

ENCOUNTER REPORT

LT. JESSE E. CARPENTER, JR.

- a. Combat
- b. 9 July 1944
- c. 79th Fighter Squadron, 20th Fighter Group
- d. 0825
- e. Moulins
- f. Overcast at 1,000 feet
- g. Ju 290
- h. 1 Ju 290 Destroyed
- i.

I was flying Blue 3 and the squadron had just hit the deck to look for and strafe ground targets and transportation. I was flying at 20 or 30 feet and saw a Ju 290 2 or 3 miles away flying just above the tree tops about 10 o'clock to the squadron and headed in our direction. I called Blue Leader and told him I spotted a 4 engine bomber and was turning back to him. Blue Leader told me to break and he would follow and cover. I made a 180° to the right and the E/A turned away and started to climb to make the overcast at 1,000 feet. When I was about 700 yards from him he started into the overcast. I had given the plane full boost and was following him into the overcast. I could just see his right engines and right wing. I shot at the engines from about 700 yards because I was afraid that he was getting away into the overcast. The outboard engine blew up after about a 1 second burst and the inboard engine seemed to catch fire or smoke. These shots were about 20° deflection. I closed in more astern and gave several bursts in the cockpit and right side of the fuselage. He was unable to stay up in the overcast and dropped off to the left. I pulled under to the left to fire some more but the hatch opened under the fuselage and approximately 7 men bailed out. The fuselage was flaming inside and the plane crashed a moment later and exploded. It seemed to hit some farm buildings.

Claim: 1 Ju 290 Destroyed

J. Ser. No. of A/C 42-67251

A/C Marking: MC-X

Ammunition Expended: 412 rds. 50 cal.  
88 rds. 20 mm.

*Edward J. Steiner*  
EDWARD J. STEINER  
Captain, Air Corps  
Intelligence Officer

*Jesse E. Carpenter, Jr.*  
JESSE E. CARPENTER, JR.  
2nd Lt., Air Corps

CONFIRMATION

We were flying Yellow Leader, Red Leader and Blue Leader respectively and witnessed the above encounter. The Ju 290 was on fire, crashed into the ground and exploded as a result of the attack.

*Jack M. Ilzrey*  
JACK M. ILZREY  
Captain, Air Corps

*James D. Bradshaw*  
JAMES D. BRADSHAW  
1st Lt., Air Corps

*James H. Baldwin*  
JAMES H. BALDWIN  
1st Lt., Air Corps