

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
ENCOUNTER REPORT

CAPT. RICHARD M. TRACY LT. JOSEPH A. PETERBURS
0-550317 0-830526

- A. COMBAT
- B. 10 APRIL, 1945
- C. 55TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, 20TH FIGHTER GROUP
- D. 1450 HOURS
- E. BERLIN AREA
- F. CLEAR
- G. 7 U/I E/A GROUND
- H. 7 U/I E/A DESTROYED - GROUND
- I.

I WAS LEADING WHITE FLIGHT ESCORTING BOMBERS TO GRAM-
BIENBURG, GERMANY. CAPTAIN TRACY AND LT. PETERBURS, HIS WING-
MAN HAD CHASED A JET TO THE DECK AND HAD SIGHTED AN A/D NEAR
BERLIN, (THE SCHONWALDE A/D) WITH MANY A/C DISPERSED IN ITS
AREA. AT APPROXIMATELY 1450 I HEARD LT. PETERBURS ON THE R/T
SAYING "(CAPT.) TRACY JUST DESTROYED 2". A MOMENT LATER HE
AGAIN CALLED, "WE'RE AT AN A/D SOUTH OF THE TARGET. COME ON
DOWN, THE PLACE IS FILLED WITH A/C, AND THERE'S NO FLAK".
AGAIN HE CALLED, "I'VE DESTROYED 5 AND AM GOING AFTER ANOTHER".
A MINUTE LATER HE RADIOED, "TRACY JUST BAILED OUT AND LANDED
IN THE RIVER. MY WINDSHIELD IS COVERED WITH OIL. I'LL CIRCLE
THE FIELD TILL YOU COME DOWN".

I HAD, IN THE MEANTIME, SIGHTED THIS A/D AND STARTED TOWARDS
IT. SEVERAL PLANES WERE BURNING AND THE SMOKE WAS COVERING THE
FIELD. I CIRCLED THE A/D, TRYING TO COUNT THE FIRES, BUT THE
SMOKE WAS SO THICK THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE A COUNT.
DURING THIS TIME I ALSO LOOKED FOR LT. PETERBURS AND ANY TRACE
OF CAPT TRACY, BUT COULD NOT SEE THEM.

BECAUSE OF THE NUMBER OF PLANES BURNING AND THE GREAT AMOUNT
OF SMOKE, I FEEL THAT A CLAIM OF 7 E/A DESTROYED IS A CONSERVATIVE
FIGURE.

I CLAIM FOR CAPT. TRACY 2 U/I E/A DESTROYED AND FOR LT.
PETERBURS 5 U/I E/A DESTROYED.

J. CAPT. RICHARD M. TRACY
SER. NO. OF A/C: 44-15327
A/C MARKINGS : KI-L
AMMO EXPENDED : UNKNOWN

LT. JOSEPH A. PETERBURS
SER. NO. OF A/C: 44-15078
A/C MARKINGS : KI-B
AMMO EXPENDED : UNKNOWN

Robert H. Riemenstider
ROBERT H. RIEMENSTIDER
CAPTAIN, AIR CORPS
0-753738

Richard H. Black
RICHARD H. BLACK
1ST LT., AIR CORPS
INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

DECLASSIFIED
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