

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

ENCOUNTER REPORT

LT JOSEPH L. MANSKER

- a. Combat
- b. 6 Aug 1944
- c. 55th Ftr Sq, 20th Ftr Gp.
- d. 1220
- e. S of Brandenburg
- f. CAVU - slight haze
- g. FW 190
- h. One (1) FW 190 Dest
- i.

I was flying Red 2. We were with the bombers when I saw a 190 on the deck. I called him in and Red Ldr said we'd go down. Red Ldr made a pass. I was flying on his right and slightly in trail. The FW 190 broke into Lt Buie, who was going so fast that he went by him, leaving me clear to fire. E/A failed to continue his turn, enabling me to make a deflection shot. I opened fire from approx 150 yds. I saw strikes. I followed him from eastern, continuing to fire. Smoke began to pour from his left side. I overshot, chandelled to get in range again. I opened fire from a 90° deflection. I saw my fire hitting the grd, held it and he passed right thru the line of fire. He hit the grd. I made a second pass and saw the pilot crumpled in the cockpit.

I claim one (1) FW 190 Dest.

j. Ser No of A/C: 44-13905 Markings of A/C: KI-Y Ammo Exp: 1465rds 50cal.

/s/Joseph L. Mansker
JOSEPH L. MANSKER,
2nd Lt., Air Corps.

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

I was flying Red Ldr when Red 2 called in a FW 190. We were at 8,000 ft. We went down and got slightly above and behind E/A. Finally I committed myself and E/A turned into me. My speed carried me past E/A. I made a sharp turn to get back. When I got around Lt Mansker was behind and to the right of E/A firing steadily. I saw many strikes and smoke began to pour from left side of E/A. Lt Mansker overshot, pulled up, chandelled to get back in range. He opened fire with a 90° deflection. E/A passed thru his line of fire and hit the grd. Plane was smoking and pilot appeared to be dead.

/s/Clifford W. Long
CLIFFORD W. LONG,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer.

/s/Joseph N. Buie
JOSEPH N. BUIE,
1st Lt., Air Corps.

A TRUE COPY.

Jess N. Gittinger
JESS N. GITTINGER,
Major, Air Corps,
A-2.

(D-11)

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

HEADQUARTERS
EIGHTH FIGHTER COMMAND
REGISTRY No. 29994-C
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Authority NND 745005

By JCT NARA Date 3-11-11

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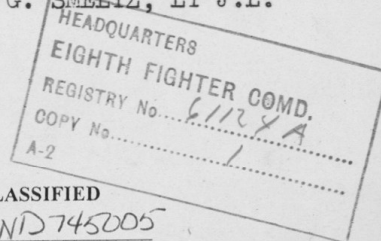
LT COL RANDOLPH, LT D.D. OXLEY, LT J.E. BURFORD, LT H. B. BYNUM,
LT J. S. FORD, LT H. L. BROWN, LT H. M. ANDERSON, LT C.F. BAIN,
CAPT E. HOWER, LT R. M. HOWARD, LT W. W. WELLS, LT E. E. WASIL,
LT R. RIEMENSDIDER, LT K. D. MCNEEL, LT K. G. SMELTZ, LT J.L.
MANSKER.

- a. Combat
- b. 25 Aug 1944
- c. 55th Ftr Sq, 20th Ftr Gp
- d. 1300
- e. Parow A/D and Seaplane anchorage
- f. CAYU
- g. Land planes and seaplanes
- h. See claims listed under "J".
- i.

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By JG NARA Date 3-11-11



I was leading the 55th Ftr Sq on a bomber escort mission. The Tgt was Peenemunde. We were over Rugen Island at about 23,000 ft when Lt Smeltz, in Blue Flt, called on the R/T that he had seen some flying boats down on the Kubitzer Bay. I sent Red Section down to make the attack. Both Flts spiralled down, making their initial pass at about 450 MPH---Red Flt from S to N and Blue Flt from E to W. The two Flts made 2/3 passes on 10/12 flying boats anchored in the bay. Blue Flt made a right hand turn, and in so doing saw the Parow A/F with 60/70 A/C superbly camouflaged and lined up wing-tip to wing-tip. Blue Flt made 3 passes on these land planes, attack being from W to E strafing the planes on the N side of the field. Many planes on this field were hidden, or partially hidden in the various wooded area immediately adjacent to the field. Red Flt joined Blue Flt and they strafed the entire drome, using a left hand traffic pattern in making a series of passes. Lt Smeltz and Lt Mansker in Blue Flt made 8/9 passes. Red Flt and Lt Smeltz went up top to give cover to White Section, plus the three planes in Blue Flt (Riemensnider, McNeel, and Mansker) who continued their strafing attack on the land-based planes.

White Flt made their first pass from E to W, then made a right turn and more attacks on the land based planes, concentration being on the planes in the wooded section just to the N of the landing field. They made 3 more attacks from W to E over the same general area.

Yellow Flt came down with White Flt and made the same number and type of attacks, concentrating on planes to the N of the grass field.

Pilots attacking this A/F and anchorage may have duplicated claims on dam A/C. In view of the large number of A/C parked wing-tip to wing-tip on the grd, the best claims are conservative in number.

The flak on this field was light and accurate. Lt Bain, flying Yellow 4 position, was hit on his fourth pass over the field. He headed for the Baltic Sea, but his plane caught fire about 5 miles from the A/T. He bailed out at the mouth of the Kubitzer Bay and was picked up by a patrol boat which came out from the German Coast.

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

I make the following claims for the pilots of the 55th Ftr Sq:

| | Pilot | Ser No | Markings | 50cal Ammo Exp | Dest | CLAIMS Dam |
|-------------------|------------------------|----------|----------------|-------------------|---|--------------------|
| J. W. H. I. T. E. | Randolph <i>OK</i> | 44-13541 | MC-N | 1,212 | 1-BV140 1-Ju88 | 2-Ju88s |
| | Oxley <i>OK</i> | 43-25056 | KI-H | 430 | 1-FW190 | 1-Ju88 |
| | Burford <i>OK</i> | 44-13790 | KI-I | 1,299 | 1-BV140 1-Hsl26 | 1-Ju52 2-Ju88s |
| | Bynum <i>OK</i> | 44-13715 | KI-K | 472 | 1-Ju88 1-Ju52 | |
| Y. E. L. O. W. | Ford <i>OK</i> | 44-13702 | KI-E | 700 | 1-Ju88 1-Ju52 | 1-Ju88 |
| | Brown <i>OK</i> | 44-13794 | KI-C | 612 | | 1-Ju88 |
| | Anderson <i>OK</i> | 44-13733 | KI-F | 235 | 1-Ju88 | |
| | Bain (MIA) <i>OK</i> | 44-25033 | KI-D | 1080 | 1-Ju88 | 1-Ju88 |
| R. E. D. | Howe <i>OK</i> | 44-13799 | KI-N | 1695 | 2-BV140 | 1-Dol8 |
| | Howard <i>OK</i> | 44-13664 | KI-B | 1216 | 1-BV140 | 1-BV140 |
| | Wells <i>OK</i> | 44-13827 | KI-R | 1579 | 1-BV140 | 2-Ju88s |
| | Wasil <i>OK</i> | 43-25031 | KI-O | 666 | 1-2/E Trainer 2-Dol8 | 1-U/I A/ |
| | Riemensnider <i>OK</i> | 44-13905 | KI-Y | 1477 | 1-2/E Trainer 2-Dol8-(1 shared McNeel) | 1-Dol8 |
| B. L. U. E. | McNeel <i>OK</i> | 44-13860 | KI-T | 1424 | 1-Dol8-(shared with Riemensnider) | |
| | Smeltz <i>OK</i> | 44-13776 | KI-V | 1506 | 3-Ju88s | 2-Ju88s 1-BV140 |
| | Mansker <i>OK</i> | 44-13695 | KI-Z <i>OK</i> | 1682 | 1-BV140 5-Ju88s | 3-Ju88s |

/s/Dean E. Erlandson
DEAN E. ERLANDSON,
Captain, Air Corps,
55th Ftr Sq,
Intelligence Officer.

/s/John P. Randolph
JOHN P. RANDOLPH,
Lt Col, Air Corps.

A TRUE COPY.

Gerald F. Castello
GERALD F. COSTELLO, (gnc)
Captain, Air Corps,
Ass't A-2.

(D-11)

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By *JG* NARA Date *3-11-11*

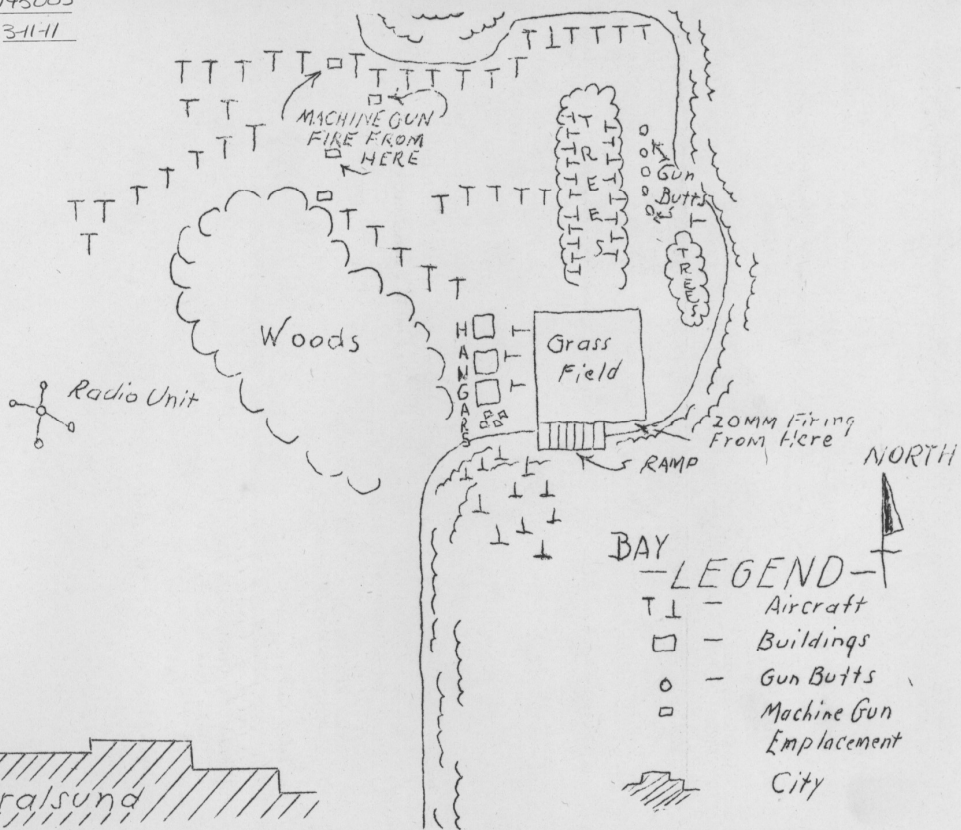
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By JG NARA Date 3-11-11

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PAROH A/D AND SEAPLANE ANCHORAGE

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CONSOLIDATED ENCOUNTER REPORT

LT COL RANDOLPH, LT J.L. MANSKER, LT K.D. MC NEEL, CAPT EVERETT
L. CAVELL, LT R.I. BOWMAN, LT D.D. OXLEY, CAPT J.T. MC KEON, F/O
J.D. LEON, LT D.D. BENEDICT, LT T. C. BARNES, LT M. MALDONADO,
LT R. M. HOWARD, LT W. M. HURST, CAPT W. B. TAYLOR.

- a. Combat
- b. 6 October 1944
- c. 55th Ftr Sq, 20th Ftr Gp
- d. 1345
- e. Kubitzer Bay area - Fehmarn Sound
- f. CAVU
- g. Seaplanes
- h. See claims listed under j
- i.

I was leading 55th Ftr Sq on a bomber escort mission. The Tgt was Politz. We were over Rugen Island at about 20,000 ft when Lt Oxley, Black Flt Ldr, reported that he had seen some flying boats anchored in Kubitzer Bay area. I pulled into the sun and started to let down, followed by Red Flt. In the meantime Lt Oxley had taken his wing man over the Tgts - 8/10 3 engined flying boats, possibly Do 24s. Black Flt made 2 passes over the Tgt before White and Red Flts came down. Capt Taylor leading Yellow Flt saw three flying boats in a small inlet 10 miles N of Kubitzer Bay and took his Flt down to attack these Tgts, making his attack from S to N. 3 A/C were dest in this attack. Seeing 10/12 more seaplanes in an inlet between the villages of Berg and Wiek Capt Taylor and his Flt attacked this concentration. Some flak was encountered and during this attack four more A/C were dest. In the meantime Capt Cavell and his wing man were attacking Tgts in an inlet back of Ummanz Island, destroying 1 Do 24 and damaging another. The Sq set course to the W and at Graszenbrade, S of Fehmarn Sound, Lt Mansker and His wing man, Lt McNeel, saw 2-4 engined flying boats anchored near a seaplane base. Making an attack from NW to SE they dest both planes.

In view of the widespread dispersal of the various Tgts and the stories of witnessing pilots the claims listed below are conservative.

I make the following claims for the pilots of the 55th
50 cal. Claims

| Ftr Sq. | j. | Ser No of A/C: | Markings of A/C: | Ammo: | Dest | Dam |
|-----------|----|----------------|------------------|-------|--------------------|---------|
| Randolph | | 44-13541 | KI-N | 1419 | 2 Do 24s | |
| Mansker | | 44-13892 | KI-X | 2000 | 1 4eng.flying boat | |
| Mc Neel | | 44-13776 | KI-V | 511 | 1 4eng.flying boat | |
| Cavell | | 44-14198 | KI-W | 201 | 1 Do 24 | 1 Do 24 |
| Bowman | | 44-14330 | KI-F | 1177 | 1 Do 24 | 1 Do 24 |
| Oxley | | 43-25065 | KI-H | 646 | 2 Do 24 | |
| Mc Keon | | 44-14319 | KI-M | 445 | 2 Do 24 | |
| Leon | | 44-13664 | KI-B | 649 | 1 Do 24 | 1 Do 24 |
| Benedict | | 44-13905 | KI-Y | 1253 | 1 Do 24 | |
| Barnes | | 44-14331 | KI-A | 1877 | 1 Do 24 | 1 Do 24 |
| Maldonado | | 43-25031 | KI-O | 570 | 1 Do 24 | 1 Do 24 |
| Howard | | 44-13827 | KI-R | 1643 | 1-4eng fly.boat | |
| | | | | | 3-4eng fly 1 | |
| Howard | " | " | " | " | 1 Do 24 | |
| Hurst | | 44-13859 | KI-S | 1651 | 2-4eng Fly boats. | |
| Taylor | | 44-13799 | KI-N | 1579 | 1-4eng Fly boat | |
| " | " | " | " | " | 1 Do 24 | |

/s/Clifford W. Long
CLIFFORD W. LONG,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer. Ass't A-2.

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

/s/John P. Randolph
JOHN P. RANDOLPH,
Lt Col., Air Corps.

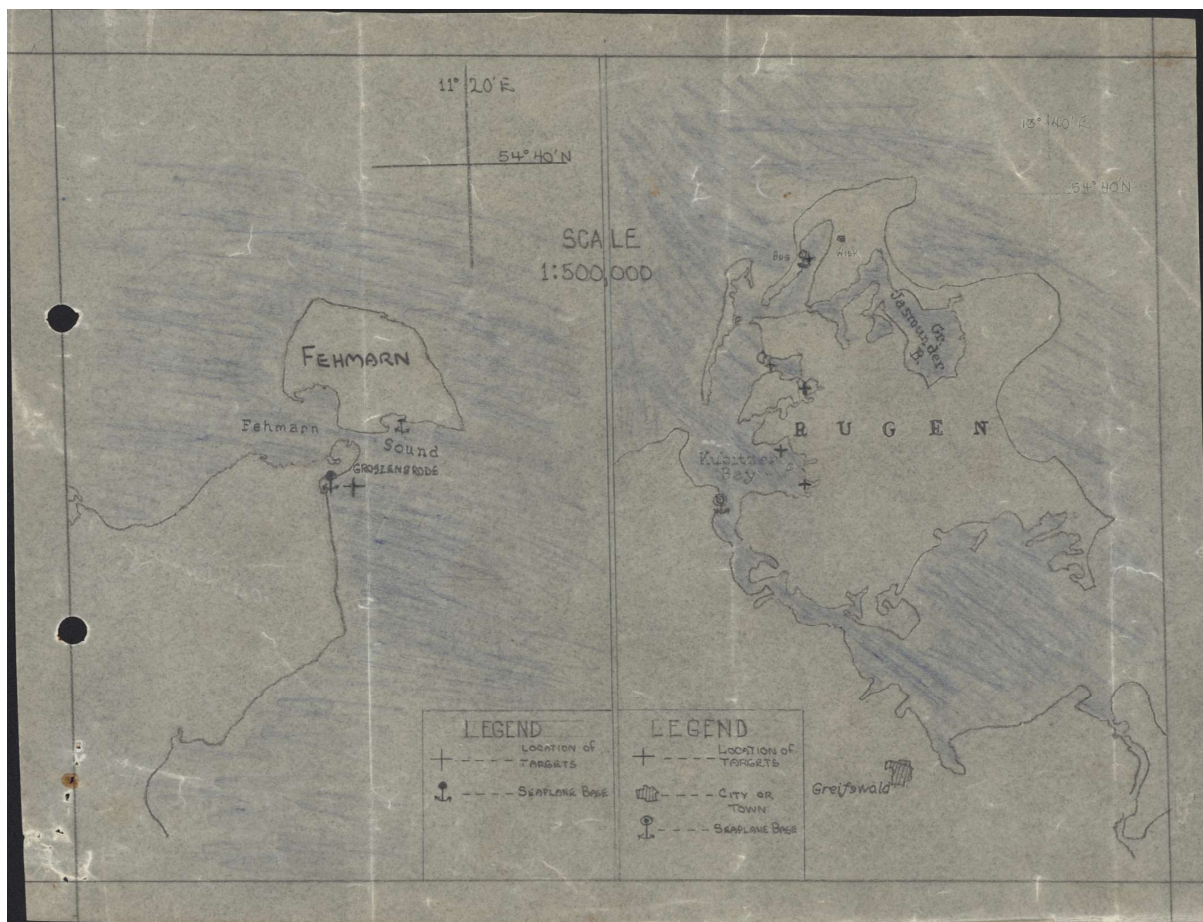
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By JCT NARA Date 3-11-11



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

ENCOUNTER REPORT

1ST LT. JOSEPH L. MANSKER

- a. Combat.
- b. 2 November 1944
- c. 55th Ftr Sq, 20th Ftr Gp
- d. 1310
- e. Halle/Merseburg
- f. 9/10 cloud cover
- g. 3 ME 109
- h. 2 ME 109 dest
1 ME 109 Probably dest.
- i.

I was leading Hqs Yellow flight. We were at 28 or 29,000 feet headed SE when I saw 2 gaggles of 75/100 E/A each - one gaggle behind the other. Col Montgomery took his flt down on the first gaggle & broke up their attack on the bombers. I took my flight down on the second gaggle and picked out an A/C in the middle of the gaggle. I closed to point blank range, firing as I closed. The E/A flipped over and perhaps attempted a split S. The Pilot bailed out almost immediately. I claim one (1) ME 109 destroyed.

I chandelled up to the right thru the gaggle and they broke to the left spoiling an imminent attack on our bombers. The whole gaggle started a 360° turn to get back to attack the bombers. About half split S'D and went to the deck - the other half started a drive for the bombers again. We were above them about 3,000 feet. I led my flight down for another pass on these ME 109's. I picked one out and fired, observing strikes in the wing & fuselage. I saw debris fall away from plane after my attack, but I had to pull away. I claim one (1) ME 109 probably destroyed.

I lost my wing man and I climbed for altitude. I was to the right and high, behind the last box of B-17's. I saw E/A making attacks on the bombers. I immediately went down and attacked one who was making a pass on a B-17 tail. I opened fire and closed in on the ME 109 as he was firing at the bomber. I attacked from dead astern, firing as I closed. I saw many strikes all over the E/A. Smoke poured from the ME 109 and he started a gentle diving turn to right, smoking badly. Flak was heavy at this particular time so I did not follow him down. I claim one (1) ME 109 destroyed.

- j. Ser No of A/C: 44-14749
- A/C Markings : KI-X
- Ammo expended: 814 rds 50 cal

/s/Joseph L. Mansker
/t/JOSEPH L. MANSKER
1st Lt., A.C.

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

I confirm the first claim made by Lt Mansker. I saw the pilot bail out of the A/C

/s/Dean E. Erlandson
DEAN E. ERLANDSON
Captain, Air Corps
Intelligence Officer.

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

A. TRUE COPY:

Gerald F. Costello
GERALD F. COSTELLO
Major, Air Corps,
Asst A-2, 67th FW.

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