

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

ENCOUNTER REPORT

LT REPS D. JONES

- a. Combat
- b. 2 November, 1944.
- c. 77th Ftr Sq, 20th Ftr Gp
- d. 1230
- e. Vic of Merseburg
- f. Clear at 20,000 - 28,000 ft
- g. Me 109
- h. Two (2) Me 109s dest
- i.

I was flying Red 2. We had gone down to 22,000 ft and both my ldr and I saw a Me 109 on the tail of a B-17 at about 1230. My ldr took a squirt at him and registered a few hits as he slipped by. I immediately got into firing position about 300 yds behind him and let him have three bursts while the E/A and I were in a left bank and I gave him at least a 2 radii lead at about 40° deflection dropped to 10°. I saw strikes all over him and he burst into flames as he maneuvered violently and disappeared in the clouds in somewhat of a 3/4 split S.

I then gained alt in a tight spiral. I hooked on to the tail of a 109 who was in a left bank and fired a short burst at 30° deflection from 200 yds. I noticed no strikes. I then got almost in trail and slightly above him and let him have 2 short bursts observing many strikes along the left wing starting on the outer edge and working towards the cockpit. Heavy grayish smoke poured from his left side. He dumped his nose went into the cloud level at 9,000 ft. I didn't see him after this.

I Claim: Two (2) Me 109s dest

- j. Ser No of A/C: 44-14823
- A/C Markings: LC-F
- Ammo Exp: 1229 rds 50 Cal

/s/ Repls D. Jones
REPS D. JONES,
2nd Lt., Air Corps.

S T A T E M E N T

I was flying Red Ldr. Lt. Jones was my #2 man. We both saw this Me 109 on the B-17s tail as they broke through the overcast. I let him have a long burst as I overshot him and Lt. Jones slipped right in on him. I saw strikes as Lt. Jones fired at him and he later burst into flames and went into the overcast.

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

/s/ Loyd E. Rowlett
LOYD E. ROWLETT,
1st Lt., Air Corps.

A TRUE COPY:

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

(D-9)

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

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NNJ 745205

By JCT NARA Date 3-11-11

CONFIDENTIAL

77TH FIGHTER SQUADRON
Station 367
APO #557, U. S. Army

312.1

20 December 1944

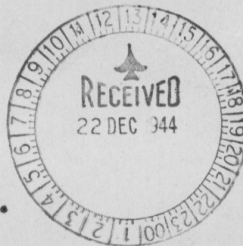
SUBJECT: Claim of 1st Lt. Reps D. Jones.

TO : Commanding Officer, AAF Station 367, U. S. Army.

1. Request that action of Victory Credits Board, VIII Fighter Command be reconsidered in connection with claim of 1st Lt. Reps D. Jones, 77th Fighter Squadron, dated 2 November 1944.

2. Claim was submitted as 2 destroyed and return award was given as 1 destroyed, and 1 probably destroyed.

3. It is believed that the attached Encounter Report gives sufficient information to sustain the claim and to show error in findings of the Victory Credits Board in not confirming this claim.



Merle B. Nichols

MERLE B. NICHOLS,
Captain, Air Corps,
Commanding.

1 Incl:
Incl #1 - Encounter Report.

201. Jones R.D. (O) 1st Ind.
Hq, AAF Station 367, APO 557, U. S. Army, 22 December 1944.

(C-3)

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

1. Approved. Pilot's claim appears to be justified.

For the Station Commander:

E. G. Findley

E. G. FINDLEY
Major, Air Corps,
Asst. Adjutant.

1 Incl. n/c

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NNID 745005
By JG NARA Date 3-11-11

CONFIDENTIAL 67 FW No 09465 C

KNIG 2745C

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

1st Lt. REPS D. JONES O-675708

*film bad
strikes apparent
FW-190 with wheels
down*

- A. Combat.
- B. 14 January 1945.
- C. 77th Fighter Squadron, 20th Fighter Group.
- D. 1245.
- E. Vicinity of Perleberg, Germany
- F. CAVU.
- G. FW-190.

*ok
needed*

1-0-0 H. One (1) FW-190 destroyed.

I.

"I was Blue Leader flying at 30,000 feet on January 14, 1945 when at 1230 contrails were called in ahead. I was leading a flight over 5th combat box of bombers at the time and heard other flights giving orders to drop tanks.

A few minutes later I saw an a/c come out from below bombers. I bounced but a/c proved to be a P-51. I bounced again but again a/c turned out to be a Mustang. A third bounce was made but still it was a P-51. By this time I was at 5,000 feet when I saw an a/c flying at 2,000 feet with its wheels down. I dove after a/c which was making gentle turns and at 2,000 feet at 300 yards I saw crosses on the wing. I opened fire and e/a kicked up in vertical bank to the right and I did everything but put my head out to slow down. I dropped in trail as he came out and fired three bursts from 100 yards. I saw strikes on right wing and pieces came off same spot. I kicked rudders to get sight on him and gave him last burst at close range. His canopy came off to the left and plane pulled up to right. Pilot came out at this time and his chute opened just before he hit the ground.

Plane started burning and went into ground and exploded."

Claim: One (1) FW-190 destroyed.

J.

1st Lt. REPS D. JONES 44-14823 LC-F 1020 rds 50 Caliber.

Reps D. Jones
REPS D. JONES,
1st Lt., Air Corps.

Francis W. Barkley
FRANCIS W. BARKLEY,
Captain, Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer.

(CONFIRMING STATEMENT ON REVERSE SIDE)

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 745005

By JG NARA Date 3-11-11

STATEMENT

"I was flying Blue 4 in Lt. Jones' flight and followed him down when he bounced an FW-190 at about 2,000 feet at approximately 1245 hours. I observed strikes on the 190 when Lt. Jones fired and immediately afterwards the plane burst into flames. The pilot bailed out and I saw his chute open just before he hit the ground. The FW-190 went straight in and exploded. I confirm this FW-190 destroyed by Lt. Jones."

Cartheledge L. Huey, Jr.
CARTHELEDGE L. HUEY JR.,
F/O, Air Corps.

H. Parlee

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONSOLIDATED ENCOUNTER REPORT

MAJOR MERLE J. GILBERTSON 0-730451
CAPT. LOWELL E. EINHAUS 0-767167
CAPT. EDWIN C. JENNINGS 0-661215
CAPT. CHARLES H. COLE 0-725682
1ST LT. FREDERICK (NMI) LARSEN 0-470948
1ST LT. WILLIAM C. FAY 0-827185

1ST LT. REPS D. JONES 0-675708
1ST LT. PHILLIP L. SCHALLO 0-688850
1ST LT. GARTH L. REYNOLDS 0-692198
2ND LT. GLEN R. HALL 0-818375
2ND LT. EDWIN R. PITZ 0-827272
2ND LT. JOHN P. STARKE 0-820343

- a. Combat.
- b. 9 February 1945.
- c. 77th Ftr Sq, 20th Ftr Gp.
- d. 1315 to 1335.
- e. Esperstedt, airfield, Germany.
- f. Clear on deck, 5/10 cloud cover at 5000 feet.
- g. FW 190 - Me 109 - Me 410 - Me 110 - u/i s/e biplane.
- h. 3 FW 190s destroyed - Major Gilbertson
 - 1 Me 109 destroyed - Lt. Jones OK
 - 1 FW 190 destroyed - Lt. Starke OK
 - 1 FW 190 destroyed - Capt. Edwin C. Jennings ? POSSIBLY ONE DAM
 - 2 FW 190s destroyed - Lt. Schallo OK
 - 1 s/e biplane destroyed - Lt. Larsen ?
 - 2 FW 190s destroyed - Lt. Larsen OK
 - 6 FW 190s destroyed - Capt. Einhaus - ?
 - 6 FW 190s destroyed - Capt. Cole OK
 - 3 FW 190s destroyed - Lt. William C. Fay. ONE DEF. TWO ?
 - 3 FW 190s destroyed - Lt. Jones OK POSSIBLY MORE
 - 2 FW 190s destroyed - Lt. Reynolds OK
 - 2 FW 190s destroyed - Lt. Pitz OK
 - 1 FW 190 destroyed - Lt. Hall OK
 - 1 Me 410 destroyed - Lt. Schallo MANY HITS (OK ?)
 - 1 Me 410 destroyed - Lt. Starke MANY HITS (OAM)
 - 2 Me 110s destroyed - Lt. Reynolds OK
 - 1 FW 190 damaged - Capt. Cole OK
 - 1 FW 190 damaged - Lt. Hall OK
 - 1 Me 110 damaged - Maj. Gilbertson
 - 1 Me 110 damaged - Lt. Pitz OK
 - 1 Me 410 damaged - Lt. Hall OK

Other ground targets:

- 1 locomotive dest - Maj. Gilbertson OK
- 1 hangar destroyed - Capt. Einhaus - ?
- 1 hangar destroyed - Lt. Jones OK
- 2 hangars destroyed - Lt. Larsen
- 2 hangars damaged - Capt. Einhaus - ?
- 1 admin. bldg. damaged - Capt. Einhaus - ?
- 6 huns killed - Capt. Einhaus ?
- 20 freight cars damaged - 77th Squadron.
- 1 gun emplacement & personnel damaged - Capt. Jennings.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

745005
By 7 NARS, Date 10/31/77

1. After our squadron had escorted the bombers around their target at Lutzkendorf, we dropped down to strafe on a heading of 260°. Just east of Esperstedt airfield a long train was strafed by Major Gilbertson and his section. The engine was destroyed by Major Gilbertson but the freight cars would not burn and therefore are claimed as damaged only.

Right after this Lt. Larsen who was flying Yellow 4 was first to see about 80 plus e/a, 3/4 of which were s/e (mostly 190s) and the balance t/e aircraft. He made a pass on the field as he called the planes in to the squadron. The squadron then strafed the field for 20 minutes from 1315 to 1335 making one pass from east to west, 2 passes from north to south and as many as 5 passes were made by some pilots from south to north. The light flak was very intense but not accurate. 38 planes were destroyed on the ground and 5 damaged. 4 hangars, 1 large and 3 blister types, were destroyed and 2 were damaged. 1 gun emplacement and personnel were damaged, 1 administrative building was damaged and 6 of the Huns were killed.

(Over)

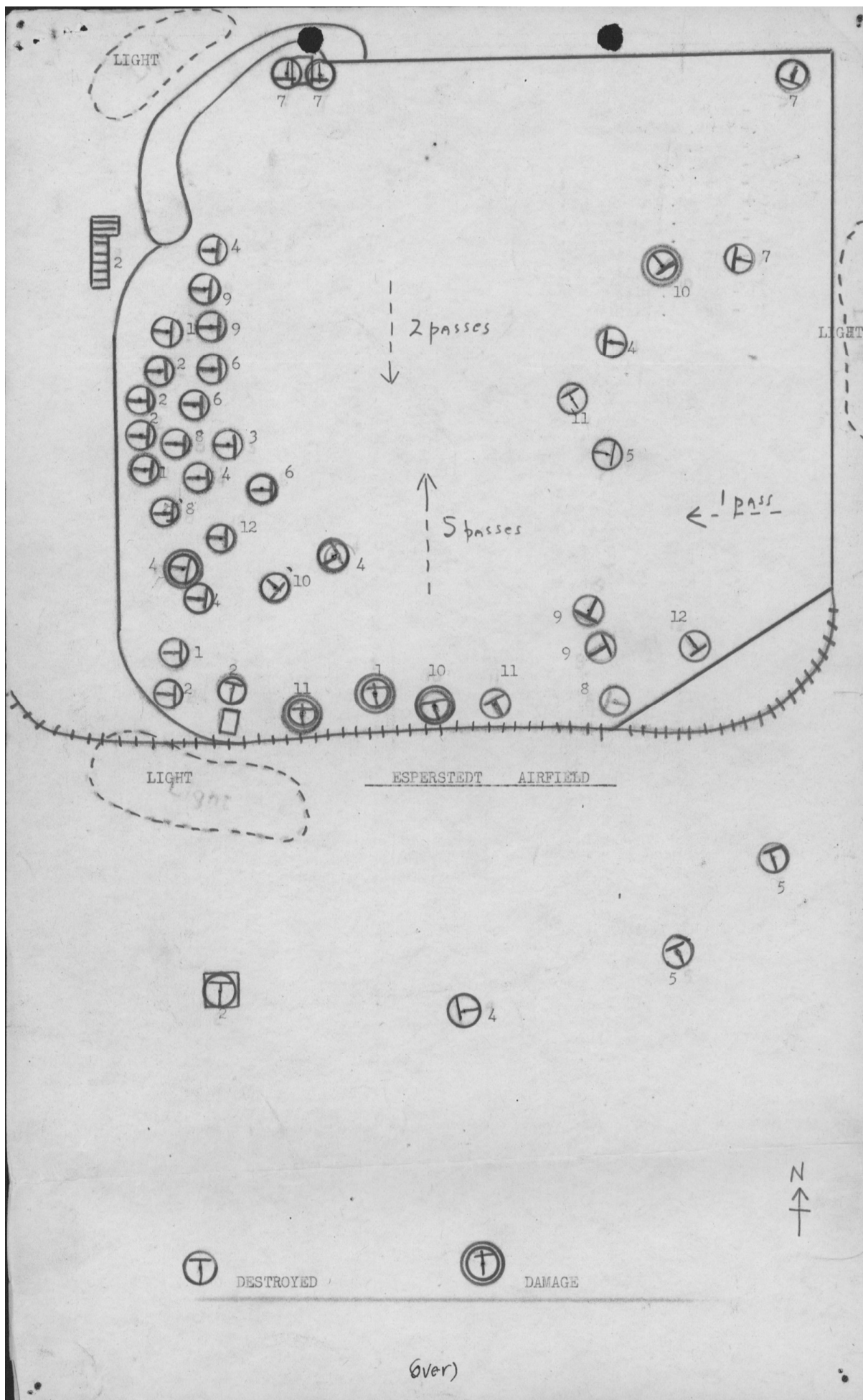
All the planes -- especially the FW 190s -- appeared to be brand new and burst into flame readily. Capt. Cole who was leading Red section took pictures of the field with his K-25 camera after his ammo had run out. We are enclosing these pictures which reveal many planes on fire even though the field was still under attack after the pictures were taken.

There were revetments to the south with roads from them leading to the field and dispersal areas. There were many light flak emplacements south of the field as well as on the eastern side and in the southwest and northwest corners.

j.	Ser No of A/C:	Markings of A/C:	Ammo expended:
Gilbertson	44-14822	LC-A	1600 rounds 50 cal.
Einhaus	44-13918	LC-V	1300 rounds 50 cal.
Jennings	44-13798	LC-W	1279 rounds 50 cal.
Cole	44-11324	LC-U	1800 rounds 50 cal.
Larsen	44-15605	LC-M	1480 rounds 50 cal.
Fay	44-11566	LC-Q	1800 rounds 50 cal.
Jones	44-14823	LC-F	1800 rounds 50 cal.
Schallo	44-14975	LC-K	1460 rounds 50 cal.
Reynolds	44-15321	LC-S	1500 rounds 50 cal.
Hall	44-14824	LC-P	750 rounds 50 cal.
Pitz	44-14598	LC-L	1670 rounds 50 cal.
Starke	44-13803	LC-P	1760 rounds 50 cal.

Merle J. Gilbertson
 MERLE J. GILBERTSON,
 Major, Air Corps,

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



PILOT'S PERSONAL ENCOUNTER REPORT

1ST LT. REPS D. JONES 0-675708

- A. COMBAT.
- B. 2 MARCH 1945.
- C. 77TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, 20TH FIGHTER GROUP.
- D. 1100.
- E. VICINITY OF CHEMNITZ.
- F. CLEAR, CUMULOUS CLOUDS AT 2,000 TO 6,000 FEET.
- G. FW-190.
- H. ONE (1) FW-190 DAMAGED.
- I.

"I WAS LEADING THE SQUADRON AND ESCORTING BOMBERS IN THE VICINITY OF CHEMNITZ AT 1100. 12 SHIPS OF OUR CG BOMBED EARLY AND MADE A 360° TO THE STARBOARD HEADING BACK TOWARD THE SMOKE MARKERS. I SAW GUN FLASHES AND A/C MAKING PASSES AT ONE BOMBER THAT WAS LAGGING SLIGHTLY. I CALLED MY SQUADRON, DROPPED MY TANKS AND FLEW OVER TO BREAK UP THE ATTACK. AS I CAME IN I NOTICED APPROXIMATELY 6 FW 190S IN THE AREA. I PICKED ONE, GOT ON HIS TAIL AND FOLLOWED HIM AS HE ROLLED AND DOVE ALL THE WAY DOWN TO 6,000 FEET. I FIRED 6 OR 7 SHORT BURSTS AT HIM DURING THIS TIME, MY RANGE BEING 100 TO 150 YARDS, DEFLECTION ANYWHERE FROM 10° TO 0°. I SAW SOME STRIKES ON THE WING AND HE WAS STREAMING GAS AT ONE TIME. AT 6,000 FEET HE DUCKED INTO THE CLOUDS AND I FOLLOWED BUT LOST HIM."

CLAIM: ONE (1) FW-190 DAMAGED.

THIS MAY HAVE BEEN THE PLANE SHARED WITH THE 352ND FIGHTER GROUP AS DESTROYED.

J.
1ST LT. REPS D. JONES 44-14823 LC-F 860 RDS 50 CALIBER.

DECLASSIFIED
DOD Dir. 52009, Sept. 27, 1958
NCWN by E-7 date 9-7-72

Reps D. Jones
REPS D. JONES,
1ST LT., AIR CORPS.

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