

SORTIE REPORT.BY AIR MAIL.CONFIDENTIAL.

To:- A.O. SRA(2); 3rd TAF(B); HQ, 221 Gp; HQ, 170 Wing (INT);
HQ, 165 Wing. File. ...

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

Ref.:- 6078/2.3707/1/INT.
Oprep No. 314.

CONSOLIDATED SORTIE REPORT SERIAL NO. 47.

Date: 17th, June, 1944. Day/Night

PART. "A".

I. 12 Spitfires VIII "C" "C" "P" "2" "1" "E" "A" "S" "V"
"H" "K" "Q"

II.	"C"	S/Ldr.	Davies.	} Ping Pong Section.
	"C"	F/S.	Turner.	
	"B"	W/O.	Longley	
	"2"	W/O.	Patersen.	
	"P"	F/O.	Taylor.	} Red Section.
	"P"	F/S.	Peters.	
	"A"	W/O.	Perry.	
	"S"	Sgt.	Reason.	
	"V"	F/O.	Hole.	} Blue Section.
	"H"	W/O.	Sexty.	
	"K"	F/S.	Moore.	
	"Q"	Sgt.	Ramage.	

III. Imphal Main.

IV. Interception Patrol for 20 plus Hostile 8,000 ft S. of Palel.

V. ~~XXXX~~ 10/10s Cloud from 11,000 ft upwards. Visibility 15 mls

VI. 11.15 Imphal Main. VII. 12.15 Imphal Main.

PART. "B".

FA: 11.12 from readiness.

FB: About 11.25 hrs when travelling ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ S.W. across
LOXTAIN - LANE saw two E/A 12 O'Clock ahead at angels 4.
Squadron was losing height from 11,000 ft and were at about
8,000 ft. Later 15 to 20 Enemy A/C was seen being a mixture
of OSCARS I & II.

FC: Squadron was vectored 170 to Wangjing being told there were
20 plus E/A at angels 11 N.W. of Palel heading Bishenpur. Over
Wangjing Squadron was vectored 200 at angels 12. About 5 mls
West of Sapan ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ told bandits were over FOTSANGPANG
and were vectored 370 Squadron was then told that bandits were
heading South at angels 4 and to head for CHURACHANDPUR.
Squadron lost height S.W. across LOXTAIN - LANE and saw 2 E/A
12 O'Clock ahead at angels 4. and went straight in to attack.
On the way to attack Ping Pong Leader saw 5 E/A above and
breaking off his attack pulled up.

Ping Pong I S/Ldr. Davies made two attacks on E/A's but
was out-manoeuvred. He then saw one E/A heading S.E. towards
SHUGANU on its own. He followed it down but when in to about
500 yds it turned sharply to starboard. At that time Ping Pong I
saw 2 E/A coming from the port side and slightly above. He pulled
up towards them and one turned sharply to starboard and the
other turned to port and continued straight and level.

Page 2.

heading South West. Ping Pong I. came up below and in line astern with slow closing speed. He opened fire at about 400 yds and gave E/A (OSCAR II) 7 or 8 sec. burst. Strikes were observed on the fuselage and wings and a few bits flew off from the fuselage. When in to about 100 yds E/A began smoking slightly and turned slowly to starboard. Ping Pong I pulled up and watched E/A continue to turn to starboard and then slowly to port, losing height rapidly until it crashed and blew up on a small hill about one mile West of WANGU.

Ping Pong I. then proceeded South down the Manipur River, and the Squadron re-forming on the way down but making no farther contact. When about 40 mls S. of SHUGANU Squadron was told to return to Palel if not engaging.

Red I, F/O. Taylor On the turn to 270 Red Section was put slightly ahead of the main formation. Red I led his section in on six A/C at 12 O'clock, himself making an attack on the 4th E/A (OSCAR II) of a line. Red I opened fire at 200 yds allowing 1 1/2 ring deflection and saw strikes on fuselage. E/A ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ tightened his turn and although Red I had trotled back in an endeavour to keep E/A in his sight, he pulled through. OSCAR II claimed damaged. Red I climbed up and made an attack on another E/A which turned smartly round and came in head on. Red I fired and E/A broke away down to starboard. No strikes were seen. Two further E/A then made head on attacks but did not press them home and although Red I fired he saw no strikes. The E/A were then reported to be travelling South and Red I went in that direction to try and join up with the remainder of the Squadron having lost his No.2. After travelling South for considerable time and being in the Tiddim Area he turned to starboard and saw an OSCAR II break cloud just above him. Red I made a head on attack and saw strikes on E/A's engine. E/A must have been surprised as he did not fire. Red I pulled up and being close to the cloud lost sight of the ground. Red I kicked hard on the port rudder and broke cloud to find the E/A making a turn to port. Red I opened fire at 250 yds allowing one ring deflection and saw strikes on wing roots and engine. Red I closed to about 75 yds when the E/A flicked over. Red I pulled up again going into cloud. When Red I broke cloud again he saw the OSCAR II burning on the ground at approximately OI.3938. The cloud base in this area was only about 500 ft about the hills. OSCAR II claimed destroyed. Red I rejoined the Squadron over Palel.

Red III, W/O. Perry When the Squadron intercepted Red III made 2 or 3 abortive attacks. Then one OSCAR I started climbing on the deck up to Red III's height at 5,000 ft. Red III turned towards him and saw that E/A was climbing head on into him. Red III opened fire at about 400 yds and gave E/A 3 long bursts all guns. E/A returned fire at the same time but wavered and shook as Red III fired his 2nd burst. E/A lazily broke to his port with black smoke coming from the under side of his engine. Red III did a climbing turn to the left and waited for E/A to climb off the deck. Red III did a circuit and lost height but E/A seemed to have disappeared altogether. Red IV had seen this Aircraft in a steep spiral turn towards the ground but lost sight of him just North of ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ SHUGANU when following No. III.

Red III's attention was drawn from the search by 4 Oscars I which had formed up and were heading for home just South of Red III above SHUGANU. These E/A were on the deck, line abreast. Red III went into attack them but just before closing the outer port A/C broke and ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ into Red III. This drew Red III's attention from the A/C he was attacking. Red III flew straight at the A/C which had turned into him and gave a short burst. E/A was firing as the attack closed and one bullet (.303) hit the wind screen of Red IV who was in line astern to Red III. E/A seemed intent on crashing into Red III because when at the last moment Red III broke the E/A carried on the same direction causing Red IV to break also. E/A then broke underneath the Ping Pong A/C and was lost to sight. Red III called up Ping Pong Leader giving No. 4 course of E/A and decided to try and catch them by sweeping down the Manipur River

the Manipur River at 2,000 ft. Red III was master for about 10 mins. with the rest of the Squadron before being recalled to Palel.

Blue I F/O. Hole was unable to carry out attacks on the initial attack, Ping Pong Section having attacked the E/A he had chosen. Blue I returned to cloud base and selected a section of OSCARS missing the starboard A/C and attacked from above and slightly starboard of eastern firing all guns. This E/A seemed to be searching the sky ahead of him and only noticed Blue I when he was about 80 yds astern. E/A then pulled on to his side and broke violently up. Blue I saw strikes on the fuselage and port wing and the E/A claimed damaged. A/C were milling around and an A/C was burning on the ground near MOIRANG. Blue I then made several abortive attacks which failed owing to excessive speed but he noticed 2 further A/C crashing into the hills roughly west of SHUGANU. Blue I then flew South and attacked another Oscar observing strikes on the tail Unit and broke way up allowing Blue II to continue attacking this A/C.

Blue II W/C. Sexty had dived from 5,000 to 3,000 ft with Blue I and made a starboard $\frac{1}{2}$ attack on the E/A already reported holding it in his side from 300 to 130 yds. E/A pulled up into loop over the top of Blue II trailing white smoke. E/A was last seen at about 800 ft over the hills and not having completed his loop but heading straight down. By this time Blue II was in a verticle climb and did not return to investigate this E/A as there were other E/A in the Area. This Oscar is claimed as probably destroyed by Blue I and II. Both continued flying South down the Manipur River Valley making no further contact. Blue I reports watching Spitfire shooting an Oscar down about 20 mls South of the valley.

Blue IV Sgt. Ramage saw an Oscar dive on Blue III. The Oscar pulled up and Blue IV followed up after him for atleast 1,000 ft the Spitfire having slight over taking speed. Blue IV gave one burst from 15 degrees at 400 yds almost at the top of the climb when the A/C had almost levelled out. The Oscar turned and fired at Blue IV who climbed above and turned on to the E/A's tail. Blue IV gave one burst at 800 yds and again another at 300 yds when almost on line astern and another as E/A was breaking up and turning to starboard from 150 to 100 yds. Blue IV saw hits on the starboard main plane and a large piece fly off the leading edge of the main plane near the wing tip. Watish grey smoke was also coming from the wing root. E/A rolled over from its turn and went down. It was last seen going down 1500 ft above the hills, approx. 6 mls South of MOIRANG to the West of the road. Blue IV then joined up with Blue III and Wingco.

Other attacks were carried out by the other members of the Squadron, some firing, but no further claims are made. Squadron having flown about 40 mls South of SHUGANU returned, on instructions to Palel where Red Section was detached on patrol covering aircraft refuelling, the remainder returning to base. Red Section was told to pancake after patrolling for about 15 mins.

FD: 2 OSCAR II destroyed (S/Ldr. Davies F/O. Taylor)
3 OSCARS probably destroyed (W/C Perry 1, Sgt. Ramage, 1.
F/O. Hole. 1 W/C. Sexty 1)
2 OSCARS Damaged. (F/O. Taylor. F/O. Hole)

FE, FF: N I E.

FG: "G"	400 x .303 A.P.	"C"	200 x .303 A.P.
	400 x .303 Incen		200 x .303 Incen
	180 x 20 mm Seq		30 x 20 mm Seq (port cannon link jam.)
"B"	60 x .303 A.P.	"T"	100 x .303 A.P.
	60 x .303 Incen.		100 x .303 Incen
	50 x 20 mm Seq.		40 x 20 mm Seq
"A"	120 x .303 A.P.	"3"	40 x .303 A.P.
	120 x .303 Incen		40 x .303 Incen.
	50 x 20 mm Seq.		10 x 20 mm Seq.
	Port On. no fire hole base of case.		
"V"	120 x .303 A.P.		
	120 x .303 Incen		
	50 x 20 mm Seq.		

Page 4.

"H" 200 x .303 A.P.
200 x .303 Incen.
100 x 20 mm Seq.

"K" 60 x .303 A.P.
60 x .303 Incen.
20 x 20 mm Seq.

"O" 140 x .303 A.P.
140 x .303 Incen.
80 x 20 mm Seq.

PH:

N I L.

PJ:

E/A were flying in the usual ^{ragged} ~~loose~~ formation and became well split up after the first attack. Although the usual evasive tactics were employed the majority were not as effective as on the last occasion. However, as will be seen on the reports some showed high offensive spirit. Squadron were helped in their interception by the previous one of W/Cdr. LEE. E/A were camouflaged grey with usual markings. Controlled by 9 Gps. R/T V.H.F. good. I.F.F. fitted and adjusted.

[Signature]
Intelligence Officer,
No. 607 Squadron. A.A.F.

ADDENDUM.

In support of previous claims of damaged by this Squadron it will be noticed that had not the pilots claiming A/C destroyed on this occasion been able to have seen final results of their attacks only claims of damaged could have been submitted. As it was they had time to see the E/A crash and burst into flame. On many occasions previously this was impossible owing to the number of E/A in the vicinity and the speed of repeated attacks by our A/C. In view of this it is felt that many A/C previously claimed as damaged must have been destroyed.

[Signature]