locomotives Damaged.  
Two (2) Trucks Damaged.  
One (1) Line Flat Cars Damaged.  
One (1) Radio Station Damaged.  
One (1) Armoured Car Damaged.  
One (1) Gun Emplacement Damaged.  
One (1) Dredge Damaged.

I. "After withdrawing from bombers at Schouwen Island I led flights back to Ghent Area where White, Yellow and second element of Blue Flight hit deck.

South of Ghent caught freight train and all members of flights made one pass on it. Train was raked from end to end and locomotive was a steaming wreck. We followed track from Ghent to Bruges catching two trains and flights made a pass at each one damaging a locomotive on each train. Also fired at line of flat cars on siding along this railroad obtaining numerous strikes.

Lt. Payne and Lt. Alexander found train in this same area and Lt. Payne got strikes on locomotive before he was forced to break off due to fire from light gun on train.

Lt. Hairston fired on radio station between Dunkirk and Ostend obtaining numerous strikes.

Lt. Fiebelkorn fired short burst at truck on highway between Ghent and Bruges getting strikes.

Lt. Fernandes after firing at first train had to get altitude due to windshield frosted up. After clearing windshield he strafed along highway from Ghent to Bruges getting strikes on one armoured car and one truck. He turned north and strafed dredge along river bank and came out near Breskins firing at gun emplacements on sea wall in that area."

Claims: One (1) Locomotive Destroyed (complete train damaged) - Lt. Col. Rau, Lts. Fiebelkorn, Fernandes, Perra, Payne, Hairston, Horne, Fleming, Alexander, Moncrieff.

Two (2) Locomotives Damaged - Lt. Col. Rau, Lts. Perra, Fiebelkorn.

One (1) Line Flat Cars Damaged - Lt. Col. Rau, Lt. Perra.

One (1) Locomotive Damaged - Lt. Payne.

One (1) Radio Station Damaged - Lt. Hairston.

One (1) Truck Damaged - Lt. Fiebelkorn.

One (1) Armoured Car Damaged - Lt. Fernandes.

One (1) Truck Damaged - Lt. Fernandes.

One (1) Dredge Damaged - Lt. Fernandes.

One (1) Gun Emplacement - Lt. Fernandes.

J.	S&P No of A/C	A/C Markings:	Ammo Exp:
1st Lt. Fernandes	42-67707	LC-B	881 rds 50 Cal. 36 rds 20 MM
1st Lt. Horne	42-68176	LC-I	648 rds 50 Cal 84 rds 20 MM
1st Lt. Moncrieff	42-68045	LC-Z	340 rds 50 Cal 60 rds 20 MM
1st Lt. Fleming	42-67799	LC-Y	260 rds 50 Cal 3 rds 20 MM
1st Lt. Hairston	42-68159	LC-L	954 rds 50 Cal 150 rds 20 MM

1st Lt. Fiebelkorn	42-67717	LC-E	989 rds 50 Cal
		LC-1	150 rds 20 MM
2nd Lt. Alexander	42-67443	LC-O	662 rds 50 Cal
		LC-1	150 rds 20 MM
2nd Lt. Ferris	42-67202	LC-D	482 rds 50 Cal
		LC-1	110 rds 20 MM

FRANCIS W. BARKLEY  
 Captain, Air Corps,  
 Intelligence Officer

HAROLD JACOB RAU,  
 Lt. Col., Air Corps.

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MILITARY SERVICE RECORDS  
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ENCOUNTER REPORT

Authority NND 745 605  
By Wc NARA Date 3/8/11

LT. COL. WILSON AND FLIGHTS STRAFING

- A. ENGAGEMENT
- B. 25 MAY 1944
- C. 55TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, 20TH FIGHTER GROUP
- D. APPROXIMATELY 0945 TO 1020 HOURS
- E. VICINITY WEST OF BRUSSELS
- F. CLEAR
- G. GROUNDS TARGETS
- H. 1 BARGE DAMAGED  
1 LOCOMOTIVE DESTROYED  
1 FLAK TOWER DAMAGED  
1 BARGE DAMAGED  
1 TRAIN WITH OIL TANKS DAMAGED  
1 FLAK TOWER DAMAGED  
1 RIVER BOAT DAMAGED  
10 FREIGHT CARS DAMAGED  
1 BARGE DAMAGED

I. WE HAD ESCORTED OUR BOMBERS TO THE COAST AND TURNED BACK SOUTHWEST JUST NORTHWEST OF ANTWERP. WE HIT THE DECK SOUTH OF GHENT AND MADE ONE PASS AT A RAILROAD YARD, DAMAGING A FLAK TOWER AND SPRAYING SEVERAL BOXCARS PARKED THERE. WE THEN TURNED WEST UP THE RAILROAD TRACK AND DIRED AT A LOCOMOTIVE BUT HAD TO TURN OFF AND COME IN AT ANOTHER ANGLE BECAUSE IT WAS HIDDEN BY A ROW OF TREES. ON THE SECOND PASS IT BLEW UP AND STEAM SHOT SEVERAL HUNDRED FEET INTO THE AIR.

STARTING BACK TOWARD THE NORTHEAST WE SIGHTED TWO BARGES AND MADE ONE PASS DAMAGING BOTH. A LITTLE FURTHER ON WE MADE A PASS AT A RAILROAD YARD SPRAYING SEVERAL CARS AND STARTING A SMALL FIRE ON THE EDGE OF A COAL PILE, PROBABLY OIL DRUMS. ON THIS PASS LT. SMELTZ STRUCK A HIGH-TENSION LINE AND SPRUNG A LEAK IN HIS RIGHT OIL COOLER. HE CALLED AND SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO PULL UP, FEATHER HIS RIGHT PROP AND HEAD FOR HOME. JUST NORTHEAST OF GHENT WE SAW A FACTORY JUST TO THE RIGHT OF OUR COURSE AND THEY STARTED SHOOTING UP LIGHT FLAK. THIS CONTINUED UNTIL WE REACHED THE ESTUARY SOUTH OF FLUSHING, WHERE WE TURNED UP THE ESTUARY AND STARTED FOR HOME. THE FLAK INCREASED THERE AND ALSO 20-MM GUNFIRE WAS HEAVY.

- I MAKE THE FOLLOWING CLAIMS FOR THESE FLIGHTS:
- 1 BARGE DAMAGED . . . LT. COL. WILSON
  - 1 LOCOMOTIVE DESTROYED . . . LT. COL WILSON AND  
LT. RIEMENSNIER
  - 1 FLAK TOWER DAMAGED . . . LT. COL WILSON AND  
LT. RIEMENSNIER
  - 1 BARGE DAMAGED . . . LT. RIEMENSNIER
  - 1 TRAIN WITH OIL TANKS DAMAGED . . . LT. HALLBERG
  - 1 FLAK TOWER DAMAGED. . . . LT. WASIL
  - 1 RIVER BOAT DAMAGED. . . . LT. WASIL
  - 10 FREIGHT CARS DAMAGED. . . LTS. SMELTZ AND KLINK
  - 1 BARGE DAMAGED. . . . . LT. KLINK

J.

			50 CAL MG	20 MM CANN
LT. COL WILSON	KI-W	42-104207	719	65
LT. RIEMENSNIER	KI-Y	42-68108	280	61
LT. HALLBERG	KI-P	42-104239	258	44
LT. WASIL	KI-O	43-28362	392	73
LT. SMELTZ	KI-Z	42-67891	54	11
LT. KLINK	KI-H	42-68160	408	99

*Dean E. Erlandson*  
DEAN E. ERLANDSON  
CAPTAIN, AC  
INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

LT. COL. CY WILSON  
COMMANDING OFFICER  
55TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

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