

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

ENCOUNTER REPORT

LT KENNETH C. SMELTZ

HEADQUARTERS
EIGHTH FIGHTER COMD.
REGISTRY No. <u>29994-A</u>
COPY No. <u>2</u>
A-2

- a. Combat
- b. 6 Aug 1944
- c. 55th Ftr Sq, 20th Ftr Gp
- d. 1230
- e. Schonfeld A/D (S of Berlin)
- f. CAVU - slight haze
- g. FW 190
- h. One (1) FW 190 Dest
- i.

I was flying Red 4. We were S of Berlin nr an A/D when I saw 2 E/A nr this A/D: We were flying about 8,000 ft. I called them out and Red Ldr told me to go down. I spiralled, keeping one E/A in sight. I lost the 2nd E/A. The FW 190 was turning to the left. As he rolled out I closed fast and began to fire from approx 200 yds. My first burst went over him, so I lowered my sights and saw many strikes on right wing, wing root, and canopy. His right wing fell off and he rolled into the grd and exploded.

I claim one (1) FW 190 Dest.

- j. Ser No of A/C: 44-13776    Markings of A/C: KI-V    Ammo Exp: 309rds 50cal.

/s/Kenneth C. Smeltz  
KENNETH C. SMELTZ,  
1st Lt., Air Corps.

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

I was flying Red 3. Lt Smeltz called out 2 E/A. Red Ldr couldn't see them so he told us to go down. I gave Lt Smeltz top cover as he could see the E/A. He caught this FW 190 about 100 yds from the A/D and about 200 ft high. Lt Smeltz opened fire from approx 200 yds. I saw many strikes on wing, wing roots and canopy. The FW 190 did a quarter roll, hit the grd and exploded.

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

/s/William G. Martin  
WILLIAM G. MARTIN,  
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

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

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ENCOUNTER REPORT

Lt. Col. J. P. Randolph, leading 55th Fighter Squadron

- a. Combat
- b. 25 August 1944
- c. 55th F1 Sq., 20th F1 Gp
- d. 1300 hours
- e. Parow A/D and Seaplane anchorage
- f. GAVU
- g. Land planes and sea planes
- h. See claims listed under "j".

i. I was leading the 55th Fighter Squadron on a bomber escort mission. The target was Peenemunde. We were over Rugen Island at about 23,000 ft. when Lt. Smelts, in Blue flight, 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 flights spiralled down, making their initial pass at about 450 MPH -- Red Flight from South to North and Blue Flight from East to West. The two flights made 2/3 passes on 10/12 flying boats anchored in the bay. Blue Flight 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 Flight made 3 passes on these land planes, attack being from West to East strafing the planes on the North 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 Flight joined Blue Flight and they strafed the entire drome, using a left hand traffic pattern in making a series of passes. Lt. Smelts and Lt. Mansker in Blue Flight made 8/9 passes. Red Flight and Lt. Smelts went up top to give cover to White Section, plus the three planes in Blue Flight (Riemensneider, McNeel and Mansker) who continued their strafing attack on the land-based planes.

White Flight made their first pass from East to West, 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 north of the landing field. They made 3 more attacks from west to east over the same general area.

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

Pilots attacking this A/F and anchorage may have duplicated claims on damaged a/c. In view of the large number of a/c parked wing-tip to wing-tip on the ground, the destroyed 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/F. He baled out at the mouth of the Kubitzer Bay and was picked up by a patrol boat which came out from the German Coast.

I make the following claims for the pilots of the 55th Fighter Squadron

j. (over)

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Authority NND 745005

By JCNARA Date 3-10-11

	Name of Pilot	Serial # of a/c	Letter on a/c	50-cal. ammo expended	CLAIMS	
					Destroyed	Damaged
W	Lt. Col. Randolph	44-13541	MC-N	1,212	1 - BV140	2 - Ju88s
H					1 - Ju88	
I	Lt. D. D. Oxley	43-25056	KI-H	430	1 - FW190	1 - Ju88
P	Lt. J. E. Burford	44-13790	KI-I	1,299	1 - BV140	1 - Ju52
E					1 - Hs126	2 - Ju88s
	Lt. H. B. Bynum	44-13715	KI-K	472	1 - Ju88	
					1 - Ju52	
X	Lt. J. S. Ford	44-13702	KI-E	700	1 - Ju88	1 - Ju88
E					1 - Ju52	
L	Lt. H. L. Brown	44-13794	KI-C	612		1 - Ju88
	Lt. H. M. Anderson	44-13733	KI-F	235	1 - Ju88	
	Lt. C. F. Bain MIA	44-25033	KI-D	1,090	1 - Ju88	1 - Ju88
	Capt. E. Hower	44-13799	KI-N	1,695	2 - BV140	1 - Do18
R	Lt. R. M. Howard	44-13664	KI-E	1,216	1 - BV140	1 - BV140
A	Lt. W. W. Wells	44-13827	KI-R	1,579	1 - BV140	2 Ju88s
D					1 - 2/E Trainer	1 - U/I a/c
	Lt. E. E. Wail	43-25051	KI-Q	666	2 - Do18	
	Lt. R. Riemensnider	44-13905	KI-Y	1,477	1 - 2/E Trainer	1 - Do18
B	Lt. K. D. McVeel	44-13860	KI-T	1,424	2 - Do18 (1 shared McVeel)	
					1 - Do18 shared with Riemensnid	
L	Lt. K. C. Smeltz	44-13776	KI-V	1,506	3 - Ju88s	2 - Ju88s
						1 - BV140
V	Lt. J. L. Mansker	44-13695	KI-Z	1,682	1 - BV140	3 - Ju88s
H					5 J Ju88s	

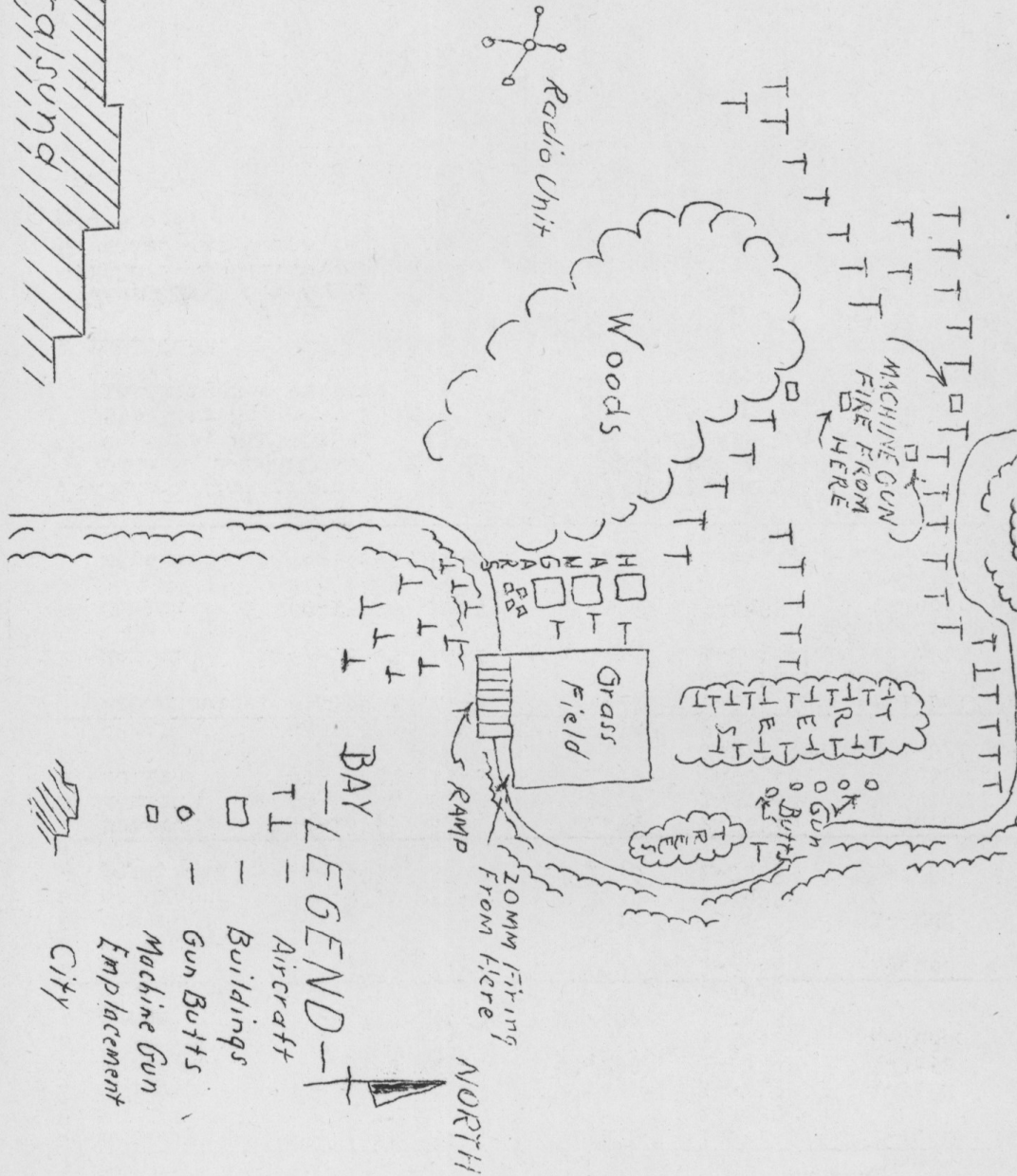
*Dean E. Erlanson*

DEAN E. ERLANSON  
Capt., Air Corps  
55th Fighter Squadron  
Intelligence Officer

JOHN P. RANDOLPH  
Lt. Col. Air Corps

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PAROW A/D AND SEAPLANE ANCHORAGE



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By JG NARA Date 3-11-11

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ENCOUNTER REPORT

LT. KENNETH C. SMELTZ

- A. ENCOUNTER
- B. 27 AUGUST, 1944
- C. 55TH FIGHTER SQUADRON - 20 F.G.
- D. 1520 HOURS
- E. ESBJAERG A/D, DENMARK
- F. HAZY
- G. JU-88
- H. ONE (1) JU-88 DESTROYED
- I.

204 6 with X

HEADQUARTERS
EIGHTH FIGHTER COMD.
REGISTRY No. 61293A
COPY No. 1
A-2

I WAS FLYING RED 4 POSITION WHILE ESCORTING BOMBERS. SOME OF OUR BOMBERS HAD ABORTED AND OTHER WENT ON TO BOMB TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY. SOME BOMBED THE A/F AT ESBJAERG, DENMARK. AFTER THE LAST BOMBER HAD DROPPED HIS BOMBS WE WENT DOWN TO STRAFE THE SAME A/F. WE MADE THE PASS FROM NNE. AS I CAME ACROSS THE NORTH DISPERSAL AREA I SAW 8/10 JU-88S ON THE GROUND. QUITE CLOSE TO EACH OTHER. I GAVE A 2-SECOND BURST ON ONE. I SAW STRIKES ALL OVER THE COCKPIT, FUSELAGE AND WING ROOT AREA. IT BURST INTO FLAMES IN THE CENTER SECTION OF THE BELLY. BY THE TIME I WAS DIRECTLY ABOVE IT THE WHOLE A/C WAS ENGULFED IN FLAMES.

I CLAIM ONE JU-88 DESTROYED ON GROUND

- J. SERIAL NO OF A/C 44-13776
- PLANE LETTER KI-V
- AMMO. EXPENDED 690 ROUNDS 50 CAL.

*Kenneth C. Smeltz*  
KENNETH C. SMELTZ  
1ST LT. A.C.

CONFIRMATION

I WAS FLYING IN BLACK FLIGHT BEHIND. RED AND BLUE FLIGHTS. I SAW LT. SMELTZ MAKE THE PASS ON THE NORTH SECTION OF THE A/F. I SAW THE JU-88 BURST INTO FLAMES IMMEDIATELY. IT WAS BURNING FURIOUSLY WHEN I LAST SAW IT.

*Dean E. Erlandson*  
DEAN E. ERLANDSON  
CAPTAIN, A.C.  
55TH FIGHTER SQUADRON  
INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

*Dan D. Oxley*  
DAN D. OXLEY  
2ND LT. A.C.

*West E*

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