

SORTIE REPORT

(Part A)

84

Sheet No. 1	Oprep. Ref. No. 886	Date 16/3/44.	Squadron 427 BCAP
Type of Aircraft Spittfire Mk. VIII	Aircraft No. J.P.556	Aircraft Letter AB-E.	Captain CAN. J.20099 P/O J.A. O'Brien
Time Up 13.50 hours.	Time Down 15.30 hours.	Total Time 1 hour 30 mins.	Crew
Type of Cloud Cumulus	Amount of Cloud 5/10	Base of Cloud 7,000 ft.	Map or Chart
Visibility Unlimited.	General Weather Fair.		Reference Italy - 1250,000 Sheet 28.
Aerodrome or L.G. Marcianus Airfield.			

Task or duty **Defensive patrol over the Anzio area.**

Time	Height	Place	Narrative
13.50	"0"	Base.	12 aircraft airborne to patrol the Anzio area.
14.15	14,000	Anzio.	Red and Blue sections (8 a/o) on patrol.
14.25	6,000	Anzio.	Yellow Section (4a/o) on patrol.
14.30	6,000	Anzio.	4 bogies were reported off Anzio at 10,000', almost immediately Yellow 3 (P/O O'Brien) saw two P.W.190's at 6,000 ft. four miles north of Anzio flying south. Yellow Section turned into them and the a/a rolled on their backs, dived for the ground and started flying North at deck level. Yellow Section gave chase and Yellow 3 closed to within 200 yds. of one of the P.W.190's and attacked with five bursts from the line astern position. Strikes were seen on the a/a's wing-root and pieces to fly off. The a/a then passed under Yellow 3's nose and was seen to crash and burn at P.5780 by Yellow 2 (P/O Kimber). Yellow 1 (P/L Ingalls) then closed in on the second P.W.190 and attacked with two two second bursts. Strikes were seen on the wing-roots and fuselage, pieces flew off and the port wheel dropped down. The a/a then crashed in flames at P.7780. This is confirmed by Yellow 2 (P/O Kimber) and Yellow 3 who took cine-gun shots of the aircraft as it crashed. COMBAT CLAIMS SEE PART "B".
15.30	"0"	Base.	Aircraft landed. CLAIMS:- P/O O'Brien One P.W.190 Destroyed. P/L Ingalls One P.W.190 Destroyed. (See Page 2.)

PART B (on reverse) to be completed according to relevant pro-forma in H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. Instruction 34

[P.T.O.]

I was flying as yellow three in a four aircraft formation at 6,000 feet over north of Anzio. At 14.30 hours I reported two aircraft about five miles North of Anzio flying East and slightly above us. As we sighted them they dived and turned North. Yellow leader then ordered us to give chase. I closed in on one P.V.130 and attacked with five bursts from ten deg. off the line astern position at 300 yds closing to 75 yds. I saw strikes after my first burst and later pieces flew from his tail and then a large burst of flame appeared from the starboard wing root. The a/c then passed under my nose and Yellow 2 (P/O Finbow) saw the a/c hit the ground and burst into flames.

I claim one P.V. Destroyed.

(Sgt.) J.A. O'Brian P/O

Ammunition Expenditure.

30 Wt. Cannon - 135 rds. HE/I
135 rds. HE/I
300 Wt. Cannon - 900 rds. HE/I
300 rds. HE/I

Disturbance 1207-

H.Q. 2nd A.A. Div. (S.O. 2nd A.A. Div.)
C.O. 2nd A.A. Div.
C.O. 1st A.A. Div.
C.O. 1st Fighter Wing
S.O. 1st Fighter Wing
War Diary
File

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