

CONFIDENTIAL

ENCOUNTER REPORT

LT. W. B. TAYLOR

- a. COMBAT
- b. 5 JANUARY, 1944
- c. 55th FIGHTER SQUADRON
- d. 1115
- e. NEAR NEUMUNSTER
- f. CLEAR
- g. FW-190
- h. ONE FW-190 DAMAGED
- i.

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

I WAS LEADING CROWN RIGHT YELLOW FLIGHT WHEN LT. FRENCH FLYING NO 4 REPORTED ROUGH ENGINE. WE STARTED HOME WEAVING OVER LT. FRENCH WHEN A FORMATION OF ABOUT 20 FW-190s AND ME 109s WITH BELLY TANKS AND SOME WITH ROCKETS, CAME FROM THE SOUTH FLYING STRING FORMATION WITH FLIGHTS FLYING LINE ABREAST. ABOUT EIGHT OR TEN ATTACKED US FROM OUT OF THE SUN AND WE TURNED INTO THEM. IN THE FIGHT LT. FRENCH WAS SHOT DOWN AND I GOT A TWO SECOND HEAD-ON BURST AT A FW-190 WHICH WAS ON LT. FREY'S TAIL. I SAW BLACK SMOKE FROM THE ENGINE NACELLE AS HE BROKE DOWN AND UNDER MY RIGHT WING. I DID NOT SEE HIM AGAIN.

I CLAIM ON FW-190 DAMAGED.

- j. SER NO OF A/C: 42-67482
- A/C MARKINGS: KI - U
- AMMUNITION EXPENDED: 190 ROUNDS 50 CALIBER
- 32 ROUNDS 20 MM.

/s/ Willis B. Taylor  
WILLIS B. TAYLOR,  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
20th Ftr Gp.

I HAD A FW-190 ON MY TAIL WHICH I COULD NOT SHAKE. I DOVE TOWARD LT. TAYLOR, AND AS WE PASSED HEAD ON, HE SHOT FW-190 OFF MY TAIL.

/s/ Royal D. Frey,  
ROYAL D. FREY,  
2nd Lt., Air Corps,  
20th Ftr Gp.

/s/ Dean E. Erlandson  
DEAN E. ERLANDSON,  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
Intelligence Officer.

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

*Gen's  
File*

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ENCOUNTER REPORT

LT WILLIS B. TAYLOR

HEADQUARTERS
EIGHTH FIGHTER COMD.
REGISTRY No. <u>19651-c</u>
COPY No. <u>2</u>
A-2

- a. COMBAT
- b. 7 JANUARY, 1944
- c. 55th FIGHTER SQUADRON
- d. 1220
- e. NEAR WORMS
- f. CLEAR, WITH LOW OVERCAST
- g. Me 109F
- h. 1 Me 109F DESTROYED
- i.

I WAS LEADING TOWNTALK BLUE FLIGHT COVERING THE PORT SIDE OF THE BOMBERS WHEN THREE ME 109s FLYING IN A FLAT VEE STARTED IN ON THE BOMBERS ABOUT TWO THOUSAND FEET BELOW US. MY FLIGHT WAS AT 26,000 FT. WE STARTED DOWN AFTER THEM AND THE RIGHT WING HALF-ROLLED AND WENT DOWN. THE OTHER TWO DID NOT TAKE ANY EVASIVE ACTION, AND I STARTED FIRING AT THE WING MAN AT ABOUT 350 YARDS AT A 30 DEGREE DEFLECTION. I DID NOT SEE STRIKES UNTIL AT ABOUT 100 YARDS WHEN ONE OF TWO STRIKES APPEARED ON EACH WING. HE THEN EXPLODED. I BROKE-- DOWN AND TO THE LEFT. I COULD NOT SEE HIM AFTER THAT BECAUSE OF THE SMOKE AND DEBRIS FROM THE EXPLOSION.

I CLAIM ONE Me 109 DESTROYED.

- j. SER NO OF A/C: 267482
- A/C MARKINGS: KI - U
- AMMUNITION EXPENDED: 886 ROUNDS OF 50 CAL.
- 119 ROUNDS OF 20 mm CANNON.

/s/ Willis B. Taylor,  
WILLIS B. TAYLOR,  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
20th Fitr Gp.

ON JANUARY 7TH AT APPROXIMATELY 1220 HOURS IN THE VICINITY OF LUDWIGSHAFEN, LT TAYLOR CALLED AND SAID HE WAS TAKING A BOUNCE AND IMMEDIATELY I AFFORDED TOP COVER WITH MY FLIGHT. FROM THIS POSITION I SAW HIM ATTACK 3 Me 109s. HE DOVE WITH HIS FLIGHT TO ABOUT 24,000 FT AND THE ENEMY AIRCRAFT LT TAYLOR PICKED OUT MADE A SLOW CLIMBING TURN TO THE LEFT. I SAW LT TAYLOR FIRING AT HIM AND AT ABOUT 26,000 FT THE Me 109 EXPLODED, WENT DOWN IN A SPIN AND THE LAST I SAW OF HIM HE WAS SPINNING DOWN AND ON FIRE.

/s/ J. C. Serros,  
J. C. SERROS,  
1st Lt., Air Corps,

I WAS FLYING LT. SERROS' WING AT 26,000 FT. LT TAYLOR CALLED IN AT ABOUT 1220 THAT HE WAS GOING TO MAKE A BOUNCE AND ASKED LT SERROS' FLIGHT TO COVER HIM. LT. TAYLOR'S FLIGHT PROCEEDED TO MAKE THE BOUNCE AND ATTACK THREE ME-109s, FLYING AT 24,000 FT. THE ENEMY, FLYING IN VEE, SPLIT UP AND LT. TAYLOR FOLLOWED ONE. AS HE FOLLOWED HE FIRED SEVERAL BURSTS. THE Me-109 CLIMBED WITH LT. TAYLOR ON HIS TAIL. AT ABOUT 26,000 FT THE Me-109 EXPLODED AND SPUN DOWN IN FLAMES. THIS COMBAT HAPPENED IN THE VICINITY OF WORMS, NEAR MANNHEIM.

/s/ J. W. Lundin,  
J. W. LUNDIN,  
2nd Lt., Air Corps,

/s/ Dean E. Erlandson,  
DEAN E. ERLANDSON,  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
Intelligence Officer.

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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

ENCOUNTER REPORT

LT. WILLIS B. TAYLOR

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

- A. Combat
- B. 10 February 1944
- C. 55th Fighter Squadron
- D. 1135
- E. Northwest of Target
- F. Clear with 3 to 4/10ths clouds low
- G. Me 109F
- H. One (1) Me 109F DESTROYED
- I.

I was flying Towntalk Red Leader at about 18,000 feet when we spotted 2 Me 109s ahead and below us at about 15,000 feet. We started down on them and they made a turn to the right and when I turned inside of them they made a steep climbing turn to the left. I closed in to about 200 yards and fired a one second burst. There were strikes on the left side of the Wingman's fuselage. He then straightened out and I hit his right wingtip with my second burst. I corrected and got hits all over the fuselage. He then caught fire and fell out of control. The Leader half-rolled and went down through the clouds.

I claim one (1) Me 109F DESTROYED

- J. Ser No of A/C: 42-67907
- A/C Markings: KI-U
- Ammunition Expended: 97 rounds of 50 caliber.  
39 rounds of 20mm.

/s/ Willis B. Taylor  
WILLIS B. TAYLOR  
1st Lt., Air Corps

I was flying Towntalk Red 2 position at about 18,000 feet when we saw 2 Me 109's below and ahead of us. Lt Taylor, Flight Leader went down for a bounce. There were four of us in the flight and I was flying Lt Taylor's wing. When we bounced the Me 109's they made a steep climbing turn to the left. We followed them and while in this turn Lt Taylor got enough lead on the 2nd ship to give him a good burst. The Me 109 burst into flames and rolled over on its back and went down. This Me 109 was burning all over and there is no question of its destruction.

/s/ Harry E. Bisher  
HARRY E. BISHER  
1st Lt., Air Corps

/s/ Clifford W. Long  
CLIFFORD W. LONG  
1st Lt., Air Corps  
Ass't Intelligence Officer

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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. WILLIS B. TAYLOR

I was flying number 4 position, Towntalk Red Flight, Lt. Taylor leading, about 45 minutes from Dutch coast leaving Germany. We were in line abreast when 2 ME 109's were sighted at 10 o'clock to us, 5,000 feet below. We got in trail to go down on them. The two 109's went in trail in a climbing turn to left, all of us pursuing. The lead 109 peeled off to the right and dived to the ground. Lt. Taylor was right behind the other 109 shooting. This ship broke slightly to the right and rolled on its back, flying level, with black smoke pouring from the fuselage. It was in that position when I flew past it (within 300 yards). Flying level on its back for some time led me to believe the pilot was preparing to bail out, although I did not see him do so.

/s/ Robert W. Ahern  
LT. ROBERT W. AHERN  
2ND LT., Air Corps,  
55th Fighter Squadron

/s/ Clifford W. Long  
CLIFFORD W. LONG  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
Ass't. Intelligence Officer  
55th Fighter Squadron.

A TRUE COPY

*Ray Hoover, Capt. A.C.*  
GERALD F. COSTELLO,  
Captain, Air Corps,  
Ass't A-2, 67 FW.

(D-7)

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By JG NARA Date 3-11-11

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

ENCOUNTER REPORT

CAPTAIN WILLIS B. TAYLOR

HEADQUARTERS

EIGHTH FIGHTER COMD.

REGISTRY No. 24580-6

COPY No. 2

A-2

- a. Combat
- b. 24 April 1944
- c. 55th Ftr Sq, 20th Ftr Gp
- d. 1445
- e. W of Worms
- f. Hazy
- g. Me 109
- h. One (1) Me 109 Destroyed
- i.

I was leading Yellow Flight. We had left the bombers and were heading W for home. Our altitude was 19,000 ft. We saw an A/D W of Worms and the Gp Leader decided to strafe it. There were silver 109s and T/E E/A and 1 four engine job. We stayed as top cover while White and Red Flight went down. I saw 2 109s circling the A/D and I took my flight to attack. We easily out-turned them and I lined my sights in the No 2 man. I fired a 2 second burst, saw strikes on the fuselage in area of cockpit. He rolled over and hit the ground upside down.

I claim One (1) Me 109 Destroyed

- j. Serial No of A/C: 42-67823
- Markings of A/C: KI-N
- Ammunition Expended: 80 rds API 50 cal
- 80 rds I 50 cal
- 40 rds AP 50 cal
- 2 rds Ball 20 mm
- 36 rds HEI 20 mm

/s/ Willis B. Taylor  
WILLIS B. TAYLOR,  
Capt., Air Corps.

I was flying No 2 position in Yellow Flight. I saw Capt. Taylor get into position on the Me 109 and open fire. I saw strikes on the E/A and then saw it roll over, and dive into the ground in an explosion.

/s/ John A. Pierson  
JOHN A. PIERSON,  
2nd Lt., Air Corps,

/s/ Dean E. Erlandson  
DEAN E. ERLANDSON,  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
Intelligence Officer.

A TRUE COPY:

*Karl S. Elebashi*  
KARL S. ELEBASH,  
2nd Lt., Air Corps,  
Ass't A-2, 67 FW.

(D-7)

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

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CONSOLIDATED ENCOUNTER REPORT

LT COL RANDOLPH, LT J.L. MANSKER, LT K.D. MC NEEL, CAPT EVERETT  
L. CAVELL, LT R.I. BOWMAN, LT D.D. OXLEY, CAPT J.T. MC KEON, F/O  
J.D. LEON, LT D.D. BENEDICT, LT T. C. BARNES, LT M. MALDONADO,  
LT R. M. HOWARD, LT W. M. HURST, CAPT W. B. TAYLOR.

- a. Combat
- b. 6 October 1944
- c. 55th Ftr Sq, 20th Ftr Gp
- d. 1345
- e. Kubitzer Bay area - Fehmarn Sound
- f. CAVU
- g. Seaplanes
- h. See claims listed under j
- i.

I was leading 55th Ftr Sq on a bomber escort mission. The Tgt was Politz. We were over Rugen Island at about 20,000 ft when Lt Oxley, Black Flt Ldr, reported that he had seen some flying boats anchored in Kubitzer Bay area. I pulled into the sun and started to let down, followed by Red Flt. In the meantime Lt Oxley had taken his wing man over the Tgts - 8/10 3 engined flying boats, possibly Do 24s. Black Flt made 2 passes over the Tgt before White and Red Flts came down. Capt Taylor leading Yellow Flt saw three flying boats in a small inlet 10 miles N of Kubitzer Bay and took his Flt down to attack these Tgts, making his attack from S to N. 3 A/C were dest in this attack. Seeing 10/12 more seaplanes in an inlet between the villages of Berg and Wiek Capt Taylor and his Flt attacked this concentration. Some flak was encountered and during this attack four more A/C were dest. In the meantime Capt Cavell and his wing man were attacking Tgts in an inlet back of Ummanz Island, destroying 1 Do 24 and damaging another. The Sq set course to the W and at Graszenbrade, S of Fehmarn Sound, Lt Mansker and His wing man, Lt McNeel, saw 2-4 engined flying boats anchored near a seaplane base. Making an attack from NW to SE they dest both planes.

In view of the widespread dispersal of the various Tgts and the stories of witnessing pilots the claims listed below are conservative.

I make the following claims for the pilots of the 55th  
50 cal. Claims

Ftr Sq.	j.	Ser No of A/C:	Markings of A/C:	Ammo:	Dest	Dam
Randolph		44-13541	KI-N	1419	2 Do 24s	
Mansker		44-13892	KI-X	2000	1 4eng.flying boat	
Mc Neel		44-13776	KI-V	511	1 4eng.flying boat	
Cavell		44-14198	KI-W	201	1 Do 24	1 Do 24
Bowman		44-14330	KI-F	1177	1 Do 24	1 Do 24
Oxley		43-25065	KI-H	646	2 Do 24	
Mc Keon		44-14319	KI-M	445	2 Do 24	
Leon		44-13664	KI-B	649	1 Do 24	1 Do 24
Benedict		44-13905	KI-Y	1253	1 Do 24	
Barnes		44-14331	KI-A	1877	1 Do 24	1 Do 24
Maldonado		43-25031	KI-O	570	1 Do 24	1 Do 24
Howard		44-13827	KI-R	1643	1-4eng fly.boat	
					3-4eng fly 1	
Howard	"	"	"	"	1 Do 24	
Hurst		44-13859	KI-S	1651	2-4eng Fly boats.	
Taylor		44-13799	KI-N	1579	1-4eng Fly boat	
"	"	"	"	"	1 Do 24	

/s/Clifford W. Long  
CLIFFORD W. LONG,  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
Intelligence Officer. Ass't A-2.

*Gerald F. Costello*  
GERALD F. COSTELLO,  
Major, Air Corps,  
Ass't A-2.

/s/John P. Randolph  
JOHN P. RANDOLPH,  
Lt Col., Air Corps.

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By JCT NARA Date 3-11-11

