

SECRET

* HISTORY OF [REDACTED] *
* THE 397TH *
* FIGHTER *
* SQUADRON *

DECLASSIFIED
DOD DIR 52009

* INSTALLMENT ELEVEN *
* Covering the month of *
* December 1944 *

* First Lieutenant *
* RICHARD H. BLICKENSDEER *
* (Historical Officer)*

DECLASSIFIED
DOD DIR 52009

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Installation XI HISTORY OF THE 397TH FIGHTER SQUADRON Section A

1. ORGANIZATION (e.g., changes effected by the transfer of the unit or by new T/O's). NEGATIVE
2. STRENGTH ON THE LAST DAY OF THE MONTH:
Unit strength as of the 31 December 1944
OFFICERS ASSIGNED ----- Sixty (60)
EM ASSIGNED ----- Two hundred forty-one (241)
OFFICERS ATTACHED ----- NONE (0)
EM ATTACHED ----- Three (3)
3. ARRIVAL AT AND DEPARTURE FROM EACH STATION OCCUPIED IN THE ETO:
squadron departed from ALG Number 84 (Chievres, Belgium); arrived at ALG Number 68 (Juvincourt, France), c/a 24 December 1944. Move of A/C, equipment, advance and rear echelons accomplished in approximately six days.
4. LOST IN ACTION:
F/O Charles W. Vickerman ---- MIA ---- 8 December 1944
1st Lt Frederick O. Stoll, Jr MIA ----17 December 1944
2nd Lt Jack L. Conant ----- MIA ----18 December 1944
2nd Lt Donald W. Evans ----- MIA ----24 December 1944
2nd Lt Jack W. White ----- MIA ----25 December 1944
5. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS TO MEMBERS OF THE UNIT:
1st Lt Arps -----DFC
1st Lt Baker -----DFC, 1st Silver OLC to AM, 6th Br OLC to AM
1st Lt Barker -----DFC, 6th Br OLC to AM
2nd Lt Bauer -----6th Br OLC to AM
2nd Lt Bender -----6th Br OLC to AM
Major Carbine -----2nd Br OLC to AM
Capt Carlson -----3rd Silv OLC to AM, 16th Br OLC to AM
1st Lt Cassady -----8th Br OLC to AM
2nd Lt Evans -----1st Br OLC to AM
1st Lt Foltz -----16th Br OLC to AM
1st Lt Hamilton -----3rd Silv OLC to AM
2nd Lt Hogan -----4th Br OLC to AM
1st Lt Horlacher -----14th Br OLC to AM
2nd Lt Kalen -----1st Br OLC to AM
1st Lt Kerr -----7th Br OLC to AM
1st Lt Olden -----12, 15th OLC to AM
2nd Lt Potter -----11th OLC to AM
2nd Lt Rinehart -----DFC
1st Lt Rosvold -----DFC
2nd Lt Sharp -----1st Br OLC to AM
1st Lt Stoll -----11th Br OLC to AM

S/Sgt William Aro ----- Br Star Medal
S/Sgt Norbert P. Billinger, Br Star Medal
S/Sgt Wiley A. Brooks ---- Br Star Medal
S/Sgt William H. Hirschfeld - Br Star Medal

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Section A

ADDENDA TO SECTION A

1st Lt John P. Foltz was killed in training on 9 December 1944, shortly after he had been transferred to "Marmite" for radio control duty. His plane was in an aerial collision with the "piggy-back" plane piloted by Lt Hamilton. Lt Foltz was unable to recover and crashed a few miles from the field at Chievres. Lt Hamilton returned safely. Lt Foltz was one of the original twenty-seven pilots of the squadron and his death was deeply felt by all members of the outfit.

1st Lt David M. Sharp received the Certificate of Merit for his excellent work as air liaison officer with the Third Armored Division in September. Lt Sharp has recently been placed on TD with the Fifth Corps.

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Installment XI

HISTORY OF THE 397TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

Section 3

* SECTION 3 ** *
* Narrative ** *
* Covering the Month of *
* December 1944 *

ALG A-34, CHEVRES, BELG--(Dec 1)-- This months operations opened with a day of quiet. A briefing was held, but the weather closed in and there was no take-off.

Group Special Orders 143 of this date announces the promotion of the following enlisted men of this squadron to the grades indicated: Sgt Vernon D. Saunders to S/Sgt, Cpls Harry W. Heath and Raymond C. Hofknecht to Sgt, Pfc's James F. Sackett, Ralph H. May and Israel Machlin to Cpl, Pvt Jesse L. Castro to Pfc.

DEC 2 -- Today a special target was assigned as the objective of an early morning mission. It was a fortified hill and strong point immediately in front of the first Infantry Division lines. In fact it was such close cover work that it was stipulated that we were to bomb before 0900 hours but not after that time. Eight fragmentation and eight GP bombs were well concentrated on this target with excellent results. A supply dump in the vicinity received the remaining bombs and belched forth smoke and flame. The armed recon which followed was pretty rough on Jerry's severely depleted rolling stock. Major Carbine's flight destroyed two locomotives and shot up at least forty box cars while Lt Kerr's and Capt Krause's flights accounted for another locomotive and about thirty cars. Lt Leavoy knocked out one gun position and strafed several others. Major Carbine's plane was badly damaged by flak. His hydraulic system was knocked out so he was forced to make a belly landing at high speed back at the base. On this mission were: Carbine, Leavoy, Biagini, Yandel, Kerr, Horowitz, G L Bauer, Krause, Lewis, Soo, and Hogan.

Group Special Orders No 144 of this date reveal that T/Sgt Samuel Leisey is to be sent to Paris for 7 days to attend AN/TRC-1 Maint. School.

DEC 3 -- On today's mission our squadron supported the 4th Infantry Division. They bombed a concentration of seven tanks and results were reported to be good. Major Leary and Lt Uterhart knocked out 3 trucks and Lts Dame and Arledge destroyed a train of five cars on the armed recon which followed. A large formation of Lancasters fired at our planes, but, fortunately, missed. Those on the mission were: Leary, Uterhart, Baker, R D Sharp, Potter, Clary, Fauley, Fein, Dame, Arledge, Hamilton, and White.

DEC 4 -- The first mission for today was again in support of the 1st Infantry Division but because of bad weather they were directed to bomb the M/Y at Zulpich. Many hits were scored on the tracks and about 30 freight cars were destroyed. Pilots on the mission were: Carbine, Uterhart, Cassidy, Wright, Kerr, Conant, Lt Bauer, Kalen, Krause, Yandel, Soo and Hogan.

The squadron was sent out on a second mission in the afternoon to neutralize a group of eight gun positions SE of Duren. The smoke bomb marking was not too distinct but there was fairly good concentration of bombs dropped in the area. Lts Dame, Arledge, and White destroyed two trucks and a trailer. On this mission were: Leary, Lewis, D M Sharp, R D Sharp, Potter, Monezny, Baker, Fein, Dame, Arledge, Hamilton, and White.

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Installment XI HISTORY OF THE 397TH FIGHTER SQUADRON Section B ***

DEC 5 -- Today our squadron concentrated on troop concentrations and motor traffic along Hitler's new "autobahn" north of Duren. There was a good close pattern of bombs scored on the troop concentration and the scores on road traffic were as follows: Olden: 4 MT destroyed, 10 damaged. Vickerman: 2 MT destroyed, 4 damaged. Stoll: 1 staff car, 1 motorcycle, 2 horse drawn vehicles, 5 MT destroyed, 6 damaged. Weinstein: 5 MT Destroyed, 2 damaged. Major Leary: 4 MT destroyed, 10 damaged. Hutcherson: 1 MT destroyed, 1 damaged. Baker: 6 MT damaged. R D Sharp: 1 MT destroyed, 2 damaged. Dame: 9 MT destroyed, 3 damaged, 2 trailers destroyed, 1 damaged. Arledge 1 MT and 1 trailer destroyed, 2 MT damaged. The Air Support Mission Log for this date reports: "Planes exactly on target, bombed and strafed with excellent results."

The second mission attempted to destroy a bridge over the Roer River and a cloverleaf intersection on the "autobahn". The bridge was of very heavy masonry construction and, although there were two direct hits on the bridge, it did not collapse. The road intersection was pretty well chattered, however. Pilots on the mission were: Carbine, Cassidy, Wright, Potter, Clary, Barker, Fauley, Krause, Uterhart, Soo, and Biagini.

DEC 6 -- Our target for today was the town of Zulpich again. This time it was bombed by Radar Control. Complete results were not visible, but several buildings were seen damaged and burning. Mission Pilots were: Carbine, Kostrack, D M Sharp, Wright, Kerr, Horowitz, G L Bauer, Kalen, Krause, Yandel, Soo, and Hogan.

DEC 7 -- A day of rain, wind and fog kept all planes grounded. Ninth Air Force General Orders No 236, of 7 Oct 1944, received today, announces awards of the Silver Star to 1st Lt George L. Sutcliffe, Major Randall W. Hendricks, Capt William R. Gibson, 1st Lt Robert S. Brown, 1st Lt (now Capt) Roy D. Carlson, 1st Lt (now Capt) Wayne H. Driscoll, 1st Lt David M. Sharp, and 2nd Lt Robert W Rinehart. These awards were made for meritorious action during the months of May, June, July, and August.

This afternoon pilots and intelligence officers of the group attended an excellent lecture on Radar and Radar Controlled Bombing given by Lt Col Coward of IX TAC. He presented this very complicated subject in a clear, concise and simple manner and followed it up with a period of questions and answers. It was a very interesting and enlightening period of instruction.

Squadron Orders No 28 of this date appoint 1st Lt William M. Kerr Flight Commander of F Flight. 1st Lt Carl H. Gundlach is appointed Unit Postal Officer and War Bond Officer in place of Capt Johnson. 2nd Lt Wynn L Dixon is appointed Information- Education Officer.

DEC 8 -- This was a red letter day for the pilots of our squadron, marking their first contact with enemy planes for many weeks. The fight took place between Cologne and the Erft Canal just after noon 30 to 40 ME 109's and FW 190's were encountered. The score as usual was heavily in our favor: 5-0-6 for one loss. Lt Hamilton was high scorer with one ME 109 destroyed and one ME 109 and FW 190 damaged. Lt Dame shot down one ME 109 and damaged one FW 190. Lt Olden destroyed an ME 109. Major Leary, Lt R D Sharp, and Lt Lewis each damaged an ME 109.

This victory was achieved at the cost of one of our new pilots, F/O Charles W Vickerman. A P 47 was seen to spin earthward in flames during the dogfight, and a later check led to the conclusion that it was probably F/O Vickerman's plane. It is not thought that he was able to bail out. F/O Vickerman was from Caledonia, Minn.

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HISTORY OF THE 397TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

Section B

In an amendment to Report Number 33 of the Victory Credits Board, Capt Carlos M. Talbott received confirmation of the second of his two ME 109's destroyed on 11 Sept 1944.

According to Group Special Orders No. 146 of this date, Lt Fauley is sent to Paris for 2 days leave.

A new Pilot, 2nd Lt Thurman N. Mauldin, is assigned to this squadron by the same special orders.

DEC 9 -- Bad weather kept all planes grounded today.

A Newspaper clipping received today contained interesting information concerning Capt James W (Red) Goodwin. Capt Goodwin, one of the original members of the 397th was assigned to the 395th on 15 March 1944. He was shot down over western Germany on 22 April 1944. He made his way to Yugoslavia where he was taken in by the Partisans. Congressman Lyndon Johnson, of Texas, secured his evacuation to the U S where his wife lies critically ill from lymphatic leukemia.

DEC 10 -- Today's mission consisted of knocking out a tank in the town of Dhorn and bombing of Zulpich again. Bogies were reported but their turned out to be friendly. Mission pilots were: Carbine, Poleson, Weinstein, Kalen, D M Sharp, Kostrack, Cassady, Fein, Krause, Uterhart, Hogan, and Yandel.

IX TAC General Orders No. 92, this date, announce the awarding of the Bronze Star Medal to the following enlisted men of this squadron: S/Sgts Angle, Cuppini, Erickson, Kvedaras, Peers, Seiley, and Standfield.

DEC 11 -- The mission was in support of the 9th Infantry Division today. It consisted of bombing some strong points and a highly successful attack on a train of flat cars carrying tanks. Major Leary and Lts Olden and Poleson almost completely destroyed this train. Others on the mission were: Hutcherson, Bauer, Lewis, Arps, Uterhart, Baker, Clary, Stoll and Leavoy.

DEC 12 -- Today our squadron carried out an uneventful bombing of Euskirchen by Radar Control. Those participating were: Carbine, Konesny, Leavoy, Barker, Arledge, Cassady, Fein, Krause, Hucks, Soo and Evans.

DEC 13 -- Another uneventful mission marked today's aerial activities. Undisclosed targets south of Duren were bombed by Radar Control. On the mission were: Leary, Hutcherson, Baker, Lewis, Potter, Thornton, Bender, Kalen, Kerr, Conant, G L Bauer, and Horowitz.

DEC 14 -- Today the squadron clobbered a train of 30 cars, destroying it and a section of track. Lt Poleson had his ship shot up by flak, but he managed to bail out safely on our side of the bomb line. The weather closed in over our field, so the squadron had to land at Florennes in eastern Belgium. On this mission were: Carbine, Konesny, Yandel, Clary, Olden, Poleson, Weinstein, Evans, Dame, White, D M Sharp, and Patrick.

DEC 15 -- Today's mission was made in poor weather. The controller was unable to direct our planes on the assigned Radar mission, so our bombs were dropped on a train. Lt Lewis did a particularly accurate job. Pilots on the mission were: Leary, Uterhart, G L Bauer, Lewis, Horlacher, Hunt, Frisbie, Horowitz, Krause, Conant, Cassady, and Leavoy.

An accident in the armament section, which occurred on the line today, cost the life of Cpl Michael T Gaydos. There was a mistake in signals. While Cpl Gaydos was installing the rocket, the firing switch was also being tested. The rocket fired, and the resulting explosion caused his death.

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HISTORY OF THE 397TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

Section 3

DEC 16 -- The squadron had a quiet day today. Fog and mist kept all planes grounded.

DEC 17 -- Today's mission marked another encounter with the GAF. Lt Kerr was very much the hero of the day with so many claims that at first he had trouble straightening them out himself. They were finally resolved into two ME 109's and two FW 190's destroyed and another ME 109 probably destroyed. Lt Bauer also destroyed one ME 109. Lt Stoll damaged an FW 190.

Again this great victory was accomplished at the cost of one of our oldest pilots. Lt Stoll chose to fight it out in a head-on pass at an FW 190. Although severely damaged, the FW 190 prevailed and Lt Stoll's plane was seen heading in, although none of the pilots saw it crash.

On the mission were: Leary, Hutcherson, Hamilton, Lewis, Potter, Konesny, Fauley, Clary, Krause, Hucks, Weinstein, R D Sharp, Barker, Uterhart, D M Sharp, and Frisbie.

DEC 18 -- Another dogfight with enemy planes and another victory was chalked up for the squadron. Lt Potter was high scorer with two ME 109's destroyed. Lt Clary destroyed one ME 109 and probably destroyed another. Major Leary destroyed an ME 109 and Lt Weinstein damaged an ME 109.

Lt Conant did not return to base after the combat. Little is known about his disappearance except that he was last seen while engaging in the dogfight. No-one saw him crash nor did he communicate with anyone over the RT.

Mission pilots were: Leary, Hutcherson, Baker, R D Sharp, Potter, Konesny, Fauley, Clary, Olden, Hucks, Weinstein, Leavoy, Conant, and H L Bauer.

Report No 36 of the Victory Credits Board of this date, confirms the following claims of the pilots of this squadron for 8 Dec 44: Dame: 1 ME 109 destroyed. Hamilton: 1 ME 109 destroyed. 1 ME 109 damaged. Olden: 1 ME 109 destroyed. Additional claims by Lts Dame and Hamilton to 1 FW 190 damaged each awaits combat film verification.

A small rocket mission with Krause, Thornton, Frisbie, and Kalen returned to base without firing, due to a complete overcast in the target area.

Major Carbine and Lts Uterhart, Hamilton and Wright bombed Kreuzau and saw fires on another small mission today.

DEC 19 -- News of the German break through caused considerable consternation today. It was timed to coincide with the foggy, rainy weather which blankets the whole front, including this base. There was no operational activity.

DEC 20 -- A day off fog and mist, no flying.

DEC 21 -- Continued bad weather.

DEC 22 -- Weather grounded all planes.

DEC 23 -- Last night word unexpectedly arrived that the squadron was to move today from Chièvres, Belgium to Proances, France. However a postponement followed shortly after the original message setting tomorrow as the moving day.

A cloudless day with only a slight groundmist gave the squadron a chance to go out and clobber the German transportation facilities in their new exposed positions. Today's mission destroyed two large trains one with freight cars and one of oilcars. Capt Dame, Lt White and Capt Krause did particularly accurate work. Mission pilots were: Carbine, Kostrack, Weinstein, Evans, Bender, Wright, Logan, Yandel, Dame, White, Clary, Patrick, Krause, Thornton, Helliesen, Kalen.

DEC 24 -- Two missions today took a heavy toll of German armor and transportation. The first mission accounted for 11 tanks and 10 MI destroyed, 14 tanks and 16 MI damaged, with nearly ALL of the pilots participating in piling up these totals. Those on the mission were: Leary, Hutcherson, Lewis, Clary, Bender, White, Baker, Patrick, Weinstein, Evans, Kerr, Hunt, Bauer, and Horowitz.

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HISTORY OF THE 397TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

Section 5

Lt Evans' plane was shot down by flak near the battle line. He was able to bailout successfully, however, and was last seen gathering up his parachute on the ground. It is not certain whether or not he fell into enemy hands, as the situation was very fluid at that point.

The second mission concentrated on the town of Schleiden where a fuel dump was destroyed and the marshalling yard was wrecked along with the destruction of from 50 to 100 cars. Mission pilots were: Carbine, Thornton, Helliesen, Kalen, Parker, Leavoy, Frisbie, R D Sharp, Potter, Kostrack, Fauley, Wright, Dame, Arledge, Hamilton, and Yandel.

"A" party left for Froenes (A-79) at 08:30 this morning.

DEC 25 -- Due to the sudden burst of operational activity and the current move, which left most departments with about half of their normal personnel, there was little opportunity to observe Christmas as a holiday. The day was spent in intense activity by all departments, with only an occasional nod or hasty greeting to distinguish it from any other day.

Today's first mission was directed against scattered road traffic. Capt Dame and Lt Hamilton each destroyed eight MT and damaged several others, and two tanks were destroyed by bombs. Those on the mission were: Carbine, Kostrack, Frisbie, Wright, Hamilton, White, Dame, Patrick, Krause, Arledge, Helliesen, Kalen, Horlacher, Konesny, Baker, and Fauley.

The second mission piled up far more of the impressive totals of the Huns rolling stock. Six tanks and eighty-two MT were destroyed, three tanks and twenty-five MT damaged. All pilots participated in this sizeable bag. They were: Leary, Hutcherson, Clary, Hogan, Olden, Leavoy, Weinstein, Yandel, Kerr, Hunt, Bauer, and Horowitz.

DEC 26 -- The destination for our move was changed first to Metz and then to Juvincourt because the Metz field was not yet servicable. "A" party moved from Froenes to Juvincourt, while "B" party prepared to join them from Chievres as soon as weather would permit the planes to take-off. There was no mission today due to fog and mist.

ALG A-68, Juvincourt, France (Dec 27) -- A mission got off today which will land at Juvincourt. The remaining planes made a direct flight.

All pilots on the flight participated in destroying two tanks and fifty MT and in damaging twenty-nine more vehicles by the use of bombs, rockets, and strafing. Those on the mission were: Leary, Uterhart, Helliesen, Clary, Bender, Hutcherson, Hogan, R D Sharp, Olden, Baker, Patrick, Kalen, Potter, Konesny, Fauley, and Leavoy.

DEC 28 -- Excessive ground mist and bad weather over the target area prevented today's mission from taking-off. Most of "B" party arrived at Juvincourt to rejoin the advanced section of the squadron. Living and working conditions are much rougher than they were at Chievres, with tents predominating for both purposes. The forthcoming move to Metz will be welcomed by all.

DEC 29 -- The weather cleared up today permitting two missions. The first was uneventful. It consisted of the bombing of a small marshalling yard, but no results were observed due to ground haze. Pilots were: Carbine, Kostrack, Yandel, Wright, Baker, Clary, Frisbie, R D Sharp, Krause, Thornton, Helliesen, and Kalen.

The second mission disposed of a small Nazi supply and fuel dump. Capt Dame did a particularly accurate job with his bombs. Major Leary, Lts Lewis, Hutcherson, and Horowitz accounted for 1 tank and five MT destroyed and damaged eight MT. Mission pilots were: Potter, G L Bauer, Dame, Horowitz, Hamilton, Patrick, Leary, Hutcherson, Lewis, and Horowitz.

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Installment XI HISTORY OF THE 397TH FIGHTER SQUADRON Section B

DEC 30 -- Today was another of great operational activity with two successful missions. The first of these tore up a small marshalling yard destroying about twenty cars and damaging a roundhouse and several warehouses. Lts Kerr and Hunt did a particularly accurate job with their bombs. Several other railroad cars and motor vehicles were destroyed by strafing. Mission pilots were: Olden, Kostrack, Weinstein, Uterhart, Kerr, Hunt, Dame, Lewis, Patrick, and Horowitz.

The second mission bombed a troop concentration and strafed two small towns. One tank and several vehicles were destroyed. Lt Wright was high score in the strafing. Those on the mission were: Krause, Arledge, Helliesen, Kalen, Bender, Wright, Baker, R D Sharp, Carbine, Huche, Hamilton, and Konesny.

DEC 31 -- The mission was delayed by heavy ground fog, but finally got off in the early afternoon. They bombed a small town but did not observe the results. The squadron also destroyed one tank and twenty-eight vehicles, and damaged eight light artillery guns and eighteen vehicles.

This ended our operational activity for the year. "A" party will move to Metz tomorrow, and will begin the New Year at a new, and we hope, fairly permanent location.

SECRET

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

D-3-4

HEADQUARTERS
IX TACTICAL AIR COMMAND

APO 595, U S Army,
8 December 1944.

SUBJECT: Amendment to "Confirmation of Victory Credit Board" Report
Number Thirty-three (33).

TO : Commanding Officer, 368 Fighter Group, APO 595, U S Army.

The name of the following officer is withdrawn from "Confirmation
of Victory Credits Board" report number thirty-three (33) and the attached
amended form is hereby made a part of Report number thirty-three (33):

<u>Name</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Squadron</u>	<u>Encounter</u>	<u>Report #</u>
Capt Carlos M. Talbott	368	397	11-9-44	33

By command of Major General QUESADA:

A. C. KINCAID,
Brig Gen, USA,
Chief of Staff.

" A TRUE COPY "

Richard H. Blickensderfer
RICHARD H. BLICKENSDERFER,
1st Lt, Air Corps,
Ass't 397th S-2 Officer.

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

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

D-B-4

REPORT) Amendment #1
Number) Report #33

HEADQUARTERS
IX TACTICAL AIR COMMAND
APO 595, U S Army

CONFIRMATION OF VICTORY CREDITS BOARD * AIR 8 Dec 44

The "Confirmation of Victory Credits Board", as appointed by par, 11, SO 206, this Headquarters, dated 3 Dec 44, awards victory credit claims to the following officers this command:

NAME	GROUP	SQDN	DATE	VICTORY CONFIRMED				UNCONFIRMED				E/A	PLACE	REMARKS		
				CLAIM	VICTORY	VICTORY	VICTORY	VICTORY	VICTORY	VICTORY	VICTORY					
				1944	D	P	IM	D	P	IM	D	P	IM			
***																***
Capt Carlos																
M Talbott	368	397	11-9	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	ME 109	Limbourg nonw Area
***																***

MEMBERS:

HOWARD F. NICHOLS,
Colonel, Air Corps,
President of Board.

(ELIAS H. WARREN, Lt Col, AC _____
(
(RANDALL W. HENDRICKS, Major, AC _____
(
(HARRY R. JAMES, Capt, AC _____

APPROVED:

By command of Major General QUESADA:

A. C. KINCAID,
Brig Gen, USA,
Chief of Staff.

" A TRUE COPY"

RICHARD H. BLICKENSDECKER,
1st Lt, Air Corps,
Ass't 397th S-2 Officer.

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

HEADQUARTERS
IX TACTICAL AIR COMMAND
APO 595, U S Army

REPORT)

NUMBER) 36

CONFIRMATION OF VICTORY CREDITS BOARD "A"

18 Dec 44

The "Confirmation of Victory Credits Board", as appointed by par 11 SO 206, this headquarters dated 3 Dec 44, awards victory credit claims to the following officers this command

NAME	GROUP	SIDE	DATE	VICTORY CREDITS			UNCONFIRMED			D/A	PLACE	REMARKS			
				1944 CLAIM			VICTORY						VICTORY		
				D	P	LM	D	P	LM				D	P	LM
*****				*****				*****			*****				
1st Lt Edward W. Dane	368	597	8-12	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	Cologne claim for FW 190 dam await film.			
1st Lt Henry B. Hamilton	368	597	8-12	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	Cologne claim for 1 FW 190 dam await film.			
1st Lt William J. Olden	368	597	8-12	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Cologne None " of			
*****				*****				*****			*****				

Phillips McVittie,
Colonel, Air Corps,
Pres of Board.

MEMBER:
(Charles A. Miller, Lt Col, AC _____)
(Mandell W. Hendricks, Major AC _____)
(Harry W. James, Capt AC _____)

REPORTED :

By command of Major General GUSADA:
A. C. KINCALD
Brig Gen, USA,
Chief of Staff.

" A TRUE COPY"

Morton H. Magnus
MORTON H. MAGNUS
1st Lt, Air Corps
397 B-2 Officer

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

E-B-4

397th Ftr Sqdn Rpt 3-2 on a Ground Support, Dive Bombing, and Armed Recce Mission---
4 December 1944 -- Sqdn Mission No. 202

- A -- Opns No. _____, Mission No. "E21-2" Mission No. for day: 100 - 4 Dec 44 -----
Support for Booty (1st Inf Div) located at Langervshe #352475. Dive bombing of
tgt assigned by Booty. Armed recce betw 1st Inf Div front and Rhine River.
- B -- 360th Ftr Gp - 397th Ftr Sqdn -- 12 A/C Disp -- No Aborts.
- C -- UP1341 - Crossed b/line on way in at 1415 - 1500; 1425 - crossed b/line on way
out at 1505 - BOA: 1545.
- D -- One A/C damaged by flak Cat 'A'.
- E -- 12 x 2 x 500lb GP Bombs -- Fuse inst nose, 1/40 tail. 24 Bombs in tgt area.
Our planes contacted Booty. The tgt assigned by Booty was located at E-376400.
The tgt consisted of eight gun emplacements, four on each side of a road. Booty
placed smoke on a lake in the vicinity of the tgt, by the tgt itself was not covered
by smoke. In fact, some of our pilots failed to see smoke. The results of the
bombing were fair. There was too much wind, and some of the bombs were short.
Four houses on the east side of a road in the vicinity of the tgt were hit and
were seen to be smoking. Lt's Dame and Arledge did good work in the bombing. It was
they who hit these houses. The other pilots who distinguished themselves in the
bombing were Major Leary and Lt's Lewis, D. A. Sharp, R. D. Sharp, Potter, Hamilton and
White. After the bombing our pilots conducted an armed recce over Mercken (F075506)
Pier (F038525), and to the Rhine River. When they returned to base,
Lt Dame, Lt Arledge, and Lt White straddled and destroyed two cars and a trailer at
F302751. The cars and trailer were headed northeast, but were stationary.
- F -- Hvy, mod, F acc/st Duren---- Inten, F acc, 20 lbs AA at place of straining (F302751)
Five F acc AA in area of F070515. Hvy, weak, inacc AA at F215750.
- G -- An old castle apparently used as a hospital was seen about half a mile away from
place of straining (F302751), there was less hvy AA in Duren than was expected.
Nothing but a few burned out autos was seen at Mercken (F075506) nothing was seen on road
betw Mercken and Pier (F038525) or on road east and north of Mercken.
- H -- near tgt area; 0/10 cloud coverage towering cumulus clouds base 5,000' top 12,000'
good visibility.
- I -- Sqdn code not used.
- J -- Ground control radio was good on the whole, but on at least on occasion it was spotty.
Ground control was good from tactical point of view.
- ALL BOMBS: LEARY, LEWIS, D. A. SHARP, R. D. SHARP
POTTER, CONNERY, BAKER, HAMILTON
DAME, ARLEDGE, HAMILTON, WHITE

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

CONFIDENTIAL

2-5-4

57th Tr Sqdn - 2 apt on a round force support, like bombing, and area recon mission -- Dec 44 -- Main mission no. 502

- Opns C No. _____, mission no. 501-2 mission no. 502 -- Dec 44 -- support for 800th (1st Inf Div, located at Langenscheidt) -- area recon betw 1st Inf Div front and Rhine River -- live bombing of tgt assigned by 800th.
- 57th Tr Sqdn -- 57th Tr Sqdn -- 12 A/C disp -- two aborts -- the radio in one plane was out, and the second plane acted as escort.
- 10:15 -- crossed b/line on way in at 11:00 -- 10:11 -- crossed b/line on way out at 12:15 -- 10:15:00.
- Nil.
- 12 x 2 x 500lb GP bombs -- fuze: inst base, 1/30 tail -- 10 bombs in tgt area -- 7 bombs returned to base (4 returned by abortives). Our planes contacted 800th. 800th assigned as tgt troop concentrations at F-054490 and F-050495. Red smoke was placed on these locations. Our planes saw nothing at these places and did not bomb there. When 800th assigned as a tgt a troop concentration at F-050490. Red smoke was placed on this location. Our planes were instructed to bomb area was to east and to drop their bombs north and east of the Autobahn at that place. 17 bombs fell in the assigned area, and 800th reported that our pilots had done good work in the bombing.
- Strafing: After the bombing our planes went on an area recon toward the Rhine River. As they were on the recon sweeps we instructed them to go to the area of F-05020 and to straf tgs there. There was a cloud coverage in this area with a little break. Our planes went below the clouds and strafed. They destroyed 52 M's, 1 staff car, one motorcycle, two horse drawn vehicles and three trailers. They damaged 46 M's and one trailer.
- Lt Olden destroyed 4 M's and damaged ten. Lt Vickerman destroyed 2 M's and damaged 4. Lt Stoll destroyed one staff car, one motorcycle, two horse drawn vehicles and 5 M's, he damaged 6 M's. Lt Reinstein destroyed 5 M's and damaged two. Major Leary destroyed four M's and damaged ten. Lt Hutcherson destroyed one M and damaged one. Lt Baker damaged six M's. Lt B Sharp destroyed one M and damaged two. Lt Lane destroyed nine M's and damaged three. He also destroyed two trailers and damaged one. Lt Arledge destroyed M and trailer and damaged M's (two).
- Light, Inten AA in the area between and north (area of F-075490) this AA fire was a general barrage and could not be characterized as to accuracy.
- Light, Inten, acc, AA at F-47225 (MADISONVILLE), F-4425 and F-552.
- About one hundred vehicles were seen in the woods in the strafing area (F-5020), these vehicles, including those that were attacked, were heading generally in a southwest direction. Some were seen to enter the town of Stadt Neckenheim (F-47225). A P-47 was seen on the ground in the area of F-5127. A red flare was seen in the area of F-5230.
- ii -- tgt area: 10/10 cloud coverage. Strato-cumulus and stratus clouds (mostly stratus, base 5,000', top 6,000'. Good visibility.
- I -- Sqdn code not used.
- J -- ground control was good.

ALL S 2231	CHEN	VICKERMAN	STOLL	REINSTEIN
	LEARY	HUTCHERSON	SHARP	B SHARP
	LANE	ARLEDGE	LANE	ARLEDGE (ABORT) WILK (ABORT)

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D-3-4

357th Ftr Sqdn 8-2 apt on a Radar Controlled Level Bombing and Fighter Sweep Mission.
5 Dec 44 -- Squadron Mission No. 205

- A -- Spns O No. _____, Mission No. "121-3" -- Mission No. for day: 025 -- 5 Dec 44 --
 384 Radar Controlled Level Bombing of Zulpich (F2333) - Fighter Sweep in area of
 Zulpich, Bruhl, Henkirchen, and Wuppenforth.
- B -- 357th Ftr Sq -- 357th sqdn -- 12 A/C Miss -- No Aborts.
- C -- EP: 1339 -- crossed b/line on way in at 1440 -- TOI: 1445 -- crossed b/line on
 way out at 1545 -- BOA: 1622.
- D -- Nil.
- E -- 12 x 2 x 500lb AF Bombs -- Fuse: 1/10 nose, 1/100 tail -- 22 bombs in tgt area --
 Two bombs dropped ~~probably~~ ^{15/10} in area of F160250. These bombs were released
 at time of arming bombs (faulty mechanism) Our planes contacted Marmite One, Marmite
 turned them over to Marmite One. Marmite One directed them to the tgt at Zulpich
 (F2333). The bombs were dropped on orders of Marmite One. On instructions from
 Marmite One our planes flew at ten thousand feet at 200 miles per hour; 22 bombs
 were dropped in the tgt area. Two big fires were seen in the southern part of the city.
 One fire was seen among buildings on a road in the southwestern part of the city.
 One large building was directly hit. The results of the bombing were apparently
 very good.
 No strafing.
 After the bombing our planes undertook the assigned fighter sweep.
- F -- Ivy, weak, acc # in area of F217352. Heavy and light, weak, inacc # in area of
 F140400. Ivy, weak, # of unknown acc (perhaps inacc) at Bruhl (this flak was
 fired not at our planes but at Bogies, Ivy, inten, # of unknown acc at Cologne
 (this flak was fired not at our planes but at Bogies).
- G -- A train was seen in the area of F460510. There was cloud cover age in this area,
 and the hole in the clouds through which the train was seen was too small to
 permit a strafing attack. Sweepstakes knew about this train. A train was seen
 in the area of F230330. It was seen as our planes were pulling-up after bombing,
 and it was under clouds. For these reasons it was not attacked. About five scattered
 vehicles were seen singly in the area northeast of Gemund (F130200). One of these
 vehicles was white. These vehicles were not attacked because our planes sighted
 bogies at that time. Four little projectiles that looked like little cans were
 shot at our planes in the area northeast of Gemund (F130200). The velocity
 of these projectiles was rather low, for it was possible to observe their path
 through the air. Their tracks took the form of arcs. No bursts were seen.
 Projectiles of this type have been seen previously by members of our sqdn.
- H -- 9/10 cloud coverage Cumulus clouds base low, probably extending to ground top
 11,000' Visibility above clouds good. There was an opening in the clouds just
 above the tgt area.
- I -- After our planes had been turned over to Marmite One, the authenticity of the
 latter was checked by means of the sqdn code. Marmite One replied satisfactorily.
 The check was made because it was thought that authentication at that time was
 desirable and because Marmite One gave our planes a heading of 350 degrees, a
 heading which was thought to be unusual.
- J -- Ground Control was good.

ALL BOMBS: ^L GARDNER ^{FL} KOSTRACH ^{FL} B H SHARP ^{FL} MANTON ^{FL} MANTON ^{FL} MANTON
 KALSH ^{FL} KRAUSE ^{FL} LAMBL ^{FL} SOO ^{FL} KARAN

CONFIDENTIAL

1804

277th ...

- a --
- b --
- c --
- d --
- e --
- f --
- g --
- h --
- i --
- j --

Alt 3000	Alt 3001	Alt 3002	Alt 3003	Alt 3004

104

277th Air Sqdn 2-2 apt of a ground sq, 277th, 277th, and 277th, 10 Dec 44
277th Air Sqdn 2-2 apt of a ground sq, 277th, 277th, and 277th, 10 Dec 44

- A -- 277th Air Sqdn 2-2 apt of a ground sq, 277th, 277th, and 277th, 10 Dec 44
- B -- 277th Air Sqdn 2-2 apt of a ground sq, 277th, 277th, and 277th, 10 Dec 44
- C -- 277th Air Sqdn 2-2 apt of a ground sq, 277th, 277th, and 277th, 10 Dec 44
- D -- 277th Air Sqdn 2-2 apt of a ground sq, 277th, 277th, and 277th, 10 Dec 44
- E -- 277th Air Sqdn 2-2 apt of a ground sq, 277th, 277th, and 277th, 10 Dec 44
- F -- 277th Air Sqdn 2-2 apt of a ground sq, 277th, 277th, and 277th, 10 Dec 44
- G -- 277th Air Sqdn 2-2 apt of a ground sq, 277th, 277th, and 277th, 10 Dec 44
- H -- 277th Air Sqdn 2-2 apt of a ground sq, 277th, 277th, and 277th, 10 Dec 44
- I -- 277th Air Sqdn 2-2 apt of a ground sq, 277th, 277th, and 277th, 10 Dec 44
- J -- 277th Air Sqdn 2-2 apt of a ground sq, 277th, 277th, and 277th, 10 Dec 44

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207th Fighter Squadron - 2nd Lt. A. G. ... (also armed force) ...

- 1st Lt. ... mission ...
- support for ... located at ...
- 2nd Lt. ...
- 3rd Lt. ...
- 4th Lt. ...
- 5th Lt. ...
- 6th Lt. ...
- 7th Lt. ...
- 8th Lt. ...
- 9th Lt. ...
- 10th Lt. ...
- 11th Lt. ...
- 12th Lt. ...
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- 14th Lt. ...
- 15th Lt. ...
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- 94th Lt. ...
- 95th Lt. ...
- 96th Lt. ...
- 97th Lt. ...
- 98th Lt. ...
- 99th Lt. ...
- 100th Lt. ...

Bombs: Leary, Hutchinson, Bauer, ...
Rps, Stohart, Hazer, Leary
Rockets: Alden, Coleson, Stoll, Leary.

27th Air Sqn B-2 report of 584 Radar Controlled Mission. Sqn Mission to 509.

- a - Opns ord no. _____ Mission to 121-11 area for days 1, 12 Sep 44
584 Radar Controlled Mission. Bombing of Sauerchen at 133,29.
- b - 363rd sq, 57th fg; 11 a/c disp., no abortives.
- c - Sp 1343, Tot 1420, down 1914.
- d - Nil
- e - 11x2000 lb bombs 1/10 nose, 1/10 tail. 22 bombs in tgt area.
Our sqdn contacted Sweepstakes, Disco, and Disco 1. Disco 1 directed our planes to the tgt, Sauerchen at 133,29, where all bombs were dropped. No results were observed. Our planes returned home without incident.
- f - Nil
- g - Snow covered the ground in tgt area. A great many flying fortresses were seen.
- h - Weather: 8 to 9/10 cumulus cloud cover over tgt area, base unknown, top 10000 to 12000 ft. Vis good.
- i - Sqn code was not used.
- j - Ground control good.

Bombs: Darbins, Conesay, Conway.
Harker, Arledge, Cassady, Cain.
Crause, Lucke, Gop, Evans.

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

277th Bombardment Group report on a J44 radar controlled mission 17 December 1944. sqdn area 319.

- A - Opns ord no. _____ Miss. No. 121-8 17 Dec 44 Miss for day: one
J44 radar level bombing and mixed success mission.
- B - 168th Fighter Sq - 277th Air Sqdn - 12 J44 Miss - no aborts
- C - 1st 1458 - crossed h/line way in 1540 - 1st 1459 - crossed h/line way out 1610 -
SQDN 1620.
- D - Nil
- E - 12 x 2 x 200lb hp bombs 1/10 nose, 1/10 tail. bombs in tgt area. (10,000')
Air lanes contacted sweepstakes and were relayed to parasites two fortgts.
Parasite two vectored the planes to the area south of target where all bombs
were dropped at a point believed to be in the vicinity of R-1342. Parasites
direction they orbited in this area for about twenty minutes and returned home
without incident.
- F - Wv, mod, inacc to at uplch.
- G - Nil
- H - sea: 10, 10/10 strato-cumulus in large masses, layers over the tgt area,
base 1000' top 7000' visibility unlimited at top
- I - radar code not used.
- J - ground control var, good.

Att: 3000 ft	1000 ft	1000 ft	1000 ft	1000 ft
1000 ft	1000 ft	1000 ft	1000 ft	1000 ft
1000 ft	1000 ft	1000 ft	1000 ft	1000 ft

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

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

4-3-4

597th Ftr Sqdn report on a ground support, Dive Bombing, and Armed Recce mission -
14 December 1944 ----- Squadron Mission Number 311

- A - Opns No _____, Mission No. 121-3 14 December 1944 mission for day 022/
Mission was to have involved support for Foundation (70 Inf Div) and Stanza
(8th Inf Div), located at ~~xxxx~~ Rotgen, (49229) - Our planes actually bombed
a tgt of opportunity - then our planes conducted an armed recce.
- B - 568th Ftr Sq - 597th Ftr Sqdn - 12 A/C disp - no aborts.
- C - UP:1420 - crossed b/line on way in at 1530 - Bombed at 1600 - rockets not fired
Crossed b/line on way out - 1610 - ~~DOWN~~ at A-78 at 1640 on 14 Dec 44 - DOWN
at home base 1027 15 Dec 44. (ships could not land at home base on 14 Dec 44
because of bad weather conditions)
- D - one A/C destroyed by flak in tgt area. The pilot, Lt Poleson, bailed out at
K7720. On 15 Dec 44 the sqdn heard that he was in good shape, and that he would
soon return. K7720 is behind our front lines. Lt Poleson bailed out at 1615.
- E - 3 x 2 x 500lb WP bombs. Fuse: 1/10 nose, 1/100 tail. 4 x 4 x 5" At Serk I
rockets - 13/1000 second fixed base fuse - 16 bombs intgt area. - 16 rockets
in returned to base.
Our planes could not contact Foundation. They were able to comm with Stanza but
Stanza had no work for them and referred them to Foundation, whom they could not
contact. Marmite had sent them to the area of F2725 to attack trucks. They found
no trucks, but they found a train at F 2725. All 16 bombs were dropped on the
train. The train consisted of a loco and 25 to 30 freight cars. The loco and the
freight cars were heading east. *The loco, cars, and tracks were destroyed.*
No strafing.
- F - Light and Hvy, inten, acc flak in tgt area (F2725)
- G - A hospital train of ten plus cars was seen at F 2725. Four burning vehicles were
seen on the road heading east and west five miles west of Buskirchen. There is a
possible location of tanks a F3319. A few trucks were definitely seen there.
- H - Over tgt: Visibility poor. Haz layer to 9,000'
tgt area: 4/10 to 5/10 cloud coverage building up to 10/10 in the south.
- I - Sqdn code not used.
- J - Ground control - Our planes could not contact Foundation, and Marmite was weak.
They could comm with Stanza.

A
BOMBS: CARBINE KONESKI YANIEL OLARY JAMES POLESON MARMITE IN EVANS
ROCKETS: DABE WHITE J H SHANKS CARBINE

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

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

1-5-44

397th Ftr Sqdn S-2 report on a Ground Support, Dive Bombing, and Armed Reccs. Mission -
15 Dec 44 -- Sqdn Mission Number 512

- A - Opns O No. _____, Mission No. 21-8 Mission No. for day 15 Dec 44. Support for Foundation (78th Inf Div) and Bianza (3th Inf Div), located at Notgen (K2229), was to have been squadron mission. Instead, our planes bombed a tgt of opportunity. Then they conducted an armed recce.
- B - 368th Ftr Group, 397th Ftr Sqdn -- 12 A/C Disp -- No Aborts..
- C - UP: 1130 - Crossed b/line on way in at 1510 - TOT 1520 - Crossed b/line on way out at 1530 - DOWN: 1415.
- D - Nil
- E - 8 x 2 x 500lb JP bombs Fuse: 1/10 nose, 1/40 tail -- 4 x 4 x 5' Ar mark I rockets, Fuse: 15/1000 second fixed base fuse -- 16 Bombs intgt area -- 16 rockets returned to base.
- Disco One, Disco, Marmite, and Marmite One all tried to accomplish a ~~1/10~~ 524 Blind Bombing Mission with our planes, but they were not successful in the attempt. Our planes bombed a tgt of opportunity - a train consisting of 8 to 10 box cars and a loco. The train was located at P22195, and it was moving south. The loco and the first five cars were destroyed, the last five were damaged. The track was cut in two places. Lt Lewis especially distinguished himself in the bombing. No strafing claims.
- F - Hvy, acc flak at 15090 (A fair gun battery) light, med, inacc flak in tgbarea (P22195)
- G - A train of ten cars was seen moving north at 425000. 18 barges and three tugs were seen on the Rhine River north of Dusseldorf. They were generally on the east side of the river. Because of the shortage of gas our planes did not attack the train, the barges, or the tugs. No report was made to sweep stakes because the weather was such (cloud conditions) that they were not lucrative tgts. Slightly northeast of Strip A 89 a P 47 bearing the designation XXX or Y6A made a pass at our planes. Our formation was broken up. This was a serious matter, for our planes were low on gas and had to get back to base immediately. A 89 is located at Le Culot, J 9043.
- H - Tgt area: 9/10 cloud coverage; Strato-cumulus clouds; base 4,000', top 5,000' visibility good above but bad below.
- I - Sqdn code not used.
- J - Ground control was poor from a tactical point of view.

BOMBS: LEAHY STEPHAN LT LEAHY LEWIS
MCHACHEN HUNT PRISSE MCHACHEN
ROCKETS: ARAUSE CONANT GASSARD LEAHY

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

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2-3-4

597th Ptr Sqdn 5-2 Opt on a ground support and fighter sweep mission -- 17 Dec 44 --
sqdn mission no 119 --

- A.- Spns O No _____, mission no. 121-2 mission to, for day: 17 Dec 44 -- mission was to have been ground support for antiair drive 105 and 114, and Blodwell (8th Corps, located at Ft Pitt, 13500 and an armed force in 8th Corps area along bomb line. Enemy action prevented completion of mission.
- B.- 508th Ptr Sq, 597th Ptr Sqdn -- 12 A/C Miss -- no alerts.
- C.- 10:10 -- Crossed b/line on way in and time over Ft Pitt -- crossed b/line on way out 1225 -- Down: 1324.
- D.- One of our A/C missing at 1:0779 because of enemy action. Lt Stoll and an F4U fired at each other from a head-on position. Lt Stoll's plane burst into flames and started down. He was not seen to bail out nor was his plane definitely seen to crash by any of our pilots. Five enemy A/C destroyed, two F4U's and two P-51's by Lt Kerr and one P-51 by Lt Bauer. One P-51 probably destroyed by Lt Kerr. One F4U damaged by Lt Stoll.
- E.- 5 x 2 x 500lb of bombs - fuse: 1/10 nose, 1/4 tail --- 4 x 4 x 7' M Mark I rockets - fuse: 10/1000 second fused base fuse. -- 16 bombs jettisoned before 1:0779 -- 4 rockets jettisoned at 1:0779 in easterly direction. -- 8 rockets returned to base -- 4 rockets lost with Lt Stoll's plane. -- Our planes were flying at an altitude of from 11,500 to 13,000' southeast of the town of Frum, 1:0779 when without warning they were bounced by E/A from an altitude of 13,000'. There were 22 F4U's in the first wave and 17 P-51's in the second wave. A dog-fight took place during which Lt Kerr shot down two F4U's and two P-51's and probably destroyed another P-51, and Lt Bauer shot down one P-51. Lt Stoll and an F4U fired at each other from a head-on position. Lt Stoll's plane received many hits and went down in flames. There were several hits on the F4U.
- F.- 22 F4U's and 17 P-51's encountered at Frum, 1:0779 at 13,000' at 11:50 hours. Evy, inten, acc AA at 1:0779
- G.- 12 trucks observed on road southeast of Frum.
- H.- sea: 5/10 to 6/10 Stratus and Nimbo-Stratus cloud cover in layers from 7,000 to 24,000', 13/10 cover with breaks at 24,000' visibility generally excellent.
- I.- sqdn code not used.
- J.- Ground Control: Sweepstakes gave no warning what-so-ever of the approach of the E/A.

BOMBS:	CANBLES	TRIDENT	MARK	MARK
	MARK	MARK	G L MARK	MARK
ROCKETS:	MARK	MARK	MARK	MARK

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D-B-4

A- Opns & No. _____, Mission No. 121-2 Mission No for days 01-17 Dec 44----

CONFIDENTIAL

D-B-4

397th Ftr Sqdn B-2 Aft on a Ground Support and Fighter Sweep Mission 17 Dec 44 --
Sqdn Mission No. 514

- A. Opns No. _____, Mission No. 121-2 Mission No for day: 120 -- 17 Dec 1944 --
Mission was ~~78/44/44/44/44~~ Ground support for Anistdrive (106 Inf Div) and
Blendwell (8th Corps) located at St Vith, # 3588 and an armed recon in 8th Corps
area along bombline.
- B. 368th Fighter Gp, 397th Fighter Sqdn -- 16 A/C Disp -- No Aborts.
- C. UP 1447 -- crossed b/line on way in and 104; 151; -- crossed b/line on way out 1625 --
Down: 1705.
- D. Three of our planes damaged cat "A" (two enemy flak, one hit a tree)
Two damaged cat "A" by enemy flak.
- E. 8 x 2 x 500lb GP bombs - 1/10 nose, 1/40 tail -- 5 x 4 x 3" Mark I rockets 1/1000
second fixed base fuse. 15 bombs and three rockets in tgt area. 21 rockets returned.
Planes contacted Sweepstakes which directed them to a concentration of vehicles
at Schonberg, 19586, where eight bombs were dropped. There were no direct hits.
They were then directed to another concentration of vehicles at 19591. Results
were not observed. Anistdrive directed them to heavy traffic on the roads east of
St Vith, 19586, t 19386, follow flight strafed and damaged a group of 20 Mi's AA/
In addition Lt Potter destroyed two Mi, Lt Sweeney 2 Mi, Lt Bailey 2 Mi, and Lt Gary
1 half track. In red flight major Leary destroyed two tanks and damaged 3, destroyed
3 AT damaged 20. Lt Hamilton destroyed 2 tanks and 3 Mi, and damaged 12 Mi. Lt Lewis
destroyed 2 tanks and 2 Mi and damaged 3 Mi. Lt Hutchinson destroyed 3 Mi and damaged 2.
In blue flight, Capt Krause destroyed 4 Mi and damaged 7; Lt Weinstein destroyed 4 Mi.
In green flight, Lt J. Sharp destroyed 2 personnel carriers with guns and one armored
car. Lt Frisbie destroyed one Mi and damaged one Mi.
- F. Sky and light, very intense, acc AA for one mile radius in area of 19291.
- G. Max All roads east of St Vith were crowded with vehicles of every type.
- H. Max: 10/10 cloud cover stratus type -- base 10,000' top unknown. Visibility good.
- I. Sqdn code not used.
- J. Ground control good.

BOMB:	LEARY	HUTCHINSON	HAMILTON	LEWIS
	POTTER	SWEENEY	BAILEY	WEINSTEIN
ROCKET:	KRAUSE	FRISBIE	SHARP	A. D. BAKER
	BARKER	CHAMBERLAIN		
ESCORT:			D. H. BAKER	FRISBIE

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D-8-4

397th Ftr Sqdn rpt on a ground Support, Dive Bombing, and Armed recon Mission --
18 Dec 44 -- Sqdn Mission No. 215

- A. Opns O No. , Mission No. Y21-3 -- Mission No. for day: OEL -- 18 Dec 44 -- Mission was to have been support for 28th Inf Div (Hoptcraft), located at Wiltz, P 7054. Then our planes were to have conducted an armed recon in ~~front~~ front up to a line betw F4070 and 14040. Weather and aerial combat diverted our planes from the execution of this mission.
- B. 368th Ftr Gp -- 397th Ftr Sqdn -- 14 A/C Disp -- One Abort (radio and weather difficulties)
- C. JP: 1148 -- Crossed b/line on way in at 1500 -- Jettisoned bombs 1530 -- Fired rockets 1520 -- Crossed b/line on way out 1545 -- DCSM: 1443.
- D. Three A/C damaged at "AC" Tw. hit by fire from ~~an~~ 109's; one hit by fire from F38. One A/C destroyed by ME 109 in the area of F2040. Our planes were engaged in aerial combat at this place. This plane was not seen after the fight, and did not return to base. The pilot was Lt Max Conant.
Lt Potter destroyed two ME 109's; Major Leary destroyed one ME 109; Lt Clary destroyed one ME 109 and probably destroyed one ME 109; Lt Weinstein damaged one ME 109.
- E. 10 x 2 x 500lb GP bombs -- Fuse: Inst nose, 1/40 tail. -- 4 x 4 x 5" M. Mark I rockets 15/1000 second fixed base fuse -- 18 bombs jettisoned at F-3040. 10 were jettisoned armed and 6 unarmed. It is not known whether the remaining two bombs (those of Lt Conant) were armed or unarmed. Two bombs returned to base by abort. Two rockets returned to base. Two rockets jettisoned at F2000. Because of weather conditions our planes flew to an area north of the area assigned by the mission. In the area of F2040 they were bounced by 50 ME 109's. The E/A were at 12,000' and our planes were at 10,000'. Results are given above. This attack by E/A forced our planes to jettison bombs.
- Rockets
Major Leary damaged two houses and two roads with four rockets at F1855. Lt Hutcherson damaged two white cars with four rockets at F1855. Lt Baker damaged a few buildings with two rockets at F1855. Lt R D Sharp damaged one house and one truck with two rockets at F1855.
- Strafing (all strafing at F1855)
Major Leary destroyed two HT and damaged ~~four~~ four. Lt Hutcherson destroyed one HT. Lt Baker damaged one HT. Lt R D Sharp destroyed three HT and damaged one.
- F. Heavy weak inacc flak at Buskirchen.
- G. 2 trains were seen at F.828. Both were stationary. 1 was on fire. They were in a W-s line. There were 20 cars in each train. They were not attacked because of the dogfight. 12 HT's were seen going S at F 2020. The dogfight prevented our planes from attacking them. At 1545 one of our pilots saw what he at first thought was a buzzbomb at K9029. The object was flying at 6000'. At first it flew from E to W then it flew from W to E and then from E to W again. He thinks the object was a 163.
- H. 10/10 coverage stratus base 12000' top unknown vis excellent
- I. Code not used.
- J. GXX Ground control good. Hoptcraft could not be contacted. Reports was exp good.

Rockets: Leary, Hutcherson, Baker, R D Sharp
Bombs: Potter, Koneany, Pauley, Clary, Olden, Lucke, Weinstein, Leavy.
X Conant, Bauer. (abort)

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297th FS A-2 Report of Scramble, Rocket, and Strafing Mission. Opn. Iss No 216

- A - Ops Ord No _____ Miss No _____ for Day 2 1st Sec 44
Mission was to have involved a rocket attack in the area of Liège and a strafing
attack on tanks in the area of A 6800L. Weather conditions prevented this mission.
- B - 368 FS 297 FS 4 a/c disp no aborts
- C - Sp 1510, Cross B/L on way in 1540, Down 1700
- D - Nil
- E - 4x4x5⁴ A-1K I rockets fusing .01, sec 1ix base fuser. 10 rockets ret to base.
Our planes tried to go ut underneath the clouds until they came to a point where
the clouds and ground met. When they turned and flew to a hole in the clouds.
Here they came out over the clouds. Harmito vectorced them to a tgt in the area
in which Hppcraft is located (A 112, 1700). Harmit said that there were enemy
tanks and vehicles there. There was a complete overcast in this place and our
planes could see nothing. They then ret to base.
- F - Nil
- G - A P-47 was seen on the ground at 10010. It had crashed and was burning.
- H - From Hppcraft to the area of Liège there was a 10/10 coverage - alto stratus -
ceiling on the deck - base deck to 400' - top 4000' vis bad - high cirrus at
15000' or higher.
- I - Code not used
- J - Ground control good, but control systems were too crowded and too busy.
- Rockets: Krause, Mornton, Frisbie, Alan Kalen.

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297 89 B-2 report of Jra support, live bombing, 3rd. Area needs mission no. 217

- A - Ops Ord No _____ Miss no (11-1) (10 for day) 10 per 10
Mission was to have been support for 28th and 24th, Hoperatt, at 1112 27554.
Then our planes were to have conducted an armed recon between this front and
a line between F4070 and 14040. Miss turned out to be a diversion of tgt of opp.
- B - 568 FG 59775 4a/c disp, 2 aborts, ~~no aborts~~, no aborts.
- C - 0pl15, reasoned Hoperatt area (14), bombed at 1700, lost tgt area at 1700,
down 1740.
- D - 1 a/c down by flak, cat 40
- E - 4x2x500g of bombs inst nose 1/40 tail. 4 bombs in tgt area. 2 bombs jett unarmd
at F0126. 2 bombs jett unarmd at F029430.
Our planes tried to contact Hoperatt. Hoperatt did not answer. Warait then
attempted to vector our planes to the hotspot at 10001. Perhaps our planes
were too close to Warait to make good vectoring possible. At any rate Warait
moved our planes around and around without being able to get them to the hotspot.
Our planes finally bombed tgt of opp. - the town of Arouzau at F1259. They
told the controller that they were going to bomb this town. 4 bombs were dropped
on the town. Planes were seen.
No str flak.
- F - light str intense very accurate flak at F0222.
- G - At 1550 2 jet prop planes were seen circling at 15000' 17 or 18000' between Charlero
and Binant. They were flying at 4 to 500 mph or more.
- H - 9/10 plus coverage stratus base on deck top unknown vis fairly good above
3 to 6 mi below. There was an open space 30 mi from Arouzau.
- I - Code not used.
- J - ground control systems were too crowded on 2 channel. Hoperatt could not be
contacted. The Warait system was not too good. The individual controller was
effective. There was jamming on 2 channel.

Bombs: Carbine, Sternart, Hamilton, Wright.
~~Hamilton~~ ~~Wright~~

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18-4

97th Str Sqdn - 2 rpt on a ground support, night mission, 15/02, 1954.
Mission, and mission no. 15/02, 1954.

- a. Opns 0100. 15/02 - also as for day op. 25 Lecher 15/04.
Time: leave from Neunkirchen at 0100 to Cherstein 15/02 and proceed to Singen to Gengen. Five bombing, rocket firing and strafing.
- b. 97th Str Sq - 97th Str Sqdn - 12 A/C disp - 2 abortives - one because propeller ran away and one because of first abortive and because radio was out.
- c. 15/02 - crossed b/line enway in at 1100 - crossed b/line enway out at 1200 - down! Planes landed at strip 402 (1502719) in accordance with prearranged plan. There landed here at 1500. They landed at base at strip 404 at 1530. They flew directly from 402 to 404 without engaging in a mission.
- d. Nil.
- e. 10 x 2 x 500lb of bombs lost, 1st 1000, 2nd 1000, 3rd 1000, 4th 1000, 5th 1000, 6th 1000, 7th 1000, 8th 1000, 9th 1000, 10th 1000. Second fixed base base. - 10 bombs in 1st run - 2 bombs jettisoned and 8 bombs abortive just northwest of 402 in a big open pasture - 2 bombs returned to base (404) by an abortive - 3 rockets returned to base. 15/02. Results were fair. Our planes dropped 10 bombs on a marshalling yard at Cherstein, 15/02. 3 rockets were fired at a train consisting of 10 to 15 goods and 4 oil cars at Konzingen, 15/02. Most were no engine - 1 tank train. Results were fair (four misses on rear end of train, 10 rockets were fired at 12 oil cars, one tank car and a railroad house at Konzingen, 15/02. The tank car and the railroad house exploded. strafing: 15/02. Capt base and at Wittmann. Search very good. Most of the oil cars attacked at Konzingen, 15/02. Capt base search very good. Most of the oil cars attacked at Konzingen, 15/02.
- f. Light, 15/02, see report the 1st at Cherstein, 15/02.
- g. Six vehicles - a few trucks and a few light vehicles, perhaps staff cars, - were seen at Singert, 15/02. These vehicles were not attacked because our planes were attacking oil cars. A railway train was seen in a marshalling yard at Neunkirchen, 15/02. This train was not attacked because of the thick cloud coverage and poor visibility, besides our planes were low on gas.
- h. No cloud cover north of 1st area from the northern boundary of the 1st area from some distance to the south. There was almost complete cloud cover - mass layer and low stratus clouds - base at the back - to, at 0100, visibility was fair over much of the area above it was good.
- i. Sqdn code not used.
- j. Ground control: was none. Neunkirchen and Singen were called but there was no answer.

Status:	Completed	Not Done	Cancelled	Other
Remarks:	15/02 (1502719)	15/02 (1502719)	15/02 (1502719)	15/02 (1502719)
Remarks:	15/02	15/02	15/02	15/02
Remarks:	15/02	15/02	15/02	15/02

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397th Fg B-2 rpt on a D/B and A/R Mission Sqn Miss. No. 319

- A - Ops Ord _____ Miss No #51-4 24 Dec 44 Miss for Day 1
 B - D/B and A/R Mission to Malmédy, St. Vith, Siltz, and St. Aubert.
 C - 368 FG, 397 Fg. 16 A/C disp. no aborts.
 C - Up 0940. Cross B/L on way in and TOL 1000. Cross B/L on way out 1120.
 Down 1207.
 D - One of our A/C missing at F352876 due to enemy flak. Pilot, Lt Evans, was seen to bail out and land safely in region of battle line. 3 A/C damaged, cat "A".
 E - Bomb load 6x3x300 GP bombs fuse 1/10 nose 1/40 tail, 6x2x300 GP bombs 1/10 nose, 1/40 tail. 4x4x5 in Mkl rockets. 30 bombs in tgt area. 6 rockets ret to base.
 Our planes contacted hipsaw and sweepstakes, but there were no tgts. Instead 3 directed them to bomb troop concentrations and vehicles in and around the town of Freineux. 3 bombs were dropped immediately N of town, 3 immediately S of town and 3 in and around town. Tgts were believed to be our own troops and were attacked through controller error. Results were not observed. 11 bombs were dropped at F319862 on a concentration of enemy troops and vehicles. One tank received a direct hit. No other results observed.
 Strafing results: Maj Leary; 1 tank dest, 8 tanks dam, 4 M/I dest, 10 dam, Lt Hutcherson; 1 tank dest, 2 tanks dam. Lt Lewis; 1 tank dest, 1 tank dam, 2 M/I dest, 5 M/I dam. Lt Clary; 1 tank dest, 1 dam. Lt Bender/ and Lt ~~Konessny~~; 1 tank dest, 1 Armored car dest. Lts Jlden, Konessny, and white Weinstein; 4 tanks dest, 2 tanks dam, 1 M/I dest, 3 M/I dam. Lts Kerr, Hunt, and Bauer; 2 tanks dest, 1 Arm'd Car and 1 M/I dest.
 F - Flak: Lt weak inacc in tgt area.
 G - 12 enemy tanks seen at Odeigne F3586. 8 enemy tanks on road N of this town. 3 enemy tanks seen at Dochemps F4984, 30 M/I's also seen in this area.
 H - Weather: No clouds - CAVU
 I - Code not used
 J - Ground control's direction caused serious error in tgts.
- Bombs: Leary 3, Hutcherson 2, Lewis 2, Clary 3.
 Bender 3, White 2, Baker 3, Patrick 2.
 Jlden 2, Konessny 3, Weinstein 3, Evans 2.
 Rockets: Kerr, Hunt, Bauer, Horowitz.

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597th FS S-2 rpt of D/B and A/R Mission Sqdn Mission No 520

- A - Ops Ord _____ Miss No 571-4 24 Dec 44 Miss for day 2
- K D/B and A/R mission in area of Malmedy, at Vira, Wiltz, and at Hubert.
- B - 368 F4 597FS. 16 a/c disp. 2 aborts, Lt Arledge's radio went out ~~and~~ as he reached the tgt area (#4282). Lt Hamilton accompanied him home.
- C - Up 1405, 101 1444, left tgt area 1620, down 1621.
- D - Nil
- E - 7x3x500 GP's 1/10 nose 1/40 tail; 2x2x500 GP's 1/10 nose 1/40 tail; 4x4x5 in AA Mk1 rockets. Capt Dame and Lt Iandel attacked and dest a tank at #5187 with rockets. Then Foodle directed our sqdn to single tanks at #5686 and #5885 but the attack on these tanks was called off before our planes reached them. Retrag requested the sqdn to verify the presence of vehicles at #5277. Then they directed our planes to bomb Schleiden (fill), where all 31 bombs were dropped. Results were excellent. A probable fuel dump was hit, as large clouds of smoke and flame were observed. The marshalling yard at Schleiden was heavily bombed resulting in the destruction of the majority of 50 to 100 cars. Lts Barker and Leavoy scored direct hits on the fuel dump. No strafing.
- F - Lt wk inacc AA at #481
Lt wk inacc AA at #489
Hvy wk inacc AA at #482
- G - A B-17 was seen bellied in at #5085. A single tank was seen next to a burnt tank at #5207. Camouflage in white patches to resemble snow was noted on tanks. A recon car was seen at #5285 and 2 tanks at #5887.
- H - Clear except for ground haze and a little high cirrus. Vis fairly good except into sun.
- I - Code not used.
- J - Ground control fair. Foodle's tgts were old. Instand's receiver was out. Sipsaw's transmission was garbled.
- Bombs: Carbine 3, Thornton 2, Helliesen 3, Kalen 3,
Barker 3, Leavoy 2, Frisbie 3, and Sharp 2,
Potter 3, Kostrach 2, Fauley 3, Wright 2.
- Rockets: Dame, Arledge, Hamilton, Iandel.
abort abort

C o n f i d e n t i a l

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277th FS 3-2 at on D/B and A/A mission quad mission NO 221

- A - Ops Ord _____ Miss No 51-4 25 Dec 44 Miss for Day 1
B - D/B and A/A mission in area of Malmedy, St Vith, Wiltz, Bastogne, and St Hubert.
C - 368 FG, 397 FS. 16 a/c disp. No aborts.
D - Up 1012, TOT 1045, left tgt area 1150, Down 1206.
E - One of our a/c ~~missi~~ destroyed at L140970. 2nd Lt J. W. White was hit by flak on his bomb run and failed to pull up. His plane was seen to crash and explode. He did not bail out.
3 a/c damaged by flak at "A" and one damaged by flak at "B".
F - 10 x 3 x 500 lb's 1/10 nose 1/40 tail, 2x2x500 lb's 1/10 nose 1/40 tail; 4x4x5 in AA MKI rockets. 55 bombs in tgt area, 1 jett safe. 15 rockets ret to base.
G - 3sqn contacted Nipsaw 7 which directed them to scattered vehicles on the road between L1497 and L1496. 28 bombs were dropped on this road. 4 vehicles were damaged. Other results were N/A. 11 bombs were dropped at target L2192 where 2 tanks were dest. Capt James strafed and dest 8 W/T's and 2 armored cars, and damaged 4 M/T's. Lt Hamilton dest 8 W/T's and dest 7. One rocket was fired at a tank by Lt Horlacher but no results were observed.
H - Lt int very acc flak L1496. Lt int very acc flak N/A of an jet at L1727.
I - Nvy int acc flak at L2297. Nvy int fairly acc flak at L2891.
J - An unidentified heavy bomber exploded in midair and crashed at approximately F3221. Two flares or possible V2's were seen at L1597. 2 white tanks were seen at L217905 and about 30 mt cars on loop to the north of this point.
K - Clear except for scattered high cirrus. Vis very good.
L - Code not used
M - Ground control satisfactory but weak.

Bombs: Carbine 2, Kostrach 3, Frisbie 5, Wright 3,
Hamilton 3, White 3, Dams, 3, Patrick 3,
Krause 3, Arledge 2, Melliesen 3, Galen 3.
Rockets: Horlacher, Koneany, Baker, Fauley.

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17th FB 3-2 not on U. and mission with class 2/24

- A - 3 a/crd _____ Miss to _____ Lec 44 _____ for way 2
U. and U. in the area of _____ at with, _____, _____, and _____.
 - B - 300 to 3/7 to 12 a/c disp. no aborts.
 - C - 1 1306, 101 141, left 1st area 1300, time 1/40.
 - D - 2 a/c damaged by enemy fire; one cut _____, one cut _____ at _____ landed at strip 072.
 - E - 0x2x00 of 1/10 none 1/10 in 1. 1x6x; in 1. and rockets. 10 bombs in 1st area. 10 rockets in 1st area. _____ contacted _____ but there were no hits. _____ were dropped on a road intersection at 1307. _____ road was cut but no vehicles were hit. 3 bombs were dropped at _____ destroying _____.
- Strafing results: 1st heavy, best 1 tank and 1 car, dam. to 1a. at 1308. some best 1/2 mile car and tank. At 1309 some to 1a. at 1309 best 1 tank and 1 tank. At 1310 with 10 to and one tank. At 1311 heavy and Morowitz sent 1/2 1st carrying gasoline. At 1312 some 1 tank and 1 tank and 1/2 tank and 1/2 tank.
- F - 1st and it very _____ 1st area at 1313.
At 1314 acc filed at 1314.
 - G - 1st enemy in traffic at 1315 of _____ and _____.
 - H - 1st in 1st area.
 - I - 1st not seen.
 - J - 1st ground control used.
- Notes: 1st _____ _____
_____ _____
_____ _____ _____
_____ _____ _____ _____.

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397th Ftr Sqdn S-2 Rpt on a Armed Recce, Dive Bombing and Rocket Firing Mission D-3-4
 A- Opns C No. _____ Sqdn Miss No, 323 -- 27 Dec 44
 Mission No. W51-4 Mission No. For day: ONE -- 27 Dec 44
 Armed Recce in the area of Malmedy, St Vith, and Wiltz - Dive Bombing and Rocket Firing.

- B- 397th Ftr Sqdn - 368th Ftr Group - 16 A/C Disp -- No Aborts.
 C- UP: 1345 - Crossed b/line on way in at 1415 - Bombing and rocket firing 1440
 Crossed b/line on way out at 1500 - DOWN: 1610.
 D- 7 A/C damaged by flak or ground fire. - 5 Cat "A" - 2 Cat "AC"
 E- 8 x 3 x 500lb GP bombs 1/10 nose 1/40 tail -- 1 x 2 x 500lb GP bombs 1/10
 nose 1/40 tail -- 4 x 4 x 5" AR Mark 1 Rockets 15/1000 second fixed base fuse
 26 bombs in tgt area -- 2 rockets returned to base -- 3 A/C used as escort --
 26 bombs were dropped in the area of P8791. The road in that area was cut in
 2 places. Two vehicles were destroyed. A cross road was well hit. Since the
 primary objective of the mission was road cutting. The results of the bombing
 can be characterized as very good. Lt Leavoy destroyed one tank with two
 rockets at P 9088. Lt Potter destroyed one oil tank with one rocket at P910886
 Strafing: Major Leary destroyed 3 MT and one tank and damaged 15 MT at P9093
 Lt Uterhart destroyed one MT and damaged 1 MT at P9093. Lt ~~Paul~~ Fauley destroyed
 2 MT and damaged 2 MT at P9088. Lt Konesny destroyed 1 MT and damaged 2 MT at
 P940885. Lt's Bender, and Hutcherson destroyed 2 MT at P940919. They destroyed
 2 MT and damaged 4 at P900879. They destroyed one half track at P906887. Lt's
 Hogan and Sharp destroyed 4 MT and damaged 4 at P 930880. ~~XXXX~~ Lt Hogan
 damaged 1 MT at P874920. Lt's Hogan and Sharp destroyed 2 MT and damaged 1 at
 P874920. Lt Olden destroyed 10 vehicles at P 952889. Lt Hogan destroyed 2
 vehicles at P 874920. Lt Kalen destroyed 7 vehicles at P952889. Lt Baker
 destroyed 4 vehicles at P952889. Lt Patrick destroyed 7 vehicles P 952889.
 F- Hvy inten very acc AA at St Vith. Light inten acc AA at St Vith.
 Light weak acc AA at P9089.
 G- Much road activity was seen northeast and east of St Vith. Red smoke was seen
 on the ground at K870046. 20 vehicles were seen bumper to bumper at P960885.
 The nature of the terrain was such that an attack on these vehicles was impos-
 sible.
 H- GAVU
 I- Sqdn code not used,
 J- No ground control.

BOMES THREE EACH:	LEARY	UTERHART	HOLLISEN	CLARY
	BENDER	HUTCHERSON	ROGAN	R D SHARP
ESCORT:	OLDEN	BAKER	PATRICK	
BOMES TWO:				
ROCKETS:	POTTER	KONESNY	FAULEY	KALEN LEAVOY

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DS-4

397th Ftr Sqdn S-2 rpt on a Armed Recce and Dive Bombing Mission -- 29 Dec 44 --
Sqdn Mission No. 324

- A. Opns O No. _____, W51-5 -- Mission No for day: ONE -- 29 Dec 44 --
Armed Recce - Saarbrucken, Kaiserslautern, Lauterecken, Oberstein, and Nonnweller.
Dive Bombing of a marshalling yard at Lebach, L-405912.
- B. 368th Ftr Gp -- 397th Ftr Sqdn -- 12 A/C Disp -- No aborts.
- C. UP: 0952 -- Crossed b/line on way in at 1025 -- TOT: 1115 -- Crossed b/line on way out
at 1125 -- DOWN: 1200.
- D. Nil.
- E. 8 x 2 x 500lb GP bombs. Fuse: Inst nose, 1/40 tail -- 4 x 4 x 5" Mk Mark I rockets.
Fuse: 15/1000 second fixed base fuse -- 16 bombs in tgt area -- 16 rockets returned
to base.
Our Sqdn ~~was~~ bombed a tgt of its own choosing. The tgt was the marshalling yard
at Lebach, L-405912. All the bombs were dropped in the marshalling yard. There were
several hits in the middle of the yard. No fires were seen. About forty freight cars
were seen in the yard. No engines were seen.
No strafing.
- F. Light, (20 mm), inten, not very acc flak at the tgt. ~~mknt~~
About five bursts of hvy, very acc flak a little northwest of the tgt.
- G. No Recce observations. Clouds prevented observations.
- H. There was an undercast with very few breaks-- low stratus clouds-- base unknown --
top 4,000' -- visibility very good.
- I. Sqdn code not used.
- J. Ground control by Kipsaw was very good.

BOMBS:	CARBINE	KOSTRACK	YANDEL	WRIGHT
	BARKER	OLARY	FRISBIE	R D SHARP
ROCKETS:	KRAUSE	THORNTON	NELLISEN	KALEN

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1-3-4

397th Ftr Sqdn #2 apt on a Ftr Recce, Dive Bombing, and Rocket Firing Mission
 29 Dec 44 -- Sqdn Mission No. 322

- A. Opus No. _____, #51-6 -- Mission No for day: Two -- Dec 29, 1944 --
 Armed Recce -- Nonweiler, Oberstein, Simmern, Mitlich, and Arior. -- Dive Bombing
 and Rocket Firing.
- B. 368th Ftr Gp -- 397th Ftr Sqdn -- 10 A/G Disp -- No Aborts.
- C. JP: 1417 -- crossed b/line on way in at 1500 -- TOT: (for bombs and rockets) 1750 --
 crossed b/line on way out at 1600 -- Down: 1639.
- D. Two A/G damaged by flak one Cat "A" and one Cat "AC".
- E. 3 6 x 2 x 500lb JP Boms - Fuse: 1/10 nose, 1/40 tail -- 4 x 4 x 5" M mark 1
 Rockets - Fuse: 15/1000 second fixed base fuse. -- 12 bombs and 12 rockets in tgt
 area. -- 2 rockets jettisoned in area of #7375. -- two rockets returned to base.
 Our planes bombed in the area of #7971 about 12 miles southwest of St Vith. the tgt
 consisted of four buildings and many cylindrical objects which may have perhaps been
 fuel tanks. The tgt was well hit, and the results were fairly good. All the bombs
 dropped in the tgt area. No fire was seen. In the bombing Capt Dame scored direct hits/
 The rockets were fired at the same place. Lt Hutcherson damaged one AT with his rockets,
 and Major Leary damaged one AT with his.
- F. Strafing: (At same place as bombing) Major Leary destroyed two AT and damaged 4.
 Lt Lewis destroyed 1 tank and 2 AT. Lt Sternart destroyed 2 AT. Lt Hutcherson
 destroyed 1 AT and damaged 2. Ltix Horowitz and Capt Dame strafed what seemed to be
 supplies covered with cordwood. fire was seen. they also strafed one of several
 piles covered with brush in a woods these piles may have been tanks. results were
 not observed.
- F. Light, inten, fairly acc flak at #7067. 6 bursts of hvy acc flak at #6058.
 such AT fire throughout tgt area. Light mod rather acc flak at #685625. 20 emplacements
 of light guns at #645605.
- G. Light vehicular and tank activity on roads in vicinity of tgt. At least 60 red cross
 vehicles were seen at Asselborn, #7468. In the area of #704695 three towns were seen
 in which were observed horses and wagons and people in civilian clothing. There
 were about 5 wagons in each town. One of our planes was hit by what seemed to be 50
 Cal Ammo. P38's were sighted but they did not fire at this plane. At 1545 a box
 of B26's was seen about 17 miles east of the tgt area. They were firing at two
 P47's not in our sqdn. At that time our planes were flying at 12,000'. The B26's
 were flying at 15,000' and the P 47's at which they were firing were flying at 11,000'.
- H. OAVU in tgt area.
- I. Sqdn code not used.
- J. Ground control by Kipsak was satisfactory.

BOMBS:	POTTER	LT BADA		
	DAME	HOROWITZ	HAMILTON	PAINICK
ROCKETS	LEARY	HUTCHERSON	SMITH	ULBRACKI

CONFIDENTIAL

1824

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

397th Ftr Sqdn 3-2 Rpt on a Armed Recon, Dive Bombing and Rocket Firing Mission --
Sqd Mission No. 326 -- 30 Dec 44

- A. Opns O No. _____, W51-~~4~~ -- Mission No. for day: OMA -- 30 Dec 44 --
Mission was to have been an armed recon in the area of Adenau, Sinzig, Bergen, and
Cochem; in addition, our pilots were to have looked over Andernach. Weather conditions
prevented the execution of this mission, and our planes worked in the Trier area.
- B. 368th Ftr Gp, 397th Ftr Sqdn -- 10 A/C Disp -- No Aborts.
- C. UP: 0950 -- Crossed b/line on way in at 1040 -- TOT (bombs): 1100 -- TOT (rockets);
1100 to 1115 -- Crossed b/line on way out at 1126 -- DOWN: 1210.
- D. Nil.
- E. 6 x 2 x 500lb GP bombs - 1/10 nose 1/40 tail ---- 5 x 4 x 5" AR Mark I rockets -
15/1000 second fixed base fuse. 12 bombs in tgt area. 1 A/C used as escort. 12 rockets
fired.

Weather conditions prevented the execution of the assigned armed recon. Our planes
worked the Trier area. Nipsaw reported 40 plus tanks northeast of Trier, on being
asked for co-ordinates, he was at first unable to give them later he gave co-ordinates
which placed the tanks in Trier. Our planes were unable to attack them because of
flak and because of an overcast over the town. 12 bombs were dropped at L287375
slightly northwest of Schweich. The tgt consisted of 20 stationary flat cars and box
cars and round houses and ware houses outside of a small marshalling yard. No engine
was seen. The train was well hit. Two round houses also were well hit. The track
was cut and at least two box cars were destroyed. In addition two ware houses were
hit. All our pilots did well in the bombing. Lt's Kerr and Hunt especially distinguish-
ed themselves. Lt Kerr cut the track and destroyed two box cars. Lt Hunt hit two
ware houses.

Rockets: Capt Dame destroyed one vehicle and damaged two vehicles at L502382
slightly northeast of Schweich. Lt Lewis destroyed three box cars at L287375, slightly
northwest of Schweich (the bombing tgt area) Lt Patrick destroyed 1 of 15 railroad cars
at L2331 slightly northeast of Trier. No engine was seen. These cars, which were
stationary, consisted of box cars and perhaps a few coal cars. Lt Patrick destroyed
1 of 15 railroad cars at L3242 slight west of Metzgerath.

Strafing: Lt's Olden and Kostrack raked a train of about 20 flat cars, three of which
were filled, in the area of L287375 slightly northwest of Schweich. This was the
bombing tgt area. This tgt was on the other side of an overpass from the tgt which
our planes bombed. Lt Olden destroyed one truck at L318400 and one truck at L328397.
Capt Dame and Lt Horowitz destroyed a coal wagon at Bekond, L328398. They destroyed
MT and killed two men at L3135 they destroyed an automobile and a large truck at
L271346. The auto was going east. They destroyed an engine at L270346 at Kenn. For
cars were attached to the engine, and the train was stationary. They ~~destroyed~~
~~destroyed~~ two vehicles at L302382 slightly northeast of Schweich. These
were the two vehicles which Capt Dame damaged with his rockets

- F. 20 and 40mm MG, inten and not very acc, at L291368. Hvy med fairly acc flak at L1036.
Hvy inten acc flak at Trier.
- G. Much smoke in two or three columns was seen about thirty miles east of the tgt area.
It was probably coming from factories. A tank guarding the approach to a bridge was
seen at L312341. A hvy gun position was seen at L 219267.
- H. Wgt tgt area and north of tgt area: 10/10 cloud coverage strato-cumulus clouds base
7000' top unknown visibility excellent. Intermittent patches of ground fog.
- I. Sqdn code not used.
- J. Ground control not much used but controller ready to help at all times.

BOMBS: OLDE	KOSTRACK	SEINSLIN	TEBHART
KERR	HUNT		
ROCKETS: DAME		LEWIS	PATRICK
ESCORT:	HOROWITZ		

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

397th Ftr Sqdn S-2 Rpt on a Armed Recce, Dive Bombing, and Rocket Firing Mission --
Sqdn Mission No. 327 -- 30 Dec 44

- A. Opns O No. _____, W51-5 -- Mission No for day TWO -- 30 Dec 44 --
Assigned mission was an armed recce in the area of Adenau, Sinzig, Burgen, and
Cochem, Andernach, which was not on any leg of the recce, was to be looked over.
Dive bombing and rocket firing.
- B. 368th Ftr Gp - 397th Ftr Sqdn -- 12 A/C Disp -- No Aborts .
- C. UP: 1330 -- ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ TOT: enter tgt area at 1355 and left at 1525.
DOWN: 1611.
- D. Nil.
- E. 8 x 2 x 500lb Gp Bombs 1/10 nose 1/40 tail --- 4 x 4 x 5" AR Mark I rockets. 15/1000
fixed base fuse. 16 bombs in tgt Area -- 5 rockets returned to base --
At the request of Blue Jacket our planes bombed a woods on the south side of
Wiltz. Blue Jacket reported an enemy concentration in these woods. Lt R D Sharp destroyed 2
buildings on the southern edge of the woods.
Rockets: Major Carbine started two fires in Nocher, F738512.
Strafing: Capt Krause's flight strafed in the area of Wiltz in a woods slightly west
of the town. No results observed.
All other strafing was done in Nocher, F738512, or in the vicinity. Capt Krause's
flight strafed the main street and building area. A building on the eastern edge of
town was set on fire. (Lt Bender's flight participated with Capt Krause's in the strafing
in Nocher and the Wiltz area.) Lt Bender destroyed two buildings. Major Carbine's
flight strafed the town and destroyed one tank and damaged one. Lt R D Sharp scored
good hits on a building. Lt Wright damaged two MT. In addition he destroyed two
of five other vehicles which he saw, he thinks the one of the destroyed vehicles was
an oil tank., but no explosion or fire was seen.
- F. Hvy mod not very acc flak at F772516. Light inten rather acc flak at F772516.
- G. 15 stationary vehicles were seen in Wiltz. Blue Jacket was informed about them. A
convoy of 15 to 18 vehicles was seen moving southwest in the area of F6655.
- H. 10/10 cloud coverage stratus and strato cumulus clouds base 4500' top 10 to 11000'
visibility very good.
- I. Sqdn code not used
- J. Ground control was effective but the air seemd to be excessively covered.

BOMBS:	KRAUSE	ARLEDGE	HELLIESEN	KALEN
	BENDER	WRIGHT	BAKER	H D SHARP
ROCKETS:	CARBINE	HUCKE	HAMILTON	KONESNY

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

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

397th Ftr Sqdn 2-2 rpt on a Armed Recon and Dive bombing Mission -- sqdn Mission No 328 --
31 Dec 44

- A. Opns O No. _____, W51-4 -- mission NO. for day OMB -- 31 Dec 44 --
Mission was to have been armed recon in the area of Trier, Prun, and Wittlich.
- B. 368th Ftr Group -- 397th Ftr Sqdn -- 12 A/C Disp -- No Aborts.
- C. CP: 1246 -- Oro used b/line on way in at 1325 -- TOI: 1340 -- Crossed b/line on way out at 1400 -- DOWN: 1526.
- D. KILL: 2 Two of our A/C damaged -- one Cat "A" one Cat "AO".
- E. 12 x 2 x 500lb Gp bombs -- 1/10 nose 1/40 tail. -- 24 bombs in tgt area --
Sqdn contacted Wipsaw and was relayed to Wipsaw three who directed them to town of Bleialf, at P-9682. 16 bombs were dropped on road out of northern side of town. Road was cut in one place and two small buildings were destroyed. Other results: 8 bombs were dropped on an underpass at P-99582, southwest of Bleialf. Then the sqdn strafed convoys on the roads north southwest and southeast of town of Bleialf. Major Leary destroyed 8 MT and damaged 15 and damaged 5 light artill guns. Lt Hutcherson destroyed 4 MT, one tank, and one staff car and damaged 3 mi. Lt Selliesen destroyed 2 MT and damaged 1. Lt Hutcherson also damaged two light guns. Lt's Bender and Hucks destroyed 6 MT and 1 light artill gun. Lt Baker destroyed one gasoline carrying half track. Lt A D Sharp destroyed one MT. Lt's Potter and Wright destroyed 3 MT and damaged 2.
- F. Light arms fire in tgt area.
- G. Hwy road traffic headed southwest from Bleialf consisting of prime movers towing light guns, one tank and armed half tracks (About 30 all together) small groups of motor vehicles in the town and surrounding area.
- H. Weat: 9/10 total cover in scattered layers of strato-cumulus base 300 top 9,000'.
visibility variable averaging two miles.
- I. Sqdn code not used.
- J. Wipsaw three superior.

BOMBS:	LEARY	HUTCHERSON	FRISCH	SILVERMANT
	BENDER	HUCKE	BAKER	KOMESKI
	POTTER	WRIGHT	SELLESSEN	A D SHARP

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

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

D-8-4

COMBAT REPORT **** 1ST LIEUTENANT HENRY B. HAMILTON **** ASN O-805617

A. Type of Action : Combat
B. Date : 8 Dec 1944
C. Unit : 397th Fighter Squadron, 368th Fighter Group.
D. Time of Attack : 1220 to 1245
E. Place of Attack : 10 miles west of Cologne.
F. Weather : Stratus clouds at 1,500'; 8/10 coverage; visibility unlimited.
G. Type of Target : About 30 to 40 ME 109's and FW 190's.
H. Claims : one ME 109 destroyed, one ME 109 damaged, and one FW 190 damaged.
I. Account of Combat :

I, 1st Lt Henry B. Hamilton, ASN O-805617, was flying Tropic Blue Three on a 584 Radar Controlled Blind Bombing and Fighter Sweep Mission in the area of Zulpich, Cologne, and Bonn on 8 Dec 44. We took off at 1130 and bombed the assigned target, the town of Zulpich (F231332), without incident. We were flying northwest toward Cologne when Marmite called in bogies flying west from Cologne. There was a 10/10 overcast in the area, except for a large hole just west of Cologne. As we approached the hole, Tropic Red Leader called in bogies on the deck heading west and dove after them. Yellow and Blue Flights stayed up at 10,000'. Red Leader chased the bogies almost to Duren before he could identify them. When he did, he stated that there were 30 plus ME 109's and that all had turned back and were heading east. Yellow and Blue Flights circled just west of Cologne; as the ME 109's appeared below us through the break in the clouds, Yellow Flight went down, then we followed. The base of the clouds was 1,500', and as we came out under it, I saw three ME 109's heading east. We did a fast 180 degree turn. Two of the ME 109's hit the overcast, but the third one raced for the edge of the overcast and chandelled to the right. Four Thunderbolts chased after him. I started to follow, but from the attitude of the ME 109 I figured that he would come through the overcast again, so I waited below. I heard 1st Lt William C. Olden, ASN O-736316, shout that he had shot it down. The ME 109 came spinning down out of the overcast trailing dirty black smoke. It hit the ground but did not blow up. I started to climb up east of the overcast. I had reached 5,000' when I saw fifteen ME 109's on my level. I had a battle with five or six of them and fired on two or three. I scored no hits on any of them. My wing man lost sight of me at that point. The ME 109's hit the overcast, and I made no attempt to follow. I climbed up alone making 360 degree turns. At 8,000' I saw an ME 109 just ahead of me and slightly below my level, split S and head west. Two P 47's were following him. I believed that I could get to the ME 109 first, so I peeled off after him. I started firing from a range of 250 yards and closed. I observed hits on the wingroots of his plane. I held my fire momentarily and he ducked into a cloud. I abandoned the chase and climbed up.

As I reached 10,000', I engaged in a lufbury with an ME 109. I made two turns with him, when a P 47 came diving down. The ME 109 split S'd and headed east. I made a turn to the left and was immediately in a lufbury with another ME 109. After one turn, an FW 190 came in from the east and from above. I split S'd all the way through the overcast and pulled out at the base of it at about 1,500'. I leveled off and discovered that I was in a large gaggle of ME 109's. I had superior speed; so I fired a few shots and went back into the overcast heading east. I made a 180 degree turn and flew for fifteen seconds before I let down again. As I broke out, I saw a lone ME 109 at three o'clock to me heading east. I made a quick 180 degree turn. The E/A eased into the overcast without changing course. I could barely see him, so I eased up to him, flying a close formation on his right. He didn't see me at first, as he continued on course. I was afraid to drop behind him to shoot for fear of losing him, so I stuck. When we came to the edge of the overcast, he saw me and made a violent turn into me. I dropped

*1 Confirmed Destroyed
1 ME 109 Confirmed Damaged*

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

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

D-B-4

CONT OF " COMBAT REPORT ** 1st Lt HENRY B. HAMILTON ** ASN 0-805617 ** 8 Dec 44 **

down , and he started to climb, heading west, I gave chase, pulling seventy-five inches in order to close. He twisted and turned a bit, then flew straight and level, climbing at a shallow angle. I took two short bursts and one long burst at him, I thought I was missing him, so I stopped firing to correct lead. I fired a burst, and suddenly he became clouded in black smoke. A couple of pieces flew off his plane and it burst into flame. I pulled up, and he spun out of control down into the overcast.

My wingman joined me and we climbed to 10,000'. I was still just west of Cologne, so I started to head west. I had been on course for thirty seconds to a minute, when I saw an FW 190 followed by a P 47 diving at me from 9 o'clock. He passed over me, going down, so I rolled into a ninety degree right turn and fired. I saw hits on the FW 190 and pieces fly off. However they may have been hits by the other P 47 which was on its tail. I did not follow it but set course for home.

On the ME 109's I saw, none had German markings, but there were dull red and black stripes around the fuselage near the tail. I estimate the stripes to be from eighteen to twenty-one inches wide.

I claim one ME 109 destroyed, one ME 109 damaged, and one FW 190 damaged.

Henry B. Hamilton
HENRY B. HAMILTON,
1st Lt, Air Corps,
Pilot, 397th Ftr Sqdn.

1. Combat film exists.
2. Combat film was forwarded to Hq IX TAC on 9 Dec 44.

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

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

D-3-4

SUPPORTING STATEMENT OF 2ND LIEUTENANT FREDERICK C. STOLL JR. **** ASN O-815417 FOR
COMBAT REPORT OF 1ST LIEUTENANT HENRY B. HAMILTON, ASN O-805617

A. Type of Action : Combat
B. Date : 8 Dec 44
C. Unit : 397th Fighter Squadron, 368th Fighter Group
D. Time of Attack : 1225
E. Place of Attack : 10 miles west of Cologne
F. Weather : Stratus clouds at 1,500'; 8/10 coverage; visibility excellent
G. Type of Target : About 30 to 40 ME 109's and FW 190's
H. Claims : Confirming the claim of 1st Lt Henry B. Hamilton, ASN O-805617,
to one ME 109 damaged. (Lt Hamilton also destroyed one ME 109 and
damaged one FW 190)

I. Account of Combat :

I, 2nd Lt Frederick C. Stoll Jr, ASN O-815417, was flying Tropic Blue three on 8 Dec 44 on a 584 Radar Controlled Blind Bombing Mission. The target was the town of Zulpich (F231332). After dropping our bombs on the assigned target, we bounced 30 plus ME 109's and FW 190's west of Cologne. I was separated from my flight and had dogfights with two ME 109's without any results. I lost them in the overcast and climbed up to about 6,000'. There I saw an ME 109 coming towards me and slightly below. Lt Hamilton was flying above me and off to my left at that time and had not seen me. I bounced the ME 109 and was just about to fire when I saw Lt Hamilton split S and cut between myself and the ME 109. He fired a burst, and I observed hits on the wingroots of the ME 109. I dropped down and broke to the right to give Lt Hamilton room to attack. I lost sight of them as they entered the overcast.

I support Lt Hamilton's statement as to the damage inflicted on this ME 109.

Frederick C. Stoll Jr.
FREDERICK C. STOLL, JR.
Pilot, 397 Ftr Sqdn,
2nd Lt, Air Corps.

1. Combat film exists.
2. Combat film was forwarded to Hq IX TAC on 9 Dec 44.

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

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

D-B-4

SUPPORTING STATEMENT OF 2ND LIEUTENANT CHARLES B. PATRICK, ASN O-770383, FOR
COMBAT REPORT OF 1ST LIEUTENANT HENRY B. HAMILTON, ASN O-805617

A. Type of Action : Combat
B. Date : 8 Dec 44
C. Unit : 397th Fighter Squadron, 368th Fighter Group.
D. Time of Attack : 1235
E. Place of Attack : 10 miles west of Cologne.
F. Weather : Stratus clouds at 1,500'; 8/10 coverage; visibility excellent.
G. Type of Target : About 30 to 40 ME 109's and FW 190's.
H. Claims : Confirming the claim of 1st Lt Henry B. Hamilton, ASN O-805617,
to one ME 109 destroyed. (Lt Hamilton also damaged one ME 109
and damaged one FW 190.)

I. Account of Combat ;

I, 2nd Lt Charles B. Patrick, ASN O-770383, was flying Tropic Blue Four on a 584 Radar Controlled Blind Bombing Mission on 8 Dec 44. The target was the town of Zulpich (F231332), to be followed by a fighter sweep in the Zulpich, Cologne, and Bonn area. I was wingman to 1st Lt Henry B. Hamilton, ASN O-805617, who was flying Tropic Blue three. We took off at 1130 hours and dropped our bombs on Zulpich by Radar Control. After the bombing our squadron headed northeast toward Cologne. Red Leader spotted bogies below us and to the west, and he and his wingman went down to investigate. My flight stayed at 10,000' and made an orbit. Red Leader then called in telling us that they were thirty plus ME 109's and they were heading east under the overcast. As the ME 109's appeared in the breaks in the clouds, my flight went down on them. We chased an ME 109 which made a steep chandelle to the right up through the overcast. At this point, Lt Hamilton and myself broke off, went down below the overcast, and waited for the ME 109 to break out below the clouds which were at 1,500'. The ME 109 did break out, but it was in a spin. 1st Lt William C Olden, ASN O-736316, shouted that he had shot it down. I was unable to see the plane hit the ground. Lt Hamilton and I started climbing heading east. When we reached about 5,000', we saw about fifteen ME 109's. We immediately joined in battle with them. I took one ninety degree burst at an ME 109, then pulled up in a turn and spun out of it. At this point I lost Lt Hamilton. After recovering from the spin, I gave chase to an ME 109 which was headed east and was followed by two P 47's. As I could not gain on them, I made a 180 degree turn and began climbing. Upon reaching 6,000', I leveled out and began searching for Lt Hamilton. After about two minutes, I saw an ME 109 break out of the overcast followed by a P 47. I immediately dived down to give the P 47 cover. During my dive, I observed the P 47 getting strikes on the ME 109 which began to smoke and then burst into flames. I saw two pieces fly from it. The ME 109 spun down into the overcast before I joined the P 47 (which turned out to be Lt Hamilton). After I had rejoined Lt Hamilton, we made a 180 degree turn and headed west toward our base.

Charles B. Patrick

CHARLES B. PATRICK,
2nd Lt, Air Corps,
Pilot, 397th Ftr Sqdn.

1. Combat film exists.
2. Combat film was forwarded to Hq IX TAC on 9 Dec 44.

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

CONFIDENTIAL

0-3-4

BOMBAY REPORT ***** FIGHT OPERATIONS REPORT NO. 140 ***** No. 0-742312

A. Type of Action : Combat
B. Date : 8 December 1944
C. Unit : 57th Fighter Squadron, 80th Fighter Group
D. Time of Attack : 1230
E. Place of Attack : About ten miles west of Cologne
F. Weather : Stratus clouds at 1,000'; c/10 coverage; visibility unlimited
G. Type of target : About 50 to 40 Fw 109's and Fw 190's
H. Claims : 1 Fw 109 destroyed and 1 Fw 190 damaged - Pilot bailed out of destroyed Fw 109.

I. Account of Action:

I, 1st Lt Edward W. Dame, ASN 0-742312, was leading Troop Blue flight on a 584 Radar Controlled Blind Bombing and Fighter Sweep mission on 8 December 1944. The bombing target was Sulpich, at 123172. After the bombing had been completed, we flew on a fighter sweep in the area of Sulpich, Cologne, and Bonn. As we set out on the sweep, the controller informed Troop Leader that there were bogies to the north of our formation. At almost the same moment, Troop Leader spotted a gaggle on the deck and started after them. As he got within range, he called them in as Fw 109's. While Troop Leader dove to the attack, Blue Flight stayed above the overcast and acted as top cover. The fight was below the overcast and could not be located at once. At once, leader of Yellow flight, started down to attack an Fw 109, and I went down to give closer cover. I saw Lt Liden getting strikes all over the A/A. Blue flight then made a steep climbing turn to the left to cut off an Fw 109 on the tail of a P-47. The P-47 turned into me and fired on me in a dive of about 10 degrees and at an angle of 45 degrees. The P-47 scored a hit on my left wing. I then pulled up into an Immelman and dove on the same P-47. I fired several short bursts, but missed. After a few more maneuvers, I managed to fire a good burst on the P-47 from about 100 yards. I saw strikes on the wing roots, engine, and cockpit. Pieces flew off. ~~White and black smoke poured out and the plane burst into flames.~~ The P-47 went into a long glide, and the pilot bailed out at about 200'. The P-47 rolled over and went in. The pilot's parachute opened, but the Jerry did not move after hitting the ground. Closer inspection could not be made because of the presence of intense light flak at this place.

I immediately pulled up from this attack, and I saw an Fw 190 coming in from about 1:00 o'clock. I pulled in harder, completed a loop, and ended up out of range, but on the tail of the P-47. After a two minute chase I managed to close and get in a ten round burst just as the P-47 entered a cloud. When the P-47 came out on the other side, it was smoking a great deal, and I saw something white come out of the plane. The P-47 rolled over again and dove into a cloud, and I gave up the chase.

I claim one Fw 109 destroyed and one Fw 190 damaged.

Edward W. Dame
1st Lt, Air Corps,
Pilot, 57th Ftr Sqdn.

1. Combat file exists.
2. Combat film was forwarded to headquarters in 140 on 9 December 1944.

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

D-B-4

SUPPORTING STATEMENT OF 2ND LIEUTENANT ROBERT D. SHARP, ASN O-770438, FOR
COMBAT REPORT OF 1ST LIEUTENANT EDWARD W. DAME, ASN O-745312 *****

- A. Type of Action : Combat
B. Date : 8 Dec 44
C. Unit : 397th Fighter Squadron, 368th Fighter Group
D. Time of Attack : 1230
E. Place of Attack : About ten miles west of Cologne
F. Weather : Stratus clouds at 1,500'; 8/10 coverage; visibility unlimited.
G. Type of Target : About 30 to 40 ME 109's and FW 190's
H. Claims : Confirming the claim of 1st Lt Edward W. Dame, ASN O-745312, to
one ME 109 destroyed. (Pilot of destroyed ME 109 bailed out)
(Lt Dame also damaged an FW 190)
I. Account of Combat :

I, 2nd Lt Robert D. Sharp, ASN O-770438, was flying Tropic Red Four on a 584 Radar Controlled Blind Bombing and Fighter Sweep Mission on 8 Dec 44. The bombing target was Zulpich, at F231332. After we had dropped our bombs, we set out on a fighter sweep in the area of Zulpich, Cologne, and Bonn. As we began the sweep, the controller called and told Tropic Leader that there were bogies north of our formation. We started north, and at that moment Tropic Leader sighted some bogies on the deck. Tropic leader and his wing man gave chase under the overcast, and Tropic red three and I stayed above the overcast. After a few minutes we spotted some E/A, and in the fight which followed I lost Tropic red three. Immediately after the fight, while I was alone, I spotted a P 47 on the tail of a ME 109. I joined the P 47, and I found it to be the plane of 1st Lt Edward W. Dame, ASN O-745312, leader of Tropic blue flight. As Lt Dame opened fire on the E/A, I saw strikes about the cockpit, wing roots, and engine. White and black smoke poured out of the E/A, and fire burst out on the sides. The E/A went into a long glide; and at an altitude of about 500' a 'chute blossomed out, and the E/A rolled over and went in. Lt Dame pulled up into the heavy overcast because of the intense light flak at that point, and I lost him.

I saw Lt Dame destroy one ME 109.

Robert D. Sharp
ROBERT D. SHARP
2nd Lt, Air Corps
Pilot, 397th Ftr Sqdn

1. Combat film exists.
2. Combat film was forwarded to Hq IX TAC on 9 Dec 44.

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

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

D-B-4

COMBAT REPORT ****FIRST LIEUTENANT WILLIAM C. OLDEN **** ASN O-736316 ****

- A. Type of Action : Combat
B. Date : 8 Dec 44
C. Unit : 397th Fighter Squadron, 368th Fighter Gp.
D. Time of Attack : 1221
E. Place of Attack : About eight miles west of Cologne
F. Weather : Stratus clouds at 1,500'; 8/10 coverage; visibility unlimited.
G. Type of Target : Two ME 109's
H. Claims : One ME 109 destroyed
I. Account of Combat :

I, 1st Lt William C. Olden, ASN O-736316, was flying as leader of Tropic Yellow flight on Mission Y21-3 on 8 Dec 44. The mission was a 584 Radar Controlled Blind Bombing Mission. The target was Zulpich, at F 231332. We were vectored to our target by Marmite at approximately 1210. After our bombs had been dropped, we set out on a fighter sweep in the area of Zulpich, Cologne, and Bonn. We flew at an altitude of 9,000' and on a heading of 49 degrees. After we had been on course for about five minutes, Tropic Leader saw some bogies heading west at an altitude of approximately 2,000'. Tropic Leader then dropped down to an altitude of approximately 1,500' in order to make an identification. I descended to an altitude of 7,000' and lost sight of Tropic Leader after he dropped below the clouds. The clouds which were of Stratus type, covered 8/10 of the ground at that point and extended from 1,500' to 5,000'. Tropic Leader identified the bogies as E/A (ME 109 and FW 190) at approximately 1215. Tropic Leader flew in pursuit of the E/A in a northwesterly direction, and I followed him. Tropic Leader then called and said that the bandits were heading back east, and I changed from a westerly course to an easterly course. At the same time, I climbed for altitude as I was then about 5,000'. About ten miles directly west of Cologne, there was a break in the clouds which extended eastward, and I decided to await the appearance of the bandits above the break. After I had reached an altitude of 7,000' at a point approximately eight miles west of Cologne, two ME 109's emerged from the clouds flying east at about 1,500' to 2,000'. I immediately went down after them. My approach was made from the southeast. The E/A headed north below a layer of clouds. I came into firing range of the trailing bandit A/C. I was flying at an altitude of approximately 2,000' and at an air speed of about 280 miles per hour. It was then about 1220. I fired a short burst at a range of 500 yards, but did not observe any hits. The E/A immediately executed a chandell to the right; and as I followed, I fired another short burst. I observed hits in the right. The E/A leveled out and headed westward in level flight through the clouds at an altitude of approximately 3,000'. I followed and closed to a range of 200 yards. Then I fired again. I observed very good strikes along the sides of the fuselage and also on the engine. The E/A immediately began to smoke. I closed to a closer range, and fired again at 100 yards. I scored hits all over the plane and on the engine. Pieces flew off the E/A, and it headed downward. I broke out of the clouds at approximately 1,500' to 2,000', and I observed the E/A crashing on the ground. It was then 1222.

I claim one ME 109 destroyed.

Confirmed

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

William C. Olden
WILLIAM C. OLDEN,
1st Lt, Air Corps,
Pilot, 397th Ftr Sqdn.

1. Combat film exists.
2. Combat film forwarded to Hq IX TAC on Dec 9, 1944.

CONFIDENTIAL CONFIDENTIAL

D-B-4

SUPPORTING STATEMENT OF 2nd LIEUTENANT LENN S. HUNT, ASN O-707626, FOR COMBAT
REPORT OF 1st LIEUTENANT WILLIAM C. OLDEN, ASN O-736316

A. Type of Action : Combat
B. Date : 8 December 1944
C. Unit : 397th Fighter Squadron, 368th Fighter Group.
D. Time of Attack : 1221
E. Place of Attack : About eight miles west of Cologne
F. Weather : Stratus clouds at 1,500'; 8/10 coverage; visibility unlimited.
G. Type of Target : Two ME 109's
H. Claim : Witness observed attack of 1st Lieutenant William C Olden, ASN O-736316, on an ME 109 and saw him damage the E/A. This E/A was destroyed by Lt Olden, but witness ^{did not} see its destruction.

I. Account of Combat :

I, 2nd Lt Lenn S. Hunt, ASN O-707626, was flying Tropic Blue Two on a 584 Radar Controlled Blind Bombing and Fighter Sweep Mission on 8 December 1944. We took off at 1131. Our bombing target was Zulpich, at F251352. After the bombing had been completed, we conducted a fighter sweep in the area of Zulpich, Cologne, and Bonn. Shortly after we had set out on the sweep, the controller called Tropic Leader and reported bogies at a low altitude. Almost at once Tropic Leader spotted some of them. He went down below the clouds, which were at 1,500', and Yellow and Blue Flights remained above as top cover until he called us down. Blue Flight went into a dive, and I saw 1st Lt William C. Olden, ASN O-736316, leader of Yellow Flight, chasing an ME 109. I pulled in tightly, took a lead of two and one half radii on the E/A, and fired a shot burst. I missed completely. Then I saw Lt Olden firing directly on the tail of the E/A. I observed many strikes on both wings and fuselage. Blue Flight pulled off, and as we did so, we saw light flak ahead. We had turned 180 degrees to Yellow Flight when an E/A came at our flight from one o'clock high. The pilot of the E/A was firing at us. Tropic Blue Leader and I took off after the E/A and chased it to a cloud. I think that I lost my flight leader then. I rose out of this cloud at an angle of sixty to seventy degrees. I then saw an E/A with square wing tips which I think was an ME 109. The E/A dove at me, and I went back into the cloud and circled within it. Every time I stuck the nose of my plane out of the cloud, the E/A dove down on me. Finally, I got out of the cloud and climbed to 10,000' as rapidly as I could. Sweepstakes then called and reported that all E/A were between 5,000' to 8,000'. I was alone, and for that reason I headed west. Later, I flew along for a time behind a flight of P 47's which I thought belonged to our squadron. Then I came home.

Lenn S Hunt

LENN S. HUNT,
2nd Lt, Air Corps,
Pilot, 397th Ftr Sqdn.

1. Combat film exists.
2. Combat film was forwarded to Headquarters IX TAC on 9 December 1944.

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

CONFIDENTIAL

SUPPORTING STATEMENT OF FIRST LIEUTENANT EDWARD W. DAME ASN O-745312, FOR COMBAT
REPORT OF FIRST LIEUTENANT WILLIAM C. OLDEN ASN O-736316.

A. Type of Action : Combat
B. Date : 8 Dec 44
C. Unit : 397th Ftr Sqdn -- 368th Ftr Gp
D. Time of Attack : 1221
E. Place of Attack : About eight miles west of Cologne
F. Weather : Stratus clouds at 1,500' - 8/10 coverage - visibility unlimited
G. Type of Target : One ME 109
H. Claims : Witness observed attack of 1st Lt William C. Olden ASN O-736316,
on an ME 109 and saw him damage the E/A. This E/A was destroyed by
Lt Olden, but witness did not see its destruction.

I. Account of Combat :

I, 1st Lt Edward W. Dame, ASN O-745312, was leading Tropic Blue flight on a 584 radar Controlled Blind Bombing and Fighter Sweep mission on the 8 Dec 44. The bombing tgt was Zulpich at F-231332. After the completion of the bombing, we undertook a fighter sweep in the area of Zulpich, Cologne, and Bonn. Shortly after we set out on the sweep, our controller informed Tropic leader that there were bogies to the north of our formation. At almost the same moment, Tropic leader spotted some bogies on the deck and gave chase. On closing with these bogies, Tropic leader identified them as E/A. They were heading east. 1st Lt William C. Olden ASN O-736316, leader of Yellow flight, spotted two ME 109's flying east at about 1500' to 2000' and gave chase. I followed in order to give close cover. I saw Lt Olden close on the rear E/A. After he had executed a few maneuvers, he scored strikes all over the E/A, and pieces of the A/C began to fly off.

Edward W. Dame
EDWARD W. DAME
1st Lt, Air Corps
Pilot, 397 Ftr Sqdn

1. Combat film exists.
2. Combat film was forwarded to hq IX TAC on 9 Dec 44.

CONFIDENTIAL

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

D-3-4

SUPPORTING STATEMENT OF FIRST LIEUTENANT HENRY B. HAMILTON ASN O-805617, FOR COMBAT
REPORT OF FIRST LIEUTENANT WILLIAM C. OLDEN ASN O-736316

A. Type of Action : Combat
B. Date : 8 December 1944
C. Unit : 397th Fighter Squadron, 368th Fighter Group
D. Time of Attack : 1221
E. Place of Attack : About eight miles west of Cologne
F. Weather : Stratus clouds at 1500'; 8/10 coverage; visibility unlimited.
G. Type of Target : Two ME 109's
H. Claims : Confirming the claim of 1st Lt William C. Olden ASN O-736316, to one ME 109 destroyed.
I. Account of Combat :

I, Henry B. Hamilton ASN O-805617, was flying Tropic Blue three on a 584 Radar Controlled Blind Bombing and Fighter Sweep Mission on 8 December 1944. The bombing target was Zulpich at F231332. After we had dropped our bombs, we set out on a fighter sweep in the area of Zulpich, Cologne, and Bonn. We headed northeast toward Cologne. There was a large break in the clouds just west of the city, and Tropic Red leader went under the overcast, which was 1500', and headed west. He called in thirty plus ME 109's heading east. Tropic Yellow and Blue flights remained at 10000' over the break in the overcast. 1st Lt William C. Olden ASN 736316, leader of Yellow flight, saw something in the break, and both flights went down in a westerly direction. We met two ME 109's flying east, and all of us made a 180 degree turn. Lt Olden chased the rear E/A, which had executed a chandelle upward and to the right. I stayed below as I thought that the ME 109 might come down again. I heard Lt Olden say "I got him". He had destroyed the E/A, for 500' north of me the ME 109 came spinning out of the overcast, trailing black smoke. It hit the ground, but did not explode. I don't believe that the pilot got out.

Henry B. Hamilton
HENRY B. HAMILTON
1st Lt, Air Corps
Pilot, 397 Ftr Sqdn.

1. Combat film exists.
2. Combat film was forwarded to Hq IX TAC on 9 Dec 44.

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

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

D-3-4

COMBAT REPORT **** 1ST LIEUTENANT WILLIAM F. LEWIS **** ASN 0-795005 ****

- A. Type of Action : Combat
B. Date : 8 Dec 44
C. Unit : 397th Fighter Squadron, 368th Fighter Group
D. Time of Attack : 1220
E. Place of Attack : About ten miles northeast of Duren.
F. Weather : Stratus clouds at 1,500'; 8/10 coverage; visibility unlimited.
G. Type of Target : About 30 to 40 ME 109's and FW 190's.
H. Claims : One ME 109 damaged.
I. Account of Combat

I, 1st Lt William F. Lewis, ASN 0-795005, was flying on a 584 Radar Controlled Blind Bombing and Fighter Sweep Mission on 8 Dec 44. I was flying the wing of Tropic Leader, Major Richard E. Leary, ASN 0-900694. The bombing target was Zulpich, at F231332. After the completion of the bombing, we made a fighter sweep in the area of Zulpich, Cologne, and Bonn. At approximately 1220, while we were flying at 1,500' below an 8/10 cloud cover over a wooded area about ten miles northeast of Duren, Major Leary and I attacked about 30 to 40 ME 109's and FW 190's. The E/A were flying in a combat line - abreast formation. They were also flying below the overcast at an altitude of 1,500'. The enemy formation broke left when we were about 300 yards from them. Major Leary turned with the E/A. and I turned inside him. I noted that two ME 109's were on the tail of his plane. I moved inside the first ME 109 and fired a short burst at about a 10 degree deflection. I noted strikes on his left wing at the wing root, but lost sight of him as he pulled up tightly and down to the left. I did not see him again; but concentrated on the other ME 109 on Major Leary's tail. I gave the E/A some lead and deflection and then shot, but I saw no strikes. He broke away as the other had done. Just then I was hit by an ME 109 on my tail.

I claim one ME 109 damaged.

William F. Lewis

WILLIAM F. LEWIS
1st Lt, Air Corps
Pilot, 397th Ftr Sqdn

1. Combat film exists. (Lt. Lewis' camera was hit by enemy flak)
2. Combat film was forwarded to HQ IX TAC on 9 Dec 44

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

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

D-B-4

COMBAT REPORT **** MAJOR RICHARD E. LEARY ***** ASN O-900694

A. Type of Action : Combat
B. Date : 8 Dec 1944
C. Unit : 397th Fighter Squadron, 368th Fighter Group
D. Time of Attack : 1220
E. Place of Attack : About three miles north of Duren
F. Weather : Stratus clouds at 1500'; 8/10 coverage; visibility unlimited.
G. Type of Target : About 30 to 40 ME 109's and FW 190's
H. Claims : one ME 109 damaged

I. Account of Combat:

I, Major Richard E. Leary, ASN O-900694, was flying as Tropic Leader on Mission Y21-3 on 8 Dec 1944. The mission was a 584 Radar Controlled Blind Bombing Mission. The target was Zulpich, at F231332. After the bombing, we undertook a fighter sweep in the area of Zulpich, Cologne, and Bonn. At 1215, while we were flying at 10,000', I sighted five bogies on the deck heading northwest. They were about ten miles southwest of Cologne. I gave chase at 1,500' below an 8/10 cloud cover. The five bogies turned out to be part of a formation of 30 to 40 ME 109's and FW 190's. I closed on the formation at a point about three miles north of Duren. The E/A did not break until I started firing at one in the middle of the formation. I observed many strikes on both wings and fuselage. I broke left with the formation and lost the E/A beneath me.

I claim one ME 109 damaged.

Richard E. Leary
RICHARD E. LEARY,
MAJOR, AIR CORPS,
Pilot, 397th Ftr Sqdn.

1. Combat film exists.
2. Combat film was forwarded to IX TAC on 8 Dec 1944.

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

CONFIDENTIAL

D-5-4

COMBAT REPORT ***** 2nd LIEUTENANT ROBERT D. SHARP *** ASN O-770438

A. Type of Action : Combat
B. Date : 8 Dec 44
C. Unit : 397th Fighter Squadron, 368th Fighter Group.
D. Time of Attack : 1225
E. Place of Attack : About ten miles west of Cologne.
F. Weather : Stratus clouds at 1,500'; 8/10 coverage; visibility unlimited.
G. Type of target : About 30 to 40 ME 109's and FW 190's.
H. Claims : One ME 109 damaged.

I. Account of Combat :
I, 2nd Lt Robert D. Sharp, ASN O-770438, was flying Tropic Red Four on a 584 Radar Controlled Blind Bombing and Fighter Sweep Mission on 8 Dec 44. I was flying the wing of 2nd Lt Edgar R. Baker, ASN O-763829. Our bombing target was Zulpich, at F231332. After we had dropped our bombs, we made an orbit and headed generally north-east to conduct a fighter sweep in the area of Zulpich, Cologne, and Bonn. Immediately thereafter, the controller reported bogies in the area west of Cologne headed in a westerly direction at 1,500'. Major Richard E. Leary, ASN O-900694 who was flying as Tropic Leader, and his wing man, 1st Lt William J. Lewis, ASN 793003, set out to investigate these bogies, while the remainder of the squadron stayed above the clouds. The bogies were identified as ME 109's and FW 190's, and the squadron joined combat with them. After about ten minutes of combat, I lost my element leader as the results of encounters with about six E/A. I hit the clouds, broke out on top, and looked for someone to fly with or shoot at. I flew for about three minutes and saw three P 47's chasing an ME 109. One of the P 47's was quite far back, and the other two were out of range. I saw that I could get on the tail of the ME 109 within firing range because he was below me and to the left. I made a shallow peel-off and pulled into firing position behind the ME 109. In doing this, I cut out the other P 47's. I got my sights on the E/A and gave it a two or three second burst. I observed many strikes on the left wing and a few on the fuselage and right wing. The E/A started to smoke; but the smoking, I think, was due to full throttle. After I had shot at the E/A, it went into the clouds, and I lost it. I believe that the E/A was hit by a two-second burst at least because the hits appeared to be very numerous. I claim one ME 109 damaged.

Robert D. Sharp
ROBERT D. SHARP,
2nd Lt, Air Corps,
Pilot, 397th Ftr Sqdn.

1. Combat film exists.
2. Combat film was forwarded to Hq IX TAC on 9 Dec 44.

CONFIDENTIAL

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

COMBAT REPORT **** FIRST LIEUTENANT WILLIAM M. KERR **** ASN O-662136

A. Type of Action : Combat
B. Date : 17 December, 1944
C. Unit : 367th Fighter Squadron, 368th Fighter Group
D. Time of Attack : 1150
E. Place of Attack : Area of Prun (L-0779)
F. Weather : 6/10 Multi-layer Stratus and Nimbostratus clouds from 5,000' to 24,000'. Visibility excellent.
G. Type of Target : 22 FW 190's and 15 ME 109's
H. Claims : Two FW 190's destroyed, two ME 109's destroyed, one ME 109 probably destroyed.

I. Account of Combat :

I, 1st Lt. William M. Kerr, ASN O-662136 was leading Yellow Flight of Tropic Squadron on a ground support and armed reconnaissance mission on the morning of 17 December, 1944 in the vicinity of Prun (L-0779). We were flying at 12,000' when E/A were sighted at 15,000'. There were 22 FW 190's in the first wave and 15 ME 109's in the second. As soon as recognition was established, our squadron jettisoned bombs and belly tanks and made a shallow climbing orbit to the left, picking up speed and altitude. The E/A made a tight climbing orbit to the left also until they reached the bottom of the overcast at 17,000'. The lead flight disappeared in the overcast momentarily, then dove out in a 7 o'clock pass to Tropic Blue Flight, which was the lowest of our three flights and was on my left. I turned, warning Blue Flight of the pass, and fired two short bursts at the leading E/A in an attempt to scare him away from the pass. The range was too great for accuracy. Blue Flight tightened their turn and the E/A overshot. At that time, about ten E/A made a pass at my flight from 4 o'clock high, and we broke into them. I fired several short bursts at several of the lead ships, but observed no strikes. As they overshot our flight, we turned back onto their rear. I lined up on the last E/A, an FW 190, and fired several good bursts at close range. I observed many strikes on his fuselage. He snapped to the left and split s'd straight down apparently out of control. I didn't follow, but turned immediately onto the next E/A ahead. However, Tropic Red Four, 1st Lt. Henry A. Yandel, ASN O-304266, saw this FW 190 crash into the ground.

I closed on the second FW 190, which made a turn to the left. I fired a short thirty degree deflection burst striking him around the wing root and lower part of the fuselage. He started smoking. As I broke off, he exploded in flames and scattered fragments everywhere.

Then about ten ME 109's attacked. Again we tightened up our turn into them to such an extent that they overshot our flight. We turned back onto their rear. I lined up on the last E/A and fired a short burst. There were many strikes on his fuselage. Immediately he burst into flames and rolled down out of control.

I lined up on the next ME 109 ahead. The others had climbed up into the overcast. This E/A rolled into a left turn, and I closed firing two good bursts. I saw many strikes on the engine and on the fuselage around the wing root. He started to smoke, burst into flames, and fell off to the left, spinning down.

I turned and followed another two ME 109's through a patch of clouds. I broke out of the patch of cloud at close range behind and above the second of these E/A. I fired one short burst and saw many strikes on the canopy and on the upper part of the fuselage behind the canopy. Instantly he fell off to the right and spun down. I didn't observe any smoke or flames however. I broke off and started after the next E/A which I lost as it entered a layer of clouds at 21,000'.

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

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

COMBAT REPORT *** FIRST LIEUTENANT WILLIAM M. KERR*** ASN G-662136

The E/A encountered seemed very aggressive but very inexperienced. Their evasive action was mediocre and consisted of fish tailing from side to side, turning loosely in one direction and back to the other, and zooming up into the overcast. My aircraft had little trouble overtaking them after they had lost the initial speed gained in their pass. I was able to out turn them in every case.

I claim 2 FW 190's destroyed, 2 ME 109's destroyed and 1 ME 109 probably destroyed.

William M. Kerr
WILLIAM M. KERR,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Pilot, 397th Tr. Sqdn.

1. Combat film does not exist. Camera failed to operate due to electrical difficulty.

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

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

D-B-4

SUPPORTING STATEMENT OF FIRST LIEUTENANT HENRY A. YANDEL, ASN O-804268 FOR COMBAT
REPORT OF FIRST LIEUTENANT WILLIAM M. KERR, ASN O-662136

A. Type of Action : Combat
B. Date : 17 December 1944
C. Unit : 397th Ftr Sqdn -- 368th Ftr Gp
D. Time of Attack : 1150
E. Place of Attack : Area of Frum(L-0779)
F. Weather : 6/10 Multi-layer stratus and Nimbostratus clouds from 5000' to 24000' -- Visibility excellent.
G. Type of Target : 22 FW 190 and 15 ME 109
H. Claims : Confirming the claim of 1st Lt William M. Kerr, ASN O-662136 to 1 FW 190 destroyed. (Lt Kerr also destroyed one additional FW 190 and Two ME 109's, and probably destroyed 1 ME 109.

I. Account of Combat:

I, 1st Lt Henry A. Yandel, ASN O-804268, was flying Tropic Red four on a ground support and armed recon mission on the morning of 17 December 1944. I was flying the wing of 2nd Lt James F. Hogan, ASN O-767257. We were at about 11,500' just south of Frum(L-0779), when 22 FW 190's appeared heading east at approximately 15,000'. Ten FW 190's committed themselves to an attack on Yellow flight, lead by 1st Lt William M. Kerr, ASN O-662136. Lt Kerr broke into them and when the E/A overshot, he turned back and got on their tail. Lt Kerr fired on the last FW 190 and I saw many strikes on the fuselage of this E/A. The FW 190 did a half snap roll to the left and split S'd down. I followed him visually until I saw him strike the ground, at which time he exploded and burned.

Henry A. Yandel
HENRY A. YANDEL
1st Lt, Air Corps
Pilot, 397th Ftr Sqdn

1. Combat film does not exist. Lt Kerr's camera failed to function due to electrical difficulty.

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

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

COMPOSITE STATEMENT OF 2ND LIEUTENANT RALPH W. THORNTON, ASN O-712060 FOR COMBAT REPORT
OF FIRST LIEUTENANT WILLIAM M. KERR, ASN O-662136

A. Type of Action : Combat
B. Date : 17 December, 1944.
C. Unit : 397th Fighter Squadron, 568th Fighter Group
D. Time of Attack : 1150
E. Place of Attack : Area of Prum (L-0779)
F. Weather : 6/10 Multilayer Stratus and nimbostratus clouds from 5,000' to 24,000'. Visibility excellent.
G. Type of Target : 22 FW 190's and 15 ME 109's.
H. Claims : Confirming the claim of 1st Lt. William M. Kerr, ASN O-662136, to 1 FW 190 destroyed. (Lt. Kerr also destroyed one additional FW 190 and 2 ME 109's and probably destroyed 1 ME 109.)

I. Account of Combat :

I, 2nd Lt. Ralph W. Thornton, ASN O-712060, was flying Tropic Red Two on a ground support and armed reconnaissance mission on the morning of 17 December, 1944. While we were flying in the vicinity of Prum (L-0779), we were attacked by two waves of L/A. In the first wave there were about 22 FW 190's and in the second, fifteen ME 109's. They were flying about 15,000'. We were flying at 11,500'. After 1st Lt. William M. Kerr, ASN O-662-136 had shot down 1 FW 190, which was witnessed by 1st Lt. Henry A. Yandel, ASN O-804268, I saw his following another FW 190 in a tight turn to the left. I was also making a climbing turn to the left. Lt. Kerr fired a short burst at the L/A and I saw strikes around the cockpit. The FW 190 straightened out and burst into flames. Lt. Kerr broke off the attack about the same time that the L/A started to burn. Then the FW 190 went into a spin and I saw a parachute open. The pilot must have bailed out as soon as his plane started to burn. I support Lt. Kerr's claim to 1 FW 190 destroyed.

Ralph W. Thornton

RALPH W. THORNTON,
2nd Lt., Air Corps,
Pilot, 397th Ftr. Sqdn.

1. Combat film does not exist. Lt. Kerr's camera failed to operate due to electrical difficulty.

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

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

SUPPORTING STATEMENT OF SECOND LIEUTENANT SIDNEY HOROWITZ, ASN C-769830 FOR COMBAT
REPORT OF FIRST LIEUTENANT WILLIAM L. KERR ASN C-682136

A. Type of Action : Combat
B. Date : 17 December, 1944
C. Unit : 397th Fighter Sqdn., 368th Fighter Group
D. Time of Attack : 1150
E. Place of attack : Area of Prum (L-0779)
F. Weather : 6/10 Multilayer Stratus and Nimbostratus Clouds from 5,000'
to 24,000'. Visibility excellent.
G. Type of Target : 22 FW 190's and 15 ME 109's.
H. Claims : Confirming the claim of 1st Lt. William L. Kerr, ASN C-682-
136 to 2 ME 109's destroyed and 2 FW 190's destroyed. (Lt.
Kerr also probably destroyed one ME 109).

I. Account of Combat :

I, 2nd Lt. Sidney Horowitz, ASN C-769830, was flying Tropic Yellow two on a ground support and armed reconnaissance mission on the morning of 17 December, 1944 in the vicinity of Prum (L-0779). B/A were sighted at 15,000', we were at about 12,000'. There were 22 FW 190's in the first formation of B/A and 15 ME 109's in the second. A proximately 10 FW 190's made a pass on our flight from 4 o'clock high. We broke into them. Some went back into the clouds and the others overshot. 1st Lt. William L. Kerr, ASN C-682136 and I got on their tails and closed. Lt. Kerr fired at the last FW 190 and scored hits on the B/A's fuselage. The B/A swerved to the left out of control, split s'd straight down and crashed into the ground.

Lt. Kerr then fired a few bursts at another FW 190. One burst hit from the wing roots to the cockpit. The B/A burst into flames and then exploded with pieces flying around us.

Immediately, we were jumped by about ten ME 109's. Again we broke into them and they overshot. We wound up on the tails of four ME 109's. Lt. Kerr fired a burst at the trailing B/A. There were many strikes on his fuselage. The B/A burst into flames and spun down to the ground.

Two of the ME 109's disappeared in the overcast, but we took out after the remaining B/A. I saw Lt. Kerr score many strikes on the engine and fuselage. The B/A started to smoke and then burst into flames. Just then we hit a cloud and I became separated from Lt. Kerr.

I support Lt. Kerr's claim to 2 ME 109's destroyed and 2 FW 190's destroyed.

Sidney Horowitz
SIDNEY HOROWITZ,
2nd Lt., Air Corps,
Pilot, 37th Tr. Sqdn.

1. Combat film does not exist. Lt. Kerr's camera failed to operate because of electric difficulty.

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

CONFIDENTIAL

COMBAT REPORT *** SECOND BATTALMENT GEORGE I. BAUER*** ASN O-704680

A. Type of Action : Combat
 B. Date : 17 December, 1944.
 C. Unit : 397th Fighter Squadron, 397th Fighter Group.
 D. Time of Attack : 1150
 E. Place of Attack : Area of Prum (L-0770)
 F. Weather : C/10 Multi-layer stratus and nimbostratus from
 8,000' to 24,000'. Visibility Excellent.
 G. Type of Target : 22 FW 190's and 15 ME 109's.
 H. Claims : one ME 109 destroyed.

I. Account of Combat

I, 2nd Lt. George I. Bauer, ASN O-704680, was flying Tropic Yellow three on a ground support and armed reconnaissance mission on the morning of 17 December 1944. As we were approaching the town of Prum (L-0770), we were bounced by a formation of about 22 FW 190's which were followed by a second wave of about 15 ME 109's. The FW's were at about 15,000' and we were at 18,000'. About 10 ME 109's made a pass at our flight. My wingman, 2nd Lt. Kenneth L. Telen, ASN O-770302, and I broke left into them. I took a deflection shot at one ME 109 but missed. Then I maneuvered around in the back of this ME 109 and fired again. I observed hits on the wing roots, cockpit, and tail assembly. He then tried to turn and I got more strikes around his cockpit. Immediately the ME 109 split his tail, and I followed, still shooting. He failed to pull out. While following the ship down, I saw that he was smoking badly and that he appeared to be out of control. The pilot did not bail out. I saw the plane fall hit the ground and explode.

George I. Bauer
 GEORGE I. BAUER,
 2nd Lt., Air Corps,
 397th Ftr. Sqn.

1. Combat film exists.
2. Combat film was forwarded to Hq IX TAC on 18 December, 1944.

CONFIDENTIAL

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

D/B/4

STATEMENT OF SECOND LIEUTENANT DONALD N. EVANS ASN O-711973 IN REGARD
TO DAMAGING OF ONE FW 190 BY SECOND LIEUTENANT FREDERICK C. STOLL JR.
ASN O-815417 (MIA 17 DECEMBER, 1944)

A. Type of Action : Combat
B. Date : 17 December, 1944
C. Unit : 397th Fighter Sqdn, 368th Fighter Group
D. Time of Attack : 1150
E. Place of Attack : Area of Prum (I-0779)
F. Weather : 5/10 multilayer stratus and Nimbostratus clouds from 5,000' to
24,000'. Visibility excellent.
G. Type of Target : 22 FW 190's and 15 ME 109's
H. Claims : 397th Fighter Sqdn claims one FW 190 damaged in behalf of
2nd Lt. Frederick C. Stoll, Jr. ASN O-815417, MIA 17 Dec, '44.

I. Account of Combat:

I, 2nd Lt. Donald N. Evans ASN O-711973 was flying Tropic Blue four on a ground support and armed reconnaissance mission on 17 December, 1944. We were flying at about 12,000' in the vicinity of Prum (I-0779) when we were attacked by about 22 FW 190's. The E/A were at about 15,000'. We immediately began to climb in the direction of the E/A to meet the attack. 4 or 5 of the E/A started down on us from 11 o'clock high, one of which made a head on pass at 2nd Lt. Frederick C. Stoll Jr., ASN O-815417, my element leader. Both A/C were firing upon each other and I observed hits on the FW 190 as well as on Lt. Stoll's plane. Lt. Stoll's A/C burst into flames and began to spin at about 13,000' as the E/A broke away.

I do not know whether Lt. Stoll bailed out or not, since another attacking E/A demanded my full attention. However, damage was definitely inflicted on the FW 190 which attacked Lt. Stoll.

Donald N. Evans
DONALD N. EVANS,
2nd Lt., Air Corps,
Pilot, 397th Ftr. Sqdn.

1. For Lt. Frederick C. Stoll, Jr. ASN O-815417, MIA 17 Dec '44
2. Combat film does not exist.

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

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

B/B/4

STATEMENT OF SECOND LIEUTENANT DONALD N. EVANS ASN C-711973 IN REGARD
TO DAMAGING OF ONE FW 190 BY SECOND LIEUTENANT FREDERICK C. STOLL JR.
ASN C-815417 (MIA 17 DECEMBER, 1944)

A. Type of Action : Combat
B. Date : 17 December, 1944
C. Unit : 397th Fighter Sqdn, 368th Fighter Group
D. Time of Attack : 1150
E. Place of Attack : Area of Prum (L-0779)
F. Weather : 6/10 multilayer stratus and Nimbostratus clouds from 5,000' to
24,000'. Visibility excellent.
G. Type of Target : 22 FW 190's and 15 FW 109's
H. Claims : 397th Fighter Sqdn claims one FW 190 damaged in behalf of
2nd Lt. Frederick C. Stoll, Jr. ASN C-815417, MIA 17 Dec, '44.

I. Account of Combat:

I, 2nd Lt. Donald N. Evans ASN C-711973 was flying Tropic Blue four on a ground support and armed reconnaissance mission on 17 December, 1944. We were flying at about 12,000' in the vicinity of Prum (L-0779) when we were attacked by about 22 FW 190's. The E/A were at about 16,000'. We immediately began to climb in the direction of the E/A to meet the attack. 4 or 5 of the E/A started down on us from 11 o'clock high, one of which made a head on pass at 2nd Lt. Frederick C. Stoll Jr., ASN C-815417, my element leader. Both A/C were firing upon each other and I observed hits on the FW 190 as well as on Lt. Stoll's plane. Lt. Stoll's A/C burst into flames and began to spin at about 13,000' as the E/A broke away.

I do not know whether Lt. Stoll bailed out or not, since another attacking E/A demanded my full attention. However, damage was definitely inflicted on the FW 190 which attacked Lt. Stoll.

Donald N. Evans
DONALD N. EVANS,
2nd Lt., Air Corps,
Pilot, 397th Ftr. Sqdn.

1. For Lt. Frederick C. Stoll, Jr. ASN C-815417, MIA 17 Dec '44
2. Combat film does not exist.

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

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

COMBAT REPORT *** FIRST LIEUTENANT ROLAND C. POTTER **** ASN O-695339

A. Type of action : Combat
B. Date : 18 December, 1944
C. Unit : 397th Fighter Squadron, 368th Fighter Group
D. Time of Attack : 1330
E. Place of Attack : Area of F-2040, between Duren and Zulpich
F. Weather : 10/10 stratus cloud cover; base 12,000', top unknown
visibility excellent.
G. Type of target : 30 plus ME 109's
H. Claims : 2 ME 109's destroyed
I. Account of Combat :

I, 1st Lt. Roland C. Potter, ASN O-695339, was leading Yellow flight of Tropic Squadron on a ground support and armed reconnaissance mission on 18 December, 1944. At 1330 hours over the area of F-2040, Tropic Leader sighted a train and made an orbit, while his flight prepared to bomb. At this time my number four man called in Bogies at 10 o'clock high. I looked up and saw a gaggle of about thirty A/C. They made a turn towards us, and I definitely identified them as ME 109's. We were flying at 6,000' and they were at about 8,000'. After the order to jettison bombs, I started a climbing turn into them. They pressed their attack on my flight. I closed in on one in a turn to the left and fired a short burst. There were a few strikes on the A/C's fuselage. I closed in still further and fired a long burst. Pieces flew off of the ME 109 and flames shot out of the cockpit. The A/C snapped over on its back and I watched it spin down to the ground and explode. The pilot did not bail out.

I started for another ME 109 which was trailing two P-51's about 2,000' above me. I fired at about 30 degrees deflection as I closed in a climbing turn. I saw a few strikes on the E/A. My tracers were starting to show, as I held my fire until I was almost directly astern, then I fired again. Pieces flew off the canopy and black smoke poured out. Suddenly the E/A snapped up sharply and went into a flat spin. I saw the A/C spin down into a woods and explode in flames. Once again, the pilot did not bail out.

I claim 2 ME 109's destroyed.

Roland C. Potter
ROLAND C. POTTER,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Pilot, 397th Ftr. Sqdn.

1. Combat film exists
2. Combat film was forwarded to Hq IX TAC on 18 December, 1944.

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

CONFIDENTIAL

D-2-4

CONFIRMING STATEMENT OF SECOND LIEUTENANT CYRIL J. KONESNY, ASN O-680015 FOR COMBAT
REPORT OF FIRST LIEUTENANT ROLAND C. POTTER, ASN O-695339

A. Type of Action : Combat
F. Date : 18 December, 1944
C. Unit : 327th Fighter Squadron, 388th Fighter Group
D. Time of Attack : 1330
E. Place of Attack : Area of F-2040, between Duren and Zulpich
F. Weather : 10/10 stratus clouds cover, base 12,000', top unknown
Visibility: excellent
G. Type of Target : 30 plus ME 109's
H. Claims : Confirming the claim of 1st Lt. Roland C. Potter, ASN O-695339
to two ME 109's destroyed

I. Account of Combat:

I, 2nd Lt. Cyril J. Konesny, ASN O-680015, was flying Tropic yellow two on a ground support and armed reconnaissance mission on 18 December, 1944. We were flying at an altitude of 6,000' when about 30 B/A were sighted at 10 o'clock 2,000' above us. They were identified as ME-109's. They made a pass at us, and we broke left into trees. 1st Lt. Roland C. Potter, ASN O-695339 got on the tail of one ME 109 and fired. I could see many strikes on the left wing and around the cockpit. Pieces flew off the plane and fire burst from the cockpit. Suddenly the B/A snapped over and went into a spin. I watched it spin down nearly to the ground out of control. When I saw that the pilot made no attempt to recover, I took my eyes off it.

Lt. Potter started to climb after an ME 109 which was on the tail of a P 39. We had climbed to nearly 12,000' by the time Lt. Potter was in a position to fire. He fired a long burst close astern, and I saw strikes on nearly all parts of the B/A. Black smoke poured out of the cockpit. When it snapped over and went into a flat spin out of control. I watched the B/A spin down to the ground. The pilot did not bail out.

I support Lt. Potter's claim to two ME 109's destroyed.

Cyril J. Konesny
CYRIL J. KONESNY,
2nd Lt., Air Corps,
Pilot 327th Ftr Sqdn

1. Combat film exists.
2. Combat film was forwarded to Hq IX TAC on 19 December, 1944

CONFIDENTIAL

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

D-2-4

COMBAT REPORT **** MAJOR RICHARD E. LEARY **** ASN O-900694

A. Type of Action : Combat
B. Date : 18 December, 1944
C. Unit : 397th Fighter Squadron, 368th Fighter Group
D. Time of Attack : 1330
E. Place of Attack : Area of F-2040, between Duren and Zulpich
F. Weather : 10/10 stratus cloud cover,; base 12,000' top unknown
visibility excellent
G. Type of Target: : 30 plus ME 109's
H. Claims : One ME 109 destroyed
I. Account of Combat: :

I, Major Richard E. Leary, ASN O-900694, was leading Tropic Squadron on a ground support, dive bombing, and rocket mission for the 28th Infantry Division on 18 December 1944. My radio was not operating properly, so I turned the Squadron over to 1st Lt. William S. Olden, ASN O-736516, and remained as flight leader of Red Flight. I was strafing and firing rockets at E/T's about two miles northeast of Zulpich, when bandits were called in by the top cover flights. I made an orbit, put water on, and started to climb into 30 plus ME-109's about 8,000' above me. As I reached 4,000', I saw a single ME 109 diving down from the south towards me. He dove under me, so I turned left and got on his tail. He broke into a tight Lufbury, I pulled through him and fired a short burst. I saw several strikes on his tail. He cut his throttle and I almost overshot. I was beneath him still in a tight orbit. I eased up on the stick and went wide. The 1/2 leveled out to turn into me. I fired at point blank range striking the 1/4 in the cockpit and fuselage. I went to his left. He snapped also to the left and I struck the 1/4 with my right wing. He rolled over and went straight in. I saw the ME-109 crash into the ground and explode. The pilot did not bail out. I then returned to base with about two feet of my right wing bent under.

I claim one ME 109 destroyed.

Richard E. Leary
RICHARD E. LEARY,
Major, Air Corps,
Pilot, 397th Ftr. Sqdn.

1. Combat film exists.
2. Combat film was forwarded to Ft. IX SAC on 18 December, 1944.

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

CONFIDENTIAL

COMBAT REPORT *** FIRST LIEUTENANT DALLAS J. CLARY *** ASN C-816748

A. Type of Action : Combat
 B. Date : 18 December, 1944.
 C. Unit : 397th Fighter Squadron, 368th Fighter Group
 D. Time of Attack : 1330
 E. Place of Attack : Area of P-2040, between Duren and Sulzrich
 F. Weather : 10/10 stratus clouds cover; base 12,000', top unknown. visibility excellent.
 G. Type of Target : 30 ME 109's.
 H. Claims : 1 ME 109 destroyed, 1 ME 109 probably destroyed
 I. Account of Combat :

I, 1st Lt. Dallas J. Clary, ASN C-816748, was flying Tropic Yellow four on a ground support mission for the 26th Infantry Division on 18 December, 1944. We were flying at about 3,000' northwest of Sulzrich at about 1330 hours, when Sweepstakes notified us that there were unidentified A/C southeast of us. Ten minutes later I sighted a group of thirty plus ME 109's at 10 o'clock high which I reported to my flight leader, 1st Lt. Roland C. Potter, ASN C-833820. Flight Leader led me to start 1 his bomb run when they came in. We jettisoned our bombs and started a climbing turn into them. I saw two ME 109's get on the tail of 1st Lt. James L. Faulley, C-757211 my element leader. I saw one of the ME 109's getting hits on Lt. Faulley's plane, but I was unable to pull my plane's nose through enough to get them off, as we were climbing steeply. Lt. Faulley pulled over and into a spin just as I stalled, I followed him also in a spin. As I was recovering, I saw Lt. Faulley just ahead of me also recovering from his spin, but the ME 109 was still on his tail. I flew at the ME 109 and saw hits around his cockpit and engine. He went into a shallow turn to the left and rose a few feet. I saw pieces fly off his ship as the dive increased. The ME 109 went straight down to the ground and exploded. The pilot it did not bail out.

I pulled up and joined Lt. Faulley whose wing was in flame. The area was clear of A/C except for two P-39's which were being pursued by an ME 109. The ME 109 was within range of my guns at about 30 degrees deflection. As I pulled in and fired a burst, I saw many hits around the cockpit, wing roots, and engine and saw pieces fall. The ME 109 went into a dive and disappeared into a low hanging cloud south of the target area.

I claim 1 ME 109 destroyed and 1 ME 109 probably destroyed.

Dallas J. Clary
 Dallas J. Clary,
 1st Lt., 397th FS,
 368th FG.

1. Combat film exists.
2. Combat film was forwarded to Hq IX TAC on 19 December, 1944.

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

SUPPORTING STATEMENT OF SECOND LIEUTENANT JAMES E. HUTCHERSON, ASN O-829997 FOR
COMBAT REPORT OF MAJOR RICHARD E. LEARY, ASN O-900694

A. Type of action : Combat
B. Date : 18 December, 1944
C. Unit : 397th Fighter Sqdn, 368th Fighter Group
D. Time of attack : 1330
E. Place of attack : Area of F-2040, between Duren and Zulpich
F. Weather : 10/10 stratus cloud cover,; base 12,000', top unknown.
visibility excellent
G. Type of target : 30 plus ME 109's
H. Claims : Confirming the claim of Major Richard E. Leary, ASN O-900694
to one ME 109 destroyed.
I. Account of Combat :

I, 2nd Lt. James E. Hutcherson, ASN O-829997 was flying Tropic Red two on a ground support mission for the 28th Infantry Division on 18 December, 1944. The radio of Tropic Leader, Major Richard E. Leary, ASN O-900694 was out of order so he turned the Squadron over to 1st Lt. William C. Olden, ASN O-736316 just before we arrived at the target area northeast of Zulpich. Red flight was carrying rockets. After I had fired all my rockets and had made seven or eight passes at road traffic, the two Tropic flights flying top cover called in bandits from the south. Red flight immediately began to climb towards the fight which was taking place between 30 plus ME 109's and our other two flights. When we had reached an altitude of about 4,000' we saw a single ME 109 dive down, level off, and start around to the left to get on our tails. Major Leary and I went into a Lufbury with the M/A. I wouldn't turn with the M/A and Major Leary, so I broke out to the right. As they came around in the next turn, I was in position to take a 90 degree deflection shot. I fired a long burst, but observed no hits. I then broke over the two aircraft and saw Red leader pull up into very close range of the ME-109. Major Leary fired a long burst. The M/A rolled over on its back and dove straight into the ground smoking and with pieces flying off it all the way down. I noticed that Major Leary's right wing tip was bent under, but I did not see his plane strike the M/A.

I support Major Leary's claim to one ME-109 destroyed.

James E. Hutcherson

JAMES E. HUTCHERSON,
2nd Lt., Air Corps,
Pilot, 397th Ftr Sqdn

1. Combat film exists.
2. Combat film was forwarded to Hq IX TAC on 19 December, 1944

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

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

D-3-4

COMBAT REPORT ***** 2nd LIEUTENANT MILTON A. WEINSTEIN *****ASN O-818198

A. Type of Action : Combat
B. Date : 18 December 1944
C. Unit : 397th Ftr Sqdn -- 368th Ftr Gp
D. Time of Attack : 1330
E. Place of Attack : Area of F-2040, between Duren and Zulpich
F. Weather : 10/10 Stratus cloud cover; base 12000' top unknown;
Visibility excellent.
G. Type of Target : 30 plus ME 109's
H. Claims : one ME 109 damaged
I. Account of Combat :

I, 2nd Lt Milton A. Weinstein, ASN O-818198, was flying Tropic Blue three on a ground support mission for the 28th Infantry Division on the 18 December 1944. We were flying in the area northwest of Zulpich at about 7,000'. My flight leader was about to start his dive bombing run on a train when a formation of about 30, plus ME 109's was sighted at about 8,000' and to the south. I jettisoned my bombs and made a climbing turn up over the attacking E/A. I had reached nearly 15,000' through a hole in the overcast, when my wingman called that an ME 109 was on his tail. I looked down and saw them both in a tight turn to the left. I did a tight barrel roll and came out on the tail of the E/A. I fired a burst at about 15 degrees deflection and saw strikes on the left wing root just behind the cockpit. The E/A suddenly broke to the left and went into the overcast before I could get into range again.

I claim one ME 109 damaged.

Milton A. Weinstein
MILTON A. WEINSTEIN
2nd Lt, Air Corps
Pilot, 397th Ftr Sqdn

1. Combat film exists.
2. Combat film was forwarded to Hq IX TAG on 19 December 1944.

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