

*Gen's
File*

CONFIDENTIAL

ENCOUNTER REPORT

MAJOR ROBERT P. MONTGOMERY

HEADQUARTERS
EIGHTH FIGHTER COMD.
REGISTRY No. 19566-A
COPY No. 2
A-2

- a. COMBAT.
- b. 5 JANUARY, 1944
- c. 77th FIGHTER SQUADRON
- d. 1120
- e. 25 MILES WEST OF NEUMUNSTER
- f. CLEAR
- g. FW 190
- h. FW 190 PROBABLY DESTROYED
- i.

WHILE LEADING GROUP AT 25,000 FEET I HEARD BOGIES CALLED AT 6 O'CLOCK, SAW P-38 TRAILED BY 2 E/A AT 18,000 TO 20,000 FEET MADE 180 DEGREE TURN AND BOUNCED FW 190 WITH BELLY TANK NEAR P-38'S TAIL. I MADE A HIGH REAR APPROACH GIVING E/A ONE TO 1½ RING LEAD. I FIRED 2-3 SECOND BURST FROM 400 DOWN TO 150 YARDS. I SAW STRIKES ON THE RIGHT WING NEAR FUSELAGE AND PIECES OBSERVED TO FLY OFF. I WENT BY AND BY THE TIME I HAD RECOVERED THE 190 WAS NOT IN VIEW.

I CLAIM ONE FW 190 PROBABLY DESTROYED.

- j. SER NO OF A/C: 42-67478 1010
A/C MARKINGS: LC - M
AMMUNITION EXPENDED: 265 ROUNDS 50mm.
50 ROUNDS 20mm.

/s/ Robert P. Montgomery
ROBERT P. MONTGOMERY,
Major, Air Corps,
20th Ftr Gp.

/s/ Joseph R. Genest
JOSEPH R. GENEST,
2nd Lt., Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer.

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

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PILOT'S PERSONAL ENCOUNTER REPORT

LT. COL. ROBERT F. MONTGOMERY

HEADQUARTERS

EIGHTH FIGHTER COMD.

REGISTRY No. 208304

COPY No. 2

A-2

- A. Combat
- B. 5 February 1944
- C. Hq. 20th Fighter Group (leading 77th Fighter Sq)
- D. 1100
- E. Bourges Airfield
- F. Clear
- G. FW 200 and He 111
- H. 1 FW 200 Destroyed (Shared with Capt. Sabo and 2nd Lt. Davis)

I.

I was leading the 77th Fighter Squadron on close escort of a combat wing of B-17s. They were bombing an airfield in the Ste. Avord area from about 16,000 feet. Just prior to bombs away it was noticed that several large ships were taking off from the aerodrome below us. Col Russell leading the group sent the 77th Squadron down after them with the 55th Squadron as high cover at about 10,000 feet. We dropped belly tanks and dove down to the deck. I located a FW 200 almost immediately at about 50 feet and closed in on him. I fired three 2-second bursts at him while he was in a vertical bank to the left. On the first burst I led him about $\frac{1}{2}$ a ring and missed him. On the second and third bursts I corrected my lead to nearly a full ring and saw one burst making strikes on his fuselage and the other hit both right engines which immediately burst into flames. Then I pulled off to one side to let the other boys shoot at him before he went down. A total of about six ships fired at him before he blew up and went into the ground.

I then located a He 111 about five miles away at an altitude of 500 feet. I closed in on his tail and fired one long burst at him. I did a certain amount of wiggling to confuse the rear gunner who was firing at me. I saw strikes on his fuselage and also on the right wing. This was a dead eastern shot, closing from 300 yards to about 100 yards. I pulled off to one side to give someone else a shot. My wingman, Lt. Frakes, fired and I saw strikes all over the fuselage. Lt. Morris, the third man in my flight, opened fire and both engines burst into flames. The left wing flew off and the ship rolled over and went into the ground.

I claim one (1) FW 200 Destroyed (Shared with Capt. Sabo and 2nd Lt. Davis).
No claim made on He 111.

J. Ser. No. of A/C: 42-68036

A/C Markings: LC-M

Ammunition expended: 746 rds. 50 cal.
58 rds. 20mm.

/s/ Robert F. Montgomery
ROBERT F. MONTGOMERY
Lt. Colonel, Air Corps

CONFIRMATION OF CLAIM

I was flying Lt. Col. Montgomery's wing when he bounced a FW 200 flying about 50 feet off the ground. I saw Lt. Col. Montgomery open fire on the E/A at 5-10 degrees deflection. I saw the inboard starboard engine catch on fire and strikes on the right wing and cockpit. I pulled off to the right and looking back saw the FW 200 go into the ground and explode.

/s/ Francis E. Larkin
FRANCIS E. LARKIN
1st Lt., Air Corps
Asst. Gr. Intelligence O.

/s/ Robert L. Frakes
ROBERT L. FRAKES
2nd Lt., Air Corps

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VERIFICATION

Flying white 4 I saw Colonel Montgomery open fire on FW -200 at approximately 200 feet. I saw strikes on fuselage and right inboard engine. As he pulled away I saw right engine break into flame. I fired short bursts and then also pulled away. I looked back and saw FW-200 burning on ground.

/s/ John W. Reid
JOHN W. REID,
2nd Lt., Air Corps.

/s/ Francis W. Barkley
FRANCIS W. BARKLEY,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer.

A TRUE COPY

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

(D-7)

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Authority NNID 745005

By JG NARA Date 3-11-11

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ENCOUNTER REPORT

LT. COL. ROBERT P. MONTGOMERY

HEADQUARTERS
EIGHTH FIGHTER COMD.
REGISTRY No... 2.09.13-I
COPY No... 2
A-2

- a. Combat.
- b. 10 February 1944.
- c. 77th Fighter Squadron, 20th Fighter Group
- d. 1115.
- e. Vicinity of Nienburg.
- f. 6/10 clouds at 12000, visibility good.
- g. FW 190.
- h. One (1) FW 190 Damaged.
- i.

I was leading White Flight on mission to Brunswick when, as we drove up in back of bombers I saw a big mix-up ahead between P-47s and E/A. While at 25000 feet saw two (2) FW 190s go after lower section of last combat box. As I came up fast, one FW 190 dove away, and I fired 2-3 second burst from 400 yards dead astern trying to keep him away from bombers. Dropped below him due to cross fire from bombers being so close. Followed him as he peeled down and fired again at 500 yards, four (4) second burst at 15° deflection. Saw strikes on wing and fuselage. FW 190 did a wobbly push over and went down. Lost sight of him right after.

I claim one (1) FW 190 Damaged.

- j. Serial No of A/C: 42-68036.
Markings of A/C: LC-M.
Ammunition Expended: 440 rounds of 50 Caliber.
24 rounds of 20mm Cannon.

/s/ Robert P. Montgomery
ROBERT P. MONTGOMERY,
Lt. Col., Air Corps.

/s/ Francis W. Barkley
FRANCIS W. BARKLEY,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer.

A TRUE COPY:

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

(D-3)

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

ENCOUNTER REPORT

Lt. Col. Robert P. Montgomery

- a. Combat.
- b. 2 November 1944.
- c. Headquarters, 20th Fighter Group
- d. 1230 to 1245.
- e. Vicinity of Halle and Merseburg, Germany.
- f. Haze at altitude, cloud deck at 20,000 ft.
- g. ME 109s and FW 190s.
- h. 2 ME 109s Destroyed.
1 FW 190 Destroyed.

i. I was leading the group and had placed the squadrons on the left flank of the bomber force. With a separate section of eight planes I swept the same general area. After the bombers had bombed, I investigated bogies near Halle that turned out to be P-47s. Crossed back from starboard to port side of bombers and saw two gaggles, each of 100 plus enemy aircraft at 27,000 ft. about two miles behind the bombers and approaching the rear of the bombers from the east. I was leading my section of eight flying at 30,000 ft. We dropped our tanks and went over them in the opposite direction. My flight went down on the first gaggle with the second flight hitting the second gaggle.

I split-s'd down and picked out an ME 109 in the middle of the gaggle, came in directly astern, closing rapidly and indicating about 300 MPH. The ME 109 started a slow turn to the left and I fired from 300 yards closing to 100 yards with about a 3-secs. burst. The ME 109 blew up and exploded with a big flash of flame.

I then made a violent turn to the left as I was surrounded by the others, completed a 360 degree turn and picked out an ME 109 in the second wave. I opened fire from 300 yards, about 30 degree deflection, and closed to directly astern at about 100 yards, indicating about 300 MPH and closing rapidly. I saw strikes on the right wing root, the cockpit and canopy, and evidently killed the pilot. I made a tight 180 and saw the plane over on its back floating in a stalled attitude, losing altitude fast and then about 2,000 ft. below. The pilot had either bailed out or was dead.

I picked out another ME 109 but the pilot saw me coming and opened up in a shallow dive. I had full throttle and full RPM and chased him for 4 or 5 minutes down to 20,000 ft., but could not catch him. My engine became rough so I broke off.

I climbed up to return to the bombers and saw 50 or 60 ME 109s and FW 190s going through the bombers. I got there just in time to catch one of the last ones as he peeled off from the bombers. I caught him head on and started firing from 500 or 600 yards and saw strikes on his engine. He broke right about 100 yards in front of me. I turned as he passed and saw him roll over on his back and bail out.

These combats took place from 1230 to 1245 from 27,000 ft. to 25,000 ft. in the vicinity of Merseburg. Before the first encounter my knee accidentally hit the gun sight switch and the first two planes were shot down without a gun sight. For that reason I cannot state just what lead was given in opening fire.

Claim: 3-0-0 { 2 ME 109s - Air
1 FW 190 - Air.

- j. Serial Number of A/C: 44-14843 - P-51 D10
Markings of A/C : LC-D
Ammunition expended : 1234 rds. 50 cal.

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DOD Dir. 52009, Sept. 27, 1958
NCWN by 57 date _____

Robert P. Montgomery
ROBERT P. MONTGOMERY,
Lt. Col., Air Corps.

VERIFICATION OF CLAIM

I was flying White 3 in Lt. Col. Montgomery's flight. I saw him fire at an ME 109 from 6 o'clock and it exploded as black smoke poured from it. The E/A then burst into flames as it dove to the left in a spin and disappeared in the clouds at 20,000 ft.

Lowell E. Einhaus
LOWELL E. EINHAUS,
2nd Lt., Air Corps.

Edward J. Steiner
EDWARD J. STEINER,
Capt., Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer, 20th F. Gp

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

CONFIRMATION OF CLAIM

I was flying White 3 in Lt Col Montgomery's flt. I saw him fire at an Me 109 from 6 o'clock and it exploded as black smoke poured from it. The E/A then burst into flames as it dove to the left in a spin and disappeared in the clouds at 20,000 ft.

/s/ Edward J. Steiner,
/t/ EDWARD J. STEINER,
Capt., Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer, 20th F/G.

/s/ Lowell E. Einhaus,
/t/ LOWELL E. EINHAUS,
2nd Lt., Air Corps.

A TRUE COPY:

Gerald F. Costello

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

(D-4)

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

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NNID 748005

By JCT NARA Date 3-11-11