

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

(G-7)

ENCOUNTER REPORT

2ND LT HARLEY L. BROWN

- A. Combat
- B. 2 November 1944
- C. 55th Fighter Squadron, 20th Fighter Group
- D. Approx. 1310 hours
- E. Vicinity Halle/Mersburg
- F. 9/10 cloud cover
- G. 2 FW 190
2 ME 109
- H. 2 FW 190 destroyed
1 ME 109 destroyed
1 ME 109 damaged
- I.

I was flying with Gp Leader's section No 2 in Yellow flight. We were at about 29,000 feet headed about 130 degree when I saw a gaggle of 75 + ME 109's and FW 190s. They were at bomber level, 26,000 feet and headed for the bombers. Lt. Mansker was leading my flight. He made the pass at the E/A and I stayed with him. I picked the last E/A a FW 190 in the gaggle. I opened fire at 400 yds. and closed right down to him. I had to pull up to get out of debris falling from his plane and to avoid hitting him. He was smoking badly and large pieces were falling off. I claim one 1 FW 190 destroyed.

I was still on Lt. Mansker's wing. We both chandelled and pulled up to the right to about 28,000 feet. We saw another gaggle of about 25 + E/A at 25,000 feet. I was astern of Mansker now. I noticed an ME 109 on my tail so I broke to the left in a sharp break. As I was pulling thru another ME 109 pulled into my sights. I had him in my sights long enough to give a 1-second burst. I saw strikes on his left wing. I claim this ME 109 damaged. (The E/A on my tail at this time I lost in my sharp turn).

After checking to be sure I had lost the E/A on my tail I turned back to the right and got on the tail of a FW 190 in the same gaggle of E/A. I came in to about 200 yards and closed to 100 yds giving 2 or 3 2-second bursts. I saw strikes all over the canopy, fuselage and wing. The plane started smoking badly and then went into what appeared to be an uncontrolled spin. I believe I killed the pilot in my attack. The hits were well concentrated in the cockpit area.

I claim one (1) FW 190 destroyed

I pulled back to 30,000 feet looking for Lt. Mansker. While I was waiting for 2 P-51s to come to join me, I saw a B-17 straggler at about 24,000 feet. Two ME 109s were making repeated attacks. I did not wait for the 2 P-51's to come up - instead I dove down at full throttle to knock the E/A away from the bomber but shortly after starting my dive I saw the bomber explode - no chutes seen. I picked one E/A and he broke to the left in a climbing turn. I pulled out and came out somewhat astern and climbing to get into position for a good shot. I opened fire with a 15 degree deflection and saw several strikes on fuselage and canopy. I gave him another burst from about 400 yards and got same results. He started smoking shortly thereafter. Then E/A split S&A and I followed him. I closed to 300 yards, in this vertical dive, and gave him a 2-second burst. He was smoking badly now. Plane acted as tho there was no pilot controlling it. From the concentration of hits in the cockpit area I'm sure I killed this pilot also. He was spinning and smoking. I claim one (1) ME 109 destroyed

NOTE: I am sold on the K-14 sight.

TOTAL CLAIMS:

- J. Ser No of A/C : 44-13779
- A/C markings : KI-N
- ammo expended : 929 rds 50 cal.

2 FW 190s destroyed
1 ME 109 destroyed
1 ME 109 damaged

/s/ Harley L. Brown
/t/ HARLEY L. BROWN
2nd Lt., A. C.

/s/ Dean E. Erlanson,
/t/ DEAN E. ERLANDSON,
Captain, A. C.
Intelligence Officer.
55th Fighter Squadron

A TRUE COPY:

GERALD F. COSTELLO
Major, Air Corps,
Ass't A-2 67FW

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 745005

By JLT NARA Date 3-11-11

RECEIVED BY *[Signature]*
DATE *9/14/44* TIME *1320*

55TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, 20TH FIGHTER GROUP
APO 557 AAF STATION F-367
U. S. ARMY

28 DECEMBER 1944

SUBJECT: RECONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS OF LT. HARLEY L. BROWN.
TO : COMMANDING OFFICER, 20TH FIGHTER GROUP, APO 557.

1. CLAIM OF 2 FW 190'S AND 1 ME 109 DESTROYED BY ABOVE PILOT ON 2 NOVEMBER 1944 WAS CONFIRMED BY VICTORY CREDITS BOARD REPORT #42, DATED 10 DECEMBER 1944 AS 2 FW 190'S DESTROYED AND 1 ME 109 PROBABLY DESTROYED.

2. PILOT'S ENCOUNTER REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY ENCOUNTER REPORT, HERETO ATTACHED, INDICATES THAT AS A RESULT OF 3 DETERMINED ATTACKS THE ENEMY PILOT WAS KILLED.

3. REQUEST THAT VICTORY CREDITS BOARD RECONSIDER THIS CLAIM.

Richard P. Gatterdam
RICHARD P. GATTERDAM
MAJOR, AIR CORPS
COMMANDING

2 INCLS: ENCOUNTER REPORT, 2 CY.
SUPPLEMENTARY ENCOUNTER REPORT, 3 CY.

201. Brown, H.L. (O) 1st Ind. (C-3)
Hq, AAF Station 367, APO 557, U. S. Army, 3 January 1945.

TO: Commanding General, 67th Fighter Wing, AAF Station 372, APO 557.

1. Request for reconsideration approved.



2 Incls. n/c

Robert P. Montgomery
ROBERT P. MONTGOMERY
Lt. Colonel, Air Corps,
Commanding.

20274

67FW 009737

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

ENCOUNTER REPORT

LT HARLEY L. BROWN

- a. Combat
- b. 2 Dec 1944
- c. 55th F/S, 20th F/G
- d. Approx 1255 hours
- e. Koblenz - St Goar area
- f. 10/10ths cloud cover
- g. 1 FW 190
- h. 1 FW 190 Dest
- i.

I was leading Blue Flt in the 55th F/S we were headed east flying at 28,000'. I saw a gaggle of 20 to 25 E/A coming up through the clouds at about 3 o'clock to me. They were headed S. I took my Flt down in a diving turn to the right and noticed that there were more, perhaps 75 E/A. We came down directly behind them. These E/A were obviously going to attack a CW of B-24s. I got on the tail of a FW 190 and as I was firing I saw most of the E/A split "S" and get out of there. I stayed on the tail of this 190, opened fire from about 500 yds, closed to about 100 yds. He started to smoke, and I saw pieces of the plane and fire come from the bottom of the plane, I pulled out and went back up to look around again. I saw a few scattered E/A in the area but they dived into the clouds when they saw me attacking.

I claim a FW 190 Dest.

J. Ser No of A/C: 44-11250

A/C Markings : KI-A

Ammunition Expended: 489 rds 50 cal API.

/s/ Harley L. Brown,
HARLEY L. BROWN,
1st Lt, A.C.

C O N F I R M A T I O N

I was flying Blue 4. We saw a gaggle of 50-plus E/A moving in to attack a formation of B-24s. We bounced this force of E/A. I saw Lt Brown get on the tail of a 190. I saw strikes all over his fuselage and wing roots. The E/A immediately started to smoke, and was spinning just as he entered the cloud deck. I believe this FW 190 was out of control.

/s/ Robert W. Meinzen,
ROBERT W. MEINZEN,
2nd Lt, A.C.

/s/ Dean E. Erlandson,
DEAN E. ERLANDSON,
Captain, A.C.
Intelligence O., 55th F/S.

A TRUE COPY:

Gerald F. Costello
GERALD F. COSTELLO,
Major, Air Corps.
Ass't A-2, 67th FW.
(D-8)

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

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NNID 745005

By JG NARA Date 3-11-11

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NNID 146205

By JCF NARA Date 2-11-11

CONFIDENTIAL

ENCOUNTER REPORT
LT. HARLEY L. BROWN

*in badly cut up
E/A visible but no
apparent hits. Good
range & deflection
OK
2 dest*

- A. COMBAT
B. 14 JANUARY 1945
C. 55TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, 20TH FIGHTER GROUP
D. 1248 HOURS
E. PERLEBERG, GERMANY
F. CLEAR
G. TWO (2) ME 109'S
H. TWO (2) ME 109'S DESTROYED
I.

I WAS LEADING BLUE FLIGHT. WE WERE ESCORTING BOMBERS TO MAGDEBURG AND HAD JUST SIGHTED A BIG DOG-FIGHT THAT WAS TAKING PLACE 5-6 MILES AHEAD OF US. WE WERE AT 31,000 FEET WHEN I SAW TWO ME 109'S AT APPROXIMATELY ONE O'CLOCK AND 4,000 FEET BELOW US. WE STARTED DOWN AFTER THEM. ONE TURNED 180 DEGREES AND WE LOST SIGHT OF IT. THE OTHER 109 SAW US COMING AND JUST BEFORE WE GOT IN RANGE HE PULLED STRAIGHT UP IN A VERTICAL CLIMB. I PULLED UP UNDERNEATH HIM AND OPENED FIRE FROM 400 YARDS GIVING HIM A 2 SECOND BURST. I SAW STRIKES ON THE E/A. WE BOTH STALLED OUT, FALLING TOGETHER FOR APPROXIMATELY 3,000 FEET. I RECOVERED BEFORE HE DID AND GOT ON HIS TAIL GIVING HIM ANOTHER 2 SECOND BURST FROM 50 YARDS. I OBSERVED STRIKES AND PIECES FLYING OFF AND HE BEGAN TO SMOKE IMMEDIATELY. SOON AFTER THIS HE JETTISONED HIS CANOPY, SNAPROLLED AND STARTED DOWN. I WAS FIRING 2-3 SECOND BURSTS FROM 50 FEET AND HITS WERE WELL CONCENTRATED IN HIS COCKPIT AND WINGROOTS. WHILE WE WERE IN THIS VERTICAL POSITION HIS FUSELAGE EXPLODED AND THE A/O SEEMED TO DISINTEGRATE. I WAS FORCED TO PULL UP TO AVOID HUGE PIECES OF THE PLANE. THE LAST I SAW OF THE E/A IT WAS SPINNING VIOLENTLY AND BURNING FIERCELY.

I CLAIM ONE (1) ME 109 DESTROYED.

I WAS ALONE AND I CLIMBED TO REJOIN THE BIG FIGHT STILL IN PROGRESS. WHILE CLIMBING I SAW A LONE ME 109 AT ONE O'CLOCK AND 2,000 FEET BELOW ME. I GOT ON HIS TAIL AND OPENED FIRE FROM 200 YARDS GIVING HIM A 2-3 SECOND BURST OBSERVING A FEW STRIKES ON THE E/A. I CLOSED TO APPROXIMATELY 100 YARDS AND GAVE HIM ANOTHER 2-3 SECOND BURST. THESE STRIKES WERE WELL CONCENTRATED IN THE FUSELAGE AND WINGROOTS AND HE IMMEDIATELY BURST INTO FLAMES. AT THIS TIME AN UNIDENTIFIED A/O SWUNG IN BEHIND ME. I BROKE OFF MY ATTACK AND SWUNG TO THE LEFT. THIS A/O WAS A P-47, SO I CONTINUED TO MAKE A 180 DEGREE TURN. I LOOKED FOR THE E/A WITH WHICH I HAD BEEN ENGAGED. I TURNED TO THE RIGHT AND SAW HIM APPROXIMATELY 5,000 FEET BELOW ME, SPINNING ERRATICALLY AND BURNING. AS LONG AS I WATCHED THIS ME 109 HE FAILED TO PULL OUT. I WENT BACK TO THE BOMBERS.

I CLAIM ONE (1) ME 109 DESTROYED.

J. SER. # OF A/C: 44-11250
A/C MARKINGS : KI-A
AMMO EXPENDED: 1275 RDS. 50 CAL API

Clifford W. Long
CLIFFORD W. LONG
1ST LT., A.C. INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

Harley L. Brown
HARLEY L. BROWN
1ST LT., AIR CORPS
O-710650.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIRMATION

I WAS FLYING BLUE 3. I SAW LT. BROWN GET SEVERAL STRIKES ON HIS FIRST ME 109. I SAW IT BEGIN TO STREAM COOLANT AND BURN. JUST BEFORE THE E/A SNAP-ROLLED AND WENT DOWN I SAW HIM JETTISON HIS CANOPY. ON LT. BROWN'S SECOND BURST I SAW THE CENTER OF THE FUSELAGE EXPLODE AND THE E/A GO INTO A VIOLENT SPIN. AS LONG AS I WATCHED THIS ME 109 IT NEVER PULLED OUT OF ITS DIVE. I CONFIRM THIS ME 109 AS DESTROYED.

Kenneth D. McNeel
KENNETH D. MCNEEL
1ST LT., AIR CORPS

