

File

HEADQUARTERS 52ND FIGHTER GROUP
Office of the Group Intelligence Officer
APO 525 U. S. ARMY

FIS/op

15 July 1943.

SUBJECT: Combat Report.

TO : Commanding Officer, 52nd Fighter Group, APO 525, U.S. Army.

1. Herewith the combat claim of 2nd Lt. Irvin Gottlieb, 5th Fighter Squadron, for one (1) MB 109-F destroyed, at approximately 1953 hours 12 July 1943, 15 miles E of Bizerte, Tunisia.

2. It is recommended that this claim be confirmed.

F. W. SCHUBB,
Major, A.C.,
Group S-2.

2 Inclosures

- Incl #1-Combat claim 2nd Lt. Irvin Gottlieb (in dup.)
- Incl #2-Witness report of P/O Louis H. Weymandt (in dup.)
- Incl #3-Extract Form Orange report 12 July 1943. (in dup.)

1st Ind.

JSS/op

HEADQUARTERS, 52ND FIGHTER GROUP, APO 525, U. S. ARMY, 15 July 1943.
TO: Commanding General, H.A.C.A.F., APO 512, U.S. Army. Attention: P.A.O.C.

1. The claim of 2nd Lt. Irvin Gottlieb, 5th Fighter Squadron, for one (1) MB 109-F destroyed, 12 July 1943, is hereby approved and confirmed.

JAMES S. HOWARD,
Lt. Colonel, A.C.,
Commanding.

Inclat n/c

5th. Fighter Squadron
52nd. Fighter Group
APO 525

13 July, 1943.

COMBAT REPORT:

In the late evening at approximately 1953 hours on July 12, 1943, while on a scramble and being vectored by Mixture, I followed my number 1 who had just yelled Tally Ho. We peeled off to the right and it was then that I saw 2 planes flying east at an altitude of 26,000 feet. We had been at 27,500 feet when my number 1 had sighted the Bandits. As we closed up on the ME-109's, I saw my number 1 get on the tail of the number 1 109F and I also saw the number 2 109F turn to get on the Spit's tail. I turned with him and fired a 2 second burst of cannon and MG at 600 yards to scare the 109F off. This burst must have scored some hits for the ME-109F turned to the left and started a steep dive. I followed him down until he started to pull out. Then I fired another burst of cannon and MG at 100 yards. This burst hit the engine, for glycol started streaming out. The E/A spun off on the left wing and I followed and fired cannon and MG again. This last burst was a 4 second burst at about 100 feet. More strikes were seen on the fuselage centering around the cockpit. At this, blinded by the glycol on my windshield, I overran him and split S'd out of my dive just as the ME-109F split S'd out of his and went into the sea.

All action took place at approximately 15 miles N of Bizerte. The 109F's were black in color with the usual German markings on the fuselage, tail empennage, and wings. Both 109F's had on belly tanks. No evasive action was taken indicating that the 109's were not aware of our presence until we attacked.

CLAIM: 1 ME-109F Destroyed.

Irwin Gottlieb

IRWIN GOTTLIEB
2nd. Lieut. A. C.

5th. Fighter Squadron
52nd. Fighter Group
APO 525

15 July, 1943.

COMBAT REPORT: (Confirmation of Lt. Gottlieb's Claim of 1 ME-109F Destroyed.)

In the late evening at approximately 1953 hours on July 12, 1943, while on a scramble and being vectored by Mixture, I, as Black No. 1, saw two planes flying due east at 2 o'clock to me at 26,000 feet. Mixture had just informed me that the Bandits were at 2 o'clock low. I and my number 2, Lt. Gottlieb, were at 17,500 feet at the time so we peeled off to the right to attack. I pulled in behind the number 1 ME-109F which was on the left and ahead of the number 2 ME-109F which was on the left and ahead of the number 2 ME-109F. I started firing cannon at 300 yards. I gave a 5 second burst of aforesaid but saw no results. Also I got no results from the second burst which was a burst of cannon and MG at 200 yards range with a duration of 2 seconds. On the third burst, a 2 second burst of cannon and MG fired at a range of approximately 100 yards, I saw strikes on the wing root and the 109F did a shallow turn to the left. At this time his belly tank and another object about 2 feet square fell from the plane. I then turned to the right to see if the other 109F had gotten on my tail, but the other ME-109F had already been accounted for by Black No. 2. I did not get to see any of my number 2's action as both our engagements took place at the same time. The last I saw of the 109F he was flying due North at about 25,000 feet.

All action took place at approximately 15 miles N of Bizerte. The 109s were black in color with the usual German markings on the fuselage and tail empennage. Both ME-109s had on belly tanks. No evasive action was taken indicating that the 109Fs were not aware of our presence until we attacked.

LOUIS H. WEYANDT
Flight Officer, A. C.

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

Luther J. Westbrook
LUTHER J. WESTBROCK
1ST. Lieut. A.C.
Intelligence Officer.

HEADQUARTERS 52ND FIGHTER GROUP
Office of the Group Intelligence Officer
APO 525 U. S. ARMY

12 July 1943.

TO: Officer Commanding, 323 Wing, Attention: S.I.O.

From: 52nd Fighter Group, APO 525, U.S. Army.

Date: Grange 12 July 1943.

EXTRACT

"4.p. Two Spit IX's, black section, 5th Squadron, up 1917, down 2020, on a Freddie scramble. The Spits got to 22,000 feet and within five miles of Bizerte on the O/O vector when Milpenade turned the Spits over to Mixture. This was at 1948 hours. Mixture then gave vectors of 270, 360, 90 and 270 in rapid succession. When the vector of 270 was given Mixture said to look at 2 o'clock below. Black number 1 looked and immediately saw 2 planes at exactly 2 o'clock at 25,000 flying due east. The Spits were at 27,500 feet at the time and flying the aforementioned vector, 270. The Spits peeled off to the right to attack. Black number 1, W/O Reynolds, pulled in behind the number 1 ME 109 F which was on the left and ahead of the number 2 ME 109 F. Black number 1 started firing cannon at 300 yards. He gave a 3 second burst of aforesaid but saw no results. Also he got no results from the second burst. This burst was approximately a 2 second burst of cannon and MG fired at 200 yards. On the third burst, a 2 second burst of cannon and MG at a range of approximately 100 yards, the ME 109 F did a shallow turn to the left. At this time his belly tank and another object about 2 feet square fell from the plane. Black number 1 then turned to the right to see if the other 109 F had gotten on his tail, but the other ME 109 F had already been accounted for by Black number 2, Lt. Gottlieb, for when Black number 1 had sighted the W/A, Black number 2 had followed him and as he saw the number 2 ME 109 F turn on black number 1's tail he had turned with him and fired a 2 second burst of cannon and MG at 600 yards to score the ME 109 F off. This burst must have scored most hits for the ME 109 F turned to the left and started a steep dive. The Spit followed him down until the ME 109 F started to pull out. Then the Spit fired another burst of cannon and MG at 100 yards. This burst hit the engine, for glycol started streaming out. The W/A spun off on the left wing and the Spit followed and fired cannon and W/O again. This last burst was a 4 second burst at about 100 feet. More hits were scored. At this time the Spit over ran the ME 109 F and split 3'ed out of his dive just as the ME 109 F split 3'ed out of his and went into the sea.

All action took place at approximately 15 miles E of Bizerte. Black number 1 fired 130 rounds of 20mm ammunition and 1100 rounds of .303 while Black number 2 fired 60 rounds of cannon ammunition and 600 rounds of .303. The ME 109 F's were black in color with the usual German markings on fuselage and tail empennage. Both ME 109 F's had on belly tanks. No evasive action was taken indicating that ME 109 F's were caught unawares. It is believed that the ME 109 F's were flying only at a normal cruising speed."