

SECRET

USAAF FORM 34A

OPREP A

(OPREP A NO 1770 - MISSION NO 36 - 7 JUNE 44, CONT'D)

TO: CG, NINTH AIR FORCE, APO 696, U S ARMY (ATTENTION: 26TH SCU).
 CG, XIX TACTICAL AIR COMMAND, APO 141, U S ARMY (ATTENTION: STAT CONTL SEC).
 CG, 303RD FIGHTER WING, APO 141, U S ARMY (ATTENTION: STAT CONTL O).

FROM: HQ 373RD FIGHTER BOMBER GROUP, APO 141, U S ARMY, 7 JUNE 44.

REF: OPREP A NO 1770: FOR 24 HOURS ENDING SUNSET 7 JUNE 44.

MISSION NO 36: (3RD OF 3 MISSIONS) NEPTUNE OPERATIONS ORDER NO 6.

(TOP COVER OVER ASSAULT AREA)

- 47 P-47's (Bombers fired by missing A/C unknown).
 - T/H 1742. GP OF 3 SCS, A410, 16 PLANES; B411, 16 PLANES; C412, 15 PLANES. 47 P-47's. PROVIDED TOP COVER OVER EASTERN, EASY, AND WESTERN ASSAULT AREA. PATROLLED AREA FROM 1830 TO 1930 HOURS. 8 PLUS ME 109's BOUNCED FLIGHT NEAR CAEN A/D. COMBAT STARTED AT 15,000 FT AND DROPPED TO 6,000 FT. CAPTAIN KINDESON CLOSED TO 200 YARDS ON ME 109 AND FIRED SEVERAL BURSTS. HIT CANOPY AND FUSELAGE. F/O PERRY FIRED ALSO ON SAME PLANE. CLAIM: 1 PROBABLE. LT RAINE AND LT WETHERILL BOUNCED ME 109 AT ST ALBANS SUR M, AT 500 FT, FOLLOWED TO DECK. PLANE SEEN TO EXPLODE 15 MILES SOUTH OF CAEN. CLAIM: 1 DESTROYED. LT HOLLINGSWORTH BOUNCED AT 15,000 FT BY 2 ME 109's OVER CAEN A/D. CLOSED ON ONE AND FIRED LONG BURST AT 3,000 YARDS. HITS IN CANOPY. E/A SPINNED DOWN AT BRETTEVILLE SUR L A/D. CLAIM: 1 DESTROYED. CAPTAIN VAN DEVENTER OBSERVED A DOG FIGHT 10,000 FT NEAR WISTHERMAN, JOINED IN DEAD ASTERN ON 109. FIRED SHORT BURSTS AT 50 YARDS. HITS OBSERVED AND WHITE SMOKE FOLLOWED. FOLLOWED E/A DOWN AND SAW PLANE CRASH ON GROUND. PLANE HAD RED, WHITE, AND YELLOW WING TIPS. 1 ME 109 IN VICINITY OF CAEN, 1950, ALSO ENCOUNTERED BY CAPT VAN DEVENTER. COMBAT ENSUED FROM 4,500 FT TO DECK. FIRED FROM LEVEL 40 DEGREES DEFLECTION FROM LEFT. CLAIM: 1 DESTROYED. LT EICHELBERGER CALLED TO BREAK AS A E/A ON HIS TAIL. BROKE SHARPLY, MADE TIGHT 360 DEGREE TURN AND LOST E/A. LATER SAW ME 109 ON DECK TO THE SOUTH. LT EICHELBERGER CAUGHT ME 109 ON THE DECK NEAR ECOUCHE AND FIRED SHORT BURST, LOW ASTERN AT 100 YARDS. A/C SEEN TO DISINTEGRATE AND CRASH INTO STONE WALL. CLAIM: 1 DESTROYED. 4 TRAINS, EACH 10 TO 12 CARS, PARKED AT JUNCTION NEAR ARGENTAN HEADED WESTERLY. FLAK CARS INCLUDED IN EACH TRAIN. FLAK ENCOUNTERED: WOODS AT BRETTEVILLE SUR L. LIGHT, INTENSE, INACCURATE. CAEN, LIGHT, INTENSE, ACCURATE, 6,000. NW CAEN, HEAVY, MEAGRE, INACCURATE, 8,000. LT KIRWIN NOT YET RETURNED. LAST SEEN NW OF CAEN A/D WITH ME 109 ON HIS TAIL. WEATHER OVER AREA CAVU AND ELSEWHERE CLOUD COVER OF 9/10 WITH A BASE OF 5,000 FT, TOP 6,000, VISIBILITY 2 MILES.

- B. (I) - 47 P-47's.
 (II) - 45
 (III) (a) - 1 (Engine).
 (b) - NIL
 (c) - NIL
 (d) - NIL
 (e) - NIL
 (f) - NIL
 (g) - NIL
 (h) - NIL
 (i) - 1 (Escorted abortive).
 (IV) - 1 (Last seen when returning NW of Caen A/D).
 (V) - NIL
 (VI) - NIL
 (VII) - NIL
 (VIII) - 45

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED

Authority 1110745005
 BWA NARA Date 9/11/05