

CONFIDENTIAL

PILOT'S PERSONAL ENCOUNTER REPORT

1ST LT. JAMES M. MORRIS

HEADQUARTERS
EIGHTH FIGHTER COMD.
REGISTRY No. <u>70830 I</u>
COPY No. <u>2</u>
A-2

- A. Combat
- B. February 5, 1944
- C. 77th Fighter Squadron, 20th Fighter Group
- D. 1123
- E. Bourges Airport
- F. Clear
- G. He-111
- H. He-111 destroyed. (Shared by Lt. James M. Morris and Lt. R. L. Frakes.)
- I.

Saw E/A taking off from airfield below and Group leader told Rebuke leader to take squadron down. Bounce was made from 18,000 feet to 50 feet. I was flying White No. 3 and leading second element of this first flight. Levelled off and rapidly drew up on FW 200 and E/A took evasive action turning sharply to left. White leader chandelled up and came back on E/A tail. I approached E/A at 15° deflection firing three (3) second burst from 400 yards to 300 yards. Saw strikes on left wing. Filled by E/A and looking back saw FW 200 crash in field and explode.

Continuing turn 180° saw He-111 at altitude of approximately 500 feet. Lead element overshot He-111 very rapidly and I throttled back and opened fire dead astern at approximately 450 yards. Fired 10-12 second burst closing to 200 yards. Saw pieces flying from wing and fuselage and broke off as E/A started toward ground. Saw He-111 hit and explode.

I claim one (1) He-111 destroyed (Shared with 2nd Lt. Robert L. Frakes).

- J. Flying plane LC-8
- Serial No. 42-67871
- Ammunition expended: 862 rounds of 50 caliber
- 150 rounds of 20mm cannon.

/s/ James M. Morris
JAMES M. MORRIS
1st Lieut., Air Corps

CONFIRMATION OF CLAIM

I was third ship behind Lt. Morris when he attacked He-111 approximately 100 to 200 feet off the ground. Lt. Morris fired several bursts, the last burst cutting right wing off about midway. The enemy aircraft then rolled over, hit the ground and burst into flame.

A TRUE COPY

Gerald F. Costello
GERALD F. COSTELLO
Captain, Air Corps
Ass't A-2, 67FW
(D-1)

/s/ Robert W. Holmes
ROBERT W. HOLMES
Capt., Air Corps

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

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DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 745005
By JG NARA Date 3-11-11

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ENCOUNTER REPORT

LT JAMES M. MORRIS

HEADQUARTERS
EIGHTH FIGHTER COMD.
REGISTRY No. 20913-E
COPY No. 2
A-2

- A. Combat
- B. 8-2-44
- C. 77th Ftr Sqd., 20th Ftr Gp.
- D. 1220 on.
- E. Losheim, Near Saarburg, Sedan, Denain.
- F. General Overcast at 500 ft.
- G. Two (2) FW-190's
Two (2) Me-109's
One (1) Locomotive
- H. Two (2) FW-190's DESTROYED
Two (2) Me-109's DESTROYED
One (1) Locomotive DAMAGED.
- I.

"I was leading second element of White Flight led by Lt. Col. Montgomery. Approximately sixteen (16) miles North of Kaiserslautern Lt. Frakes, White No. 2, called leader and said his turbo was out. White Leader immediately dropped to lower level of approximately 12,000 feet. Lt. Frakes' ship was operating properly at this level and could fly formation with us. Saw Me-109 below near airport in vicinity of Losheim. Col. Montgomery led his flight down to bounce. As Col. Montgomery pulled up in firing position he could not fire due to frosted windshield. He pulled away and I slid into dead astern of A/C and gave a two second burst from about 100 yards. Saw strikes and large piece of A/C fall off. Plane cocked up and started down as pilot bailed out. Me-109 had one belly tank under fuselage.

Shortly after as we were flying line abreast at 50 feet saw train moving north across our path. I asked Leader if I could shoot it up. He said O.K., so I opened fire at 500 yards observing strikes on locomotive. Steam and fire broke out from same. Closed firing 2-3 second burst pulling off at extremely close range. This train was in Saarburg Area. Continued on out on deck and in vicinity of Sedan saw Two (2) FW-190's carrying belly tanks, which had just taken off from airdrome below. Leader called me and said: "Let's get 'em." I made a sharp turn to left dropping maneuvering flaps to aid in turning. They turned toward us and Col. Montgomery and I made a head on pass at them. I fired very short burst at 400 yards as we went by. Immediately dropped flaps on passing and racked it in to left and came down on one 190's tail. Fired one second burst from 150 yards at 30° deflection and slid in dead astern at 100 yards firing another short burst. Saw strikes on E/A as he went out of control. Last saw E/A tumbling end over end toward ground from 400 feet. Immediately saw second E/A approximately 90° from course so maneuvered in behind him. Fired short burst at 50° at 75 yards, as he made sharp pull up into overcast. Followed E/A into rain cloud - fired another short burst from dead astern at about 50 yards in turn past vertical. Saw E/A go out of control and followed it out of overcast to regain bearing. E/A was spinning at 400 feet.

I tried to find flight but could not see any A/C and as light AA was intense in this area, immediately took up safe course home. Flew for about 10 minutes in clouds at 2,800 feet to avoid AA which was firing at interval over inhabited areas. In vicinity of Denain saw Me-109 ahead flying at 45° toward me. Not wishing to give him the advantage of trailing me I made a 90° turn into him, closing dead astern as he made sharp pull up at which time I fired a two second burst from 200 yards. Saw crosses on Me-109 which was silvery color. Saw strikes near canopy and airplane went into falling leaf. This was at approximately 2,500 feet. I made a sharp turn to head out toward coast and looking back saw the E/A within 300 feet of small village still in falling leaf. Flak was coming up from airport off to one side, although inaccurate and light. Came out in overcast at 2,800 feet, skirted Lille and dodged moderate flak thrown at me."

(Over)

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Authority NND 745005

By JG NARA Date 3-11-11

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

I claim two FW-190 destroyed;
two ME-109 destroyed, and
1 Locomotive damaged.

J. Flying Plane LC-G Serial No. 42-67871
Ammunition expended: 630 rounds of 50 caliber.
150 rounds of 20mm cannon.

/s/ James M. Morris
JAMES M. MORRIS,
1st Lieut., Air Corps,

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

VERIFICATION OF CLAIM ON FIRST ME-109.

"Flying at approximately 12,000 feet in vicinity of Losheim I spotted E/A below. I led my flight down for bounce and as I pulled into position behind E/A saw it was ME-109 with belly tank hanging under fuselage. I could not fire from dead astern as my windshield was frosted and could see E/A directly ahead. I pulled off to one side and when Lt. Morris, White No. 3 asked what it was, I told him to shoot as it was an ME-109. He pulled in to close range dead astern and after firing short burst, E/A cocked up and went toward ground. As E/A hit ground saw parachute open practically on ground."

Lt. Morris destroyed this E/A, an ME-109.

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

I was flying White No. 4, Lt. Morris's wingman when he shot down a ME-109. E/A was first sighted while flying at 12,000 feet. Col. Montgomery led flight down for bounce. Lt. Morris pulled in to close range dead astern and fired two short bursts, on the last burst the tail flew off and the plane hit the ground. About a minute after we had resumed our course Lt. Morris shot the locomotive of a freight train. I saw many hits and steam pouring out.

/s/ R. E. Moncrieff
R. E. MONCRIEFF,
2nd Lt., Air Corps,

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

A TRUE COPY:

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

(D-3)

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

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NNID 745005

By JG NARA Date 3-11-11

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

ENCOUNTER REPORT

LT. JAMES M. MORRIS

HEADQUARTERS
EIGHTH FIGHTER COMD.
REGISTRY No. <u>21080-F</u>
COPY No. <u>✓</u>
A-2

- A. Combat
- B. 11 February 1944
- C. 77th Fighter Squadron, 20th Fighter Group
- D. 1156
- E. Vicinity of Giessen
- F. Clear 6/10 to 7/10 clouds
- G. Me 109
- H. One (1) Me 109 Destroyed
- I.

I was leading Blue Flight, Rebuke Squadron, R/V with bombers and took up rear position with Yellow Flight on starboard side of bombers and then began weaving. Four (4) Me 109s bounced Yellow Flight. I immediately dropped tanks and turned with combat flaps into attack. First element of Me 109s closed on Yellow 4. Told Yellow 4 to break then I opened fire approximately 400 yards 60° deflection. Me 109 half rolled and headed for cloud deck below. Immediately after saw Me 109 dead astern of F-38 ready to fire. Closed in on Me 109 dead astern and opened fire at 150 yards as Me 109 began firing at F-38. Saw strikes on E/A and smoke and flame. Then saw it go into right hand spin. I watched it spin into overcast. When combat was over I was at 16,000 feet.

I claim: One (1) Me 109 DESTROYED.

- J. Ser No of A/C: 42-67871
- A/C Markings: LC-G
- Ammunition Expended: 249 rounds of 50 caliber
- 3 rounds of 20mm Cannon.

/s/ James M. Morris
JAMES M. MORRIS,
1st Lt., Air Corps.

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

VERIFICATION OF LT. MORRIS'S CLAIM

While flying Blue 3, Yellow Flight was attacked and our flight turned into three (3) Me 109s bouncing Yellow Flight. Me 109 was firing on unknown F-38 and Lt Morris started after E/A. I saw strikes on the wing roots and cockpit and the E/A began to smoke. I then lost sight of encounter.

/s/ Richard C. Garrett
RICHARD C. GARRETT,
2nd Lt., Air Corps.

A TRUE COPY:

Ray Hoover, Capt., A.C.
for GERALD F. COSTELLO,
Captain, Air Corps,
Asst A-2, 67FW.

(D-3)

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

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Authority NNID 745005

By JG NARA Date 3-11-11

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

ENCOUNTER REPORT

LT JAMES M. MORRIS

HEADQUARTERS
EIGHTH FIGHTER COMMAND
REGISTRY No. 21568-A
COPY No. 2
A-2

- a. Combat
- b. 24 February 1944
- c. 77th Fighter Squadron, 20th Fighter Group
- d. 1352
- e. Schweinfurt
- f. Clear
- g. Me 110
- h. One (1) Me 110 Destroyed
- i.

Leading Yellow Flight working with Denton (Red Leader) saw an E/A making run on B-17s which we were covering. Called Red Leader and told him to give me cover and dove from 25,000 to 23,000 feet and closed. He made sharp turn causing me to fire at 90° deflection. This was a three second burst. Started firing at 300 and closed to 150 yards. Saw hits on left engine. Then from position dead astern fired again closing fast from 300 to 75 yards, a three second burst and saw hits all over fuselage and wings. Overshot so cut motors, dropped flaps, pulled up to left and came down on him as he turned toward me. Shot 700 burst into cockpit and motors. Entire plane burst in flame and headed straight down in a spin. After first burst, gunner bailed out.

I claim One (1) Me 110 Destroyed.

- j. Ser No of A/C: 42-67717
- A/C Markings: LC-E
- Ammunition Expended: 610 rds of 50 cal.
- 150 rds of 20mm Cannon.

/s/ James M. Morris
JAMES M. MORRIS,
1st Lt., Air Corps.

/s/ Joseph R. Genest

JOSEPH R. GENEST,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer.

VERIFICATION OF CLAIM OF LT MORRIS

Flying Yellow 2 I saw hits on left engine when Lt Morris fired first burst at 90° and saw chute bail out of plane. On last burst from 70° deflection saw hits all over canopy and left engine and plane burst into flames spinning to left.

/s/ James W. Fagg
JAMES W. FAGG,
2nd Lt., Air Corps.

VERIFICATION OF CLAIM

In the vicinity of Lt Morris's attack I saw Me 110 spin down and hit the ground. This must have been the ship destroyed by Lt Morris as we saw no other enemy aircraft in that area.

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Merle J. Gilbertson
MERLE J. GILBERTSON,
1st Lt., Air Corps.

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

(D-3)

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

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 745005
By JG NARA Date 3-11-11

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ENCOUNTER REPORT

CAPT JAMES M. MORRIS

HEADQUARTERS
EIGHTH FIGHTER COMD.
REGISTRY NO. 15531-E
COPY No. 1
A-2

- a. Combat
- b. 8 April 1944
- c. 77th Fighter Squadron, 20th Fighter Group
- d. 1605
- e. Salzwedel
- f. Thick haze - ceiling unlimited
- g. Ju 88, Me 410, and U/I T/E E/A
- h. One (1) Ju 88 Destroyed (on ground) - shared with Lt Rader
- i. One (1) Me 410 Destroyed (on ground)
- One (1) U/I T/E E/A Destroyed (on ground).
- One (1) locomotive Destroyed, shared with Lt Fernandes
- One (1) locomotive Destroyed
- One (1) locomotive Destroyed and 15-20 oil cars

I was leading blue flight of my squadron into target area. Squadron went down on airfield. I tried to give them top cover but because of poor visibility lost sight of all the planes as they passed below an altitude of 4,000 feet. I therefore took my flight down on Salzwedel airfield and made four (4) passes at it. On the first pass I fired at an unidentified twin engine enemy aircraft opening at 400 yards and closing to 75 yards shooting a three (3) second burst. Two (2) other F-38 pilots also shot at this plane. I saw strikes all over it and as I chandelled after my pass I saw it burst into flames. On my second pass I shot at and hit a Ju 88, opening at 350 yards and closing in at zero with a three (3) second burst. I saw this aircraft burning as I chandelled over him. On my 3rd pass I shot a three (3) second burst from 450 yards closing in to 100 yards on a Me 410 and saw strikes on it although it didn't burst into flames. So I went back for a second pass on this same aircraft and this time it burst into flames as I gave it a two (2) second burst from 150 yards.

I saw nothing else to attack here as enemy ground fire was getting quite intense - I saw many tracers around - we moved on. I then sighted and fired on two (2) locomotives giving them a 1-2 second burst opening at 350 yards and closing to 100 yards setting them on fire. I then saw a third locomotive pulling approx 20 oil tank cars, and as I gave it a burst it stopped. I went back for another pass at it by making a 180° turn and closed in from 350 yards to 100 yards with another 1-2 second burst. This locomotive and the first two tank cars burst into flames and exploded. I made another 180° turn and came back for a two (2) second burst on the last three cars closing from 350 to 100 yards at a 10° deflection. I set these 3 tank cars on fire. As I called the flight and made ready to go home I saw numerous explosions at both ends of the train and believed that as each tank car burned it would ignite the next car to it therefore ultimately destroying the whole 20 cars as the fire progressed from each end.

- I claim: One (1) Ju 88 destroyed (shared with Lt Rader)
- One (1) Me 410 destroyed
- One (1) U/I T/E E/A destroyed. (shared with two unknown F-38s)
- One (1) Locomotive destroyed (shared with Lt Fernandes)
- One (1) Locomotive destroyed
- One (1) Locomotive destroyed, with 15-20 oil cars

- j. Ser No. of A/C: 42-67707
- A/C Markings: 1C-E
- Ammunition Expended: 458 rds of 50 cal
- 150 rds of 20 mm cannon

(OVER)

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Authority NND 745205

By JCI NARA Date 3-11-11

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

ENCOUNTER REPORT

CAPTAIN JAMES M. MORRIS

HEADQUARTERS
EIGHTH FIGHTER COMB
REGISTRY No. 24892-a
COPY No. 2
#-2

- a. Combat
- b. 30 April 1944
- c. 77th Ftr Sq, 20th Ftr Gp
- d. 1005
- e. Bricy A/F N of Orleans
- f. Clear
- g. Me 410, Me 210 and He 177
- h. One (1) Me 410 Destroyed by Lt Kuemmerle. One (1) Me 210 Destroyed by Lt Fiebelkorn, and One (1) He 177 Destroyed by Capt Morris. (on Grd) One (1) Flak Tower Damaged by Lt Kuemmerle, One (1) Control Tower damaged by Lt Reid, and One (1) Hangar damaged by Lt Fiebelkorn

i. "I was flying as Sq Ldr of Sq assigned to skip-bombing at Tours. At 12,000 ft, after disposing of bombs, was A/F below in vicinity of Orleans. I called in other Sq Ldr and said that he was directly above airport, he was at 16,000 ft. I made a 270° diving turn leveling off at 500 ft approx a mi from the A/F. In the meantime other Sq gave top cover. I saw E/A in hangar area lined up. I took extreme left plane, and told my wingman to take the second from left. I told the second element to take out all flak installations if any were observed. I opened fire at approx 800 yds continuing fire until 50 yds. While firing I observed strikes, explosions, and fire on E/A.

Wingman White No 2 opened fire from 800 yds observing hits on his E/A and flame burst from wing roots. Continuing out across the field White No 2 fired at a hangar, observing hits in many sections of the hangar.

White No 3, observing no flak emplacements, shot up the control tower.

White No 4 took third plane from left opening fire from 1,000 yds closing to 100 yds and observing hits on wing roots and cockpit of E/A. After crossing field he fired at a flak tower at end of A/F observing hits on structure. As he chandelled off the field to the right he looked back and saw all three (3) planes violently burning. Columns of smoke rising from these A/C rose to an altitude of from 6-7,000 ft."

Claims: One (1) He 177 Destroyed by Capt Morris (on Grd)
One (1) Me 410 Destroyed by Lt Kuemmerle (on grd)
One (1) Me 210 destroyed by Lt Fiebelkorn (on grd)
One (1) Control tower damaged by Lt Reid
One (1) Flak tower damaged by Lt Kuemmerle
One (1) Hangar damaged by Lt Fiebelkorn

- j. Capt Morris flew plane LC-F, 42-68117, Ammo Exp 237 rds 50 cal
53 rds 20 mm
Lt Reid flew plane LC-L, 42-67770, Ammo Exp 276 rds 50 cal
59 rds 20 mm
Lt Fiebelkorn flew plane LC-R, 42-68026, Ammo Exp 552 rds 50 cal
4 rds 20 mm
Lt Kummerle flew plane LC-H, 42-67767, ammo exp: 600 rds 50 cal
12 rds 20 mm

(OVER)

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

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Authority NND 745005

By JG NARA Date 3-11-11

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

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

/s/ James M. Morris,
JAMES M. MORRIS,
Captain, Air Corps

A TRUE COPY:

Jess N. Gittinger
JESS N. GITTINGER
Captain, Air Corps,
Ass't A-2, 67 FA.

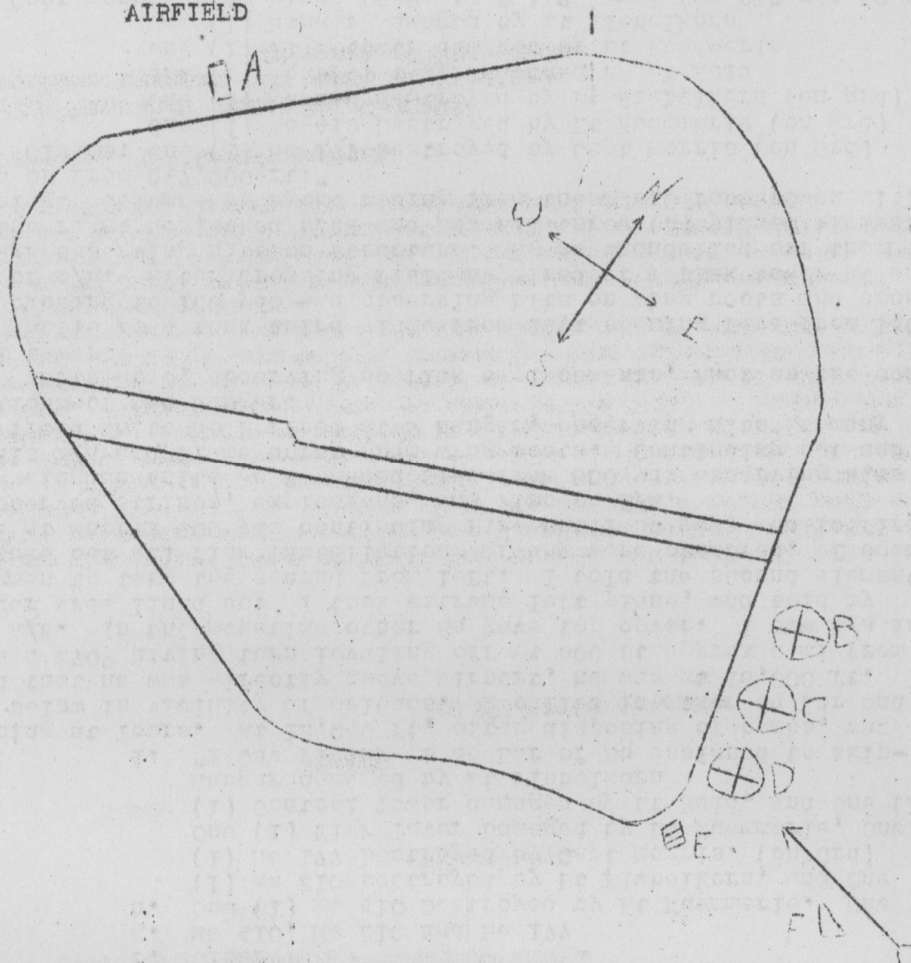
/s/ John W. Reid
JOHN W. REID,
1st Lieut., Air Corps

/s/ Ernest C. Fiebelkorn,
ERNEST C. FIEBELKORN,
2nd Lieut., Air Corps

/s/ Walter F. Kummerle
WALTER F. KUMMERLE
1st Lieut., Air Corps

(D-7)

ORLEANS/BRICY
AIRFIELD



A LT FIEBELKORN
B LT KUMMERLE
C LT FIEBELKORN
D CAPT MORRIS
E LT RIED
F LT KUMMERLE

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

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

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Captain James M. Morris 0730573 -

- A. Combat.
- B. 7 July 1944
- C. 77th Fighter Squadron, 20th Fighter Group.
- D. 0935
- E. Between Leipzig and Halle.
- F. Hazy
- G. Me-410
- H. One (1) Me-410 Destroyed (Air)
- I.

HEADQUARTERS
EIGHTH FIGHTER COMD.
REGISTER No <u>28358P</u>
COPY No <u>1</u>
A-2

"I was flying White 4 at target time immediately after that formation was broken up by flak. White No. 3 was only man lost in flak. I saw box of Me-410's S'ing below bombers and called them out to Leader. He started pass and they went into left turn. Leader started firing from about 30°. Saw one of the tail end Charlies left engine catch afire peeling off to left and down. About that time Leader was hit and I stayed with him until he bailed out. Later I went back to find 410's but none were in sight so I came home with 3 plain nosed P-38s."

I claim one (1) Me-410 destroyed for Capt. Morris.

J. Capt. Morris flew LC-Q 43-28397

Ammunition expended unknown.

James W. Fagg
JAMES W. FAGG, for
1st Lieut., Air Corps.

FRANCIS W. BARKLEY,
Capt., Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer.

Dest ac

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By JG NARA Date 3-11-11