

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

ENCOUNTER REPORT

CAPT JACK M. ILFREY

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH FIGHTER COMB. REGISTRY No. <u>25971-C</u> COPY No. <u>2</u> A-2

- a. Combat
- b. 24 May 1944
- c. 79th Ftr Sq, 20th Ftr Gp
- d. 1115
- e. Elberswalde, Germany
- f. Hazy and clouds to 21,000 ft
- g. Me-109s
- h. Two (2) Me-109s dest.
- i.

Just as the sq made R/V with the bombers at about 28,000 ft, 30 plus silver Me-109s bounced the sq. We pulled up to about 30,000 ft. I was leading Red Flt and everyone flew into a defensive circle. I was in a tight turn to the right to keep E/A from firing at me and during this turn I fired a short burst at a Me-109 from 500 yds at 60° while indicating about 250 m.p.h. I observed strikes on this plane. I had to turn left immediately to keep someone from firing at me. I made a 360° turn to the left and as I straightened out I saw a Me-109 at one o'clock coming almost head on slightly to the right. I tried to avoid hitting him but his plane crashed into my right wing and tore up the the outer 3 or 4 ft of my wing. I was thrown into a slight spin, recovered and joined a box of bombers. The plane I fired at and the plane that crashed into my wing were reported as going down in flames.

Claims: Two (2) Me-109s dest

- j. Ser No of A/C: 43-28431
A/C Markings: MC-0
Ammo Exp: 113 rds 50 cal.
20 rds 20 mm

/s/ Jack M. Ilfrey

JACK M. ILFREY,
Capt., Air Corps,

CONFIRMATION

At 1115 2 Me-109s were seen going down in flames just after we were bounced by 30 plus Me-109s. It is believed that one was hit by fire from Red Ldr (Capt Ilfrey) and the other crashed into his plane. Both planes were dest. The 361st Ftr Gp also confirmed the fact that one of these Me-109s went down in flames.

/s/ Delynn E. Anderson

DELYNN E. ANDERSON,
Major, Air Corps,
White Ldr

/s/ William W. Smith

WILLIAM W. SMITH,
Captain, Air Corps,
White 3

/s/ Earl O. Smith

EARL O. SMITH,
1st Lt, AC
Yellow 2

/s/ Edward J. Steiner

EDWARD J. STEINER,
Captain, Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer

TRUE COPY:

Ess N. Gittinger
ESS N. GITTINGER,
aptain, Air Corps,
Ass't A-2 67FW

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By JG NARA Date 3-11-11