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

A. COMBAT
B. 10 APRIL, 1943
C. 55TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, 20TH FIGHTER GROUP
D. 1650 HOURS
E. BERLIN AREA
F. CLEAR
G. 7 U/1 E/A GROUND
H. 7 U/1 E/A DESTROYED - GROUND

I. I was leading white flight escorting bombers to Grunenburg, Germany. Captain Tracy and Lt. Peterburg, his wingman had chased a jet to the deck and had sighted an A/O near Berlin (the Schninale A/O) with many A/C dispersed in its area. At approximately 1650, I heard Lt. Peterburg on the R/T saying "CAPT. TRACY JUST DESTROYED 2". A moment later he again called, "WE'RE AT AN A/O 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/O and started towards it. Several planes were burning and the smoke was covering the field. I peeled ahead the A/O, 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. Peterburg 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/1 E/A destroyed and for Lt. Peterburg 5 U/1 E/A destroyed.

J. CAPT. RICHARD M. TRACY
SER. NO. OF A/C: 44-15327
A/C Markings: KI-L
Ammunition Expended: Unknown

LT. JOSEPH A. PETERBURG
SER. NO. OF A/C: 44-15070
A/C Markings: KI-B
Ammunition Expended: Unknown

ROBERT H. RINEMESCHMEYER
CAPTAIN, AIR CORPS
0-755730

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