

Sub

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

FWS/ap

3 July 1943.

Subject: Combat Report.

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

1. Herewith the combat claim of 2nd Lt. Irwin Gottlieb, 5th Fighter Squadron, for one FW 190 destroyed, at 0840 hours, 1 July 1943, twenty miles NE of Bizerte.

2. It is recommended that this claim be confirmed.

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

2 Inclosures:

- Incl. #1-Combat report Irwin Gottlieb, 2nd Lt. (in dup.)
Incl. #2-Form Orange 1 July 1943. (in dup.)

1st Ind.

JSC/ap

HEADQUARTERS, 52ND FIGHTER GROUP, APO 525, U. S. ARMY, 3 July 1943.
TO: Commanding General, N.A.C.A.F., APO 512, U.S. Army. Attention:
D.A.O.C.

1. The claim of 2nd Lt. Irwin Gottlieb, 5th Fighter Squadron for one (1) FW 190 destroyed, 1 July 1943, is hereby approved and confirmed.

JAMES S. COWARD,
Major, A.C.,
Commanding.

Incls: n/c

5th. Fighter Squadron
52nd. Fighter Group
APO 625

1 July, 1943.

COMBAT REPORT:

While on a scramble on the morning of July 1, 1943, I was vectored to approximately 30 miles NE of Bizerte. At 0340 hours I spotted an a/c at about two o'clock flying SW at about 22,000 feet. I was at about angels 30 and still flying a heading of 260 degrees. My number two and I had become separated, so thinking that the a/c might be my number two, I called him to wiggle his wings. The a/c made no attempt to wiggle his wings. I called my number two again and asked if he was wiggling his wings. He answered that he was, so I knew definitely that I had something there. I made a dive to the right and then a turn to the left and came out about 120 yards from the FW 190. I fired a short burst at this range and kept firing as I kept closing in. At about the fourth burst the 190 blew up, the explosion seeming to center around the cockpit. I pulled up to miss the debris and headed for home.

CLAIM: One FW 190 destroyed.

Irwin Goffels
IRWIN GOFFELS
2nd. Lieut. A. C.

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

JDM/lrw

1 July 1943.

TO: Officer Commanding, 323 Wing. Attention: A-2.

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

Form Orange 1 July 1943.

E X T R A C T

4. b. Two Spits, IX's, Red Section, 5th Squadron, (up 0818, Dn 0905) on a scramble. Before leaving the ground the pilots were told only to scramble two IX's. When airborne the Spits were given a vector of 010 degrees, angels 30 by Whipsnade. The Spits were also told that there were two bandits about 60 miles out going E. Ten minutes later Whipsnade ordered: "Through the gate". A couple of minutes later Whipsnade told the Spits that bandits were coming quickly 30 miles N of the coast. A minute later Whipsnade said that the bandits had headed west but to remain on the same course. Two minutes later Mixture gave the Spits a vector and then told them to orbit. About 15 minutes later the Spits were ordered to keep a sharp lookout to the west. At this time (0840 hours) No. 1 of red section was flying a course of 260 degrees. Number 2 of red section had become separated from his No. 1. The number 1 at this time saw an A/C at angels 22. The A/C was flying SSW. The No. 1 Spit was at angels 30 and still flying a heading of 260 degrees. The Spit pilot, Lt. Gottlieb, called the A/C to wiggle his wings if he was his number 2, Lt. Benzling. The A/C which later proved to be a FW 190 failed to wiggle his wings so the No. 1 Spit went down after him. The FW 190 was originally seen at 7 o'clock to the Spit so to go down the pilot had to make a dive to the right and a turn to the left to get into firing position. The Spit came to within 120 yards of the E/A before opening fire. He fired one burst of cannon and MG at this range and kept firing and kept closing in. At about the fourth burst the 190 disintegrated, the explosion seeming to center around the cockpit. The Spit pulled up to miss the debris and headed for home. There were 45 rounds of 20 mm ammunition fired and 85 rounds of MG (.303) ammunition fired. All action took place at approximately 20 miles NE of Bizerte. The FW 190 was greyish in color. No other distinguishing markings were noted. It is the pilot's opinion that the FW 190 was a photo reconnaissance plane due to the direction of flight and due to the fact that he was alone.

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