CONSOLIDATED SORTIE REPORT. SECRET. 435

To :- Headquarters, Air Command, South East Asia.
Headquarters, 3rd Tactical Air Force.
Headquarters, No. 221 Group.
Headquarters, No. 170 Wing.
Headquarters, No. 165 Wing.

From :- 607 Squadron. A.A.F.

Ref :- 607S/S.3707/1/INT.
Oprep Serial No.280.
Sortie Report Serial No.3 for May 1944.

Date :- Day 14th May.

I. 12 Spitfires VIII "N" "R" "S" "O" "A" "K" "B" "C" "T" "V" "P" "G"

II. "N" F/Lt. Coons
"R" W/O. Neville
"S" F/O. Taylor
"O" Sgt. Boyd. } Ping Pong Section.

"A" F/O. Clark
"K" F/Sgt. Turner
"B" F/O. Curnock
"C" F/Sgt. Townend } Red Section.

"T" F/Lt. Coombes
"V" F/Sgt. Haley
"P" F/O. Coussens
"G" F/O. Ormerod. } Blue Section.

III. Interception Patrol for reported 9 plus bandits at 10,000 ft S.E. of Palel travelling N.

IV. Imphal Main.

V. Limited Visibility; 10/10s cloud 14,000 ft. Scattered cumulus around top of hills.

VI. 07.15 Imphal Main.

VII. 08.15 Imphal Main.

FA: From readiness

FB: At 07.38 hrs saw 4 OSCARS at 8,000 ft travelling North 9 O'Clock to own A/C and 2-3,000 ft below. 10 plus Oscars seen shortly afterwards going in opposite direction.

FC: When a course of 080 and about 35 mls N.E. of base Blue IV reported 4 bandits at 9 O'Clock below. Blue I confirmed these at 10, O'Clock and climbed to cover the rest of the Squadron going in. At that time Ping Pong II reported 10 plus heading in opposite direction and at 6 O'Clock 2,000 ft directly underneath the 8 Ping Pong A/C. Blue Section had turned South across the top of the rest of the Squadron which turned round about a mile to the North. Blue III & IV covered I & II into attack on the original 4 A/C which had followed the main formation.

Blue I F/Lt. Coombes attacked an OSCAR II which was turning to Starboard from 300 to 50 yds. Seeing strikes on both wings E/A claimed damaged.

Blue II F/S Haley made a head on attack on the 2nd E/A which had turned into own section. E/A was coming in on a turn and at 100 yds slipped down underneath. Strikes were seen on E/A's [illegible] portwing root and engine cowling, smoke were seen to come from E/A.

(P.T.O.)

Archives of M. Williams

Section pulled up and orbitted once and then went down again still covered by Blue III & IV. This time Blue I attacked an E/A which was turning to Starboard, reversing its turn to port when Blue I was at 500 yds. Blue I fired 15 deg off from 350 yds to 150 yds. E/A (OSCARS II) 's cockpit appeared to blow up and E/A rolled slowly to port and dived in a slightly inverted dive. This A/C was seen to hit the ground and burst into flame by Blue I & II and Ping Pong II. Claimed destroyed..It will be noted that these two A/C were using new type of cannon ammunition and that in the case of Blue ~~III~~ II, who saw strikes, only cannon was used.

After the original positioning for attack and preparatory diving, remainder of the squadron broke up. The E/A being in no ~~way~~ special formation Sectional attacks were attempted but visibility was very poor and E/A were making full use of camouflag low down against the hills. Thus E/A were being continually seen and lost sight of before attack could be made. After about 5 mins Squadron reformed and were Vectored 180 deg to the Chindwin but did not see E/A again.

Some E/A were reported by Blue II to have 60 deg diagonal Yellow stripes between cockpit and tail unit. At ~~least~~ last two were seen to jettison (presumably tanks) by Red III.

FD: 1 OSCAR II destroyed (F/Lt. Coombes)
2 OSCAR II damaged (F/Lt Coombes and F/Sgt. Haley)

FE - FF: N I L .

FG: "T" 380 x .303
380 x .303 Incen
80 x 20 mm Seq. 2 S.A.P/I and 2 HE/I

"V" 100 x 20 mm Seq 2 S.A.P/I and 2 H.E/I
Opening and closing ranges see F.C.

FH: Camera guns fitted in "B" "V" "F" and "G".
Combat film taken in A/C "V"

FJ: Much better results would have been obtained had fighting taken place at a higher altitude. As it was the E/A'd camouflage low against the hills combining with poor visibility proved too big a handicap for Ping Pong A/C. The E/A destroyed was sighted at 800 yds - lost to 500 yds before being seen again. Controlled by 9 OPs. R/T and Controlling good. I.F.F. fitted and adjusted.

Squadron Leader, Commanding,
No. 607 Squadron. A.A.F.