

**"CONFIDENTIAL"****ENCOUNTER REPORT**

- A. COMBAT.
- B. 7 OCTOBER 1944.
- C. 412TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, 373RD FIGHTER GROUP.
- D. 1010 HOURS.
- E. 15-20 MILES NW KOBLENZ.
- F. 7/10 TO 8/10 AT 20,000 FT., VISIBILITY UNLIMITED.
- G. FW-190'S AND ME-109'S.
- H. 1 - FW-190 DESTROYED, 1 - FW-190 PROBABLE.

I. I WAS FLYING TURMOIL #ED 3 ON AN ARMED RECCE ALONG THE RHINE RIVER BETWEEN BONN AND KOBLENZ. OUR BLUE FLIGHT WAS CLIMBING TO INVESTIGATED BOGIES WHILE WE WERE BOMBING BARGES. AFTERWARDS WE CLIMBED TO JOIN BLUE FLIGHT AND WERE AT 10-12,000 FEET WHEN BLUE LEADER IDENTIFIED BOGIES AS ME-109'S AND FW-190'S. I COULD SEE 25-30 CIRCLING STILL ABOUT 5,000 FEET ABOVE AND STILL NORTH OF US WITH HALF A DOZEN BELOW THEM EVIDENTLY ENGAGED IN COMBAT. I SAW WHAT LOOKED LIKE AN OD COLORED (PROBABLY LT. WIERDSMA, BLUE 4) P-47 IN A DIVE AFTER AN E/A WITH ANOTHER E/A FOLLOWING HIM, BUT WE WERE STILL TOO FAR AWAY TO GIVE AID. RED 1 AND 2 WENT DOWN AFTER 2 E/A AND I TURNED INTO 3 E/A'S AT MY LEVEL AT TEN O'CLOCK. THERE WERE ALWAYS 20-25 E/A ABOVE ME CIRCLING TO THE LEFT IN STRINGS OF 4 - 6 AND 9 AT STEPPED UP ALTITUDES. I BEGAN TURNING TO THE RIGHT TO KEEP RED 4 AND MYSELF CLEARED AND TRIED MANEUVERING INTO A POSITION TO ATTACK. THEN 2 E/A BROKE DOWN FROM ABOVE. THE FIRST EVIDENTLY OVERSHOT AND KEPT GOING DOWN, THE SECOND TRIED TO GET ON RED 4'S TAIL. I THEN TIGHTENED MY TURN AND GOT ABOUT A 30 DEGREE DEFLECTION SHOT AT THE E/A, A 190 AND OBSERVED STRIKES JUST BEHIND THE COCKPIT AND HE STARTED TO SMOKE. I GOT TWO MORE SHOTS AT LESS DEFLECTION HITTING HIM SOME MORE AND GETTING MORE SMOKE. THEN HE SNAPPED TO THE LEFT AND WENT OUT OF SIGHT UNDER MY NOSE. I CONTINUED TURNING RIGHT TO CLEAR BEHIND AND AS I CAME AROUND SAW HIM TUMBLING, COMPLETELY OUT OF CONTROL, ON FIRE WITH LOTS OF SMOKE POURING OUT. I THEN BEGAN LOOKING FOR MY WINGMAN. I SAW HIM OFF MY RIGHT WING AND HE STARTED TO FOLLOW ME WHEN I SAW 4 FW-190'S TURNING SLOWLY IN TO ME FROM MY LEFT. I TURNED INTO THEM GOING AFTER NUMBER 4. THE FIRST TWO DIVED DOWN AND AWAY AND THE OTHER TWO TRIED SOME EVASIVE ACTION. I FIRED ON NUMBER 4 SEVERAL TIMES CLOSING ALL THE TIME AND OBSERVING SOME HITS BUT DID NOT GET ANY SMOKE. HE REVERSED HIS TURN A COUPLE OF TIMES, EACH TIME I WOULD GET A BETTER SHOT. THEN MY TRACERS STARTED COCKSCREWING SO I FIGURED MY BARRELS MUST BE ABOUT SHOT. ON HIS LAST REVERSAL HE FLIPPED OVER AND HEADED DOWN. I FOLLOWED HIM DIRECTLY ASTERN AND FIRED AGAIN, AN IMPOSSIBLE SHOT TO MISS BUT NOW MY TRACERS WERE GOING ALL AROUND HIM AND DID NOT SEEM TO CONVERGE AT ALL. HIS DIVE SHALLOWED OUT SOMEWHAT AND I CLOSED TO UNDER 100 YARDS AND FIRED

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AGAIN, GETTING SOME MORE HITS BUT NO SMOKE. THEN HIS DIVE STEEPENED AGAIN AND I DECIDED TO PULL OUT AS I WAS INDICATING OVER 450 AND HAD PASSED 3,000 FEET. BY NOW I WAS JUST EAST OF THE RHINE AND NO SOONER HAD STARTED TO PULL OUT TO THE RIGHT THAN FLAK OF EVERY DESCRIPTION WAS ALL AROUND ME. THE FLAK WAS SO INTENSE I COULD NOT TURN AROUND TO SEE WHAT HAPPENED TO THE 100 BUT FIGURED HE WENT IN. I CALLED RED 4 BUT GOT NO ANSWER, CLIMBED TO ABOUT 3,000' AND CAME HOME ALONE.

I CLAIM ONE FW-190 DESTROYED AND ONE FW-190 PROBABLE.

J. 2,120 BOUNDS, .50 CALIBRE.

GEORGE E. COOPER,  
1ST LT., AIR CORPS.