

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.4 for May 1944.

Date: Day 14th May 1944.

I. Spitfires VIII "H" "Z" "R" "B" "K" "H.G.G." "C" "A" "V" "T" "T"

"H" F/O. Gould

"Z" F/S. Saunby

"R" F/O. Lloyd.

Ping Pong Section.

"B" W/O. Langley

"K" F/S. Moore

"H.G.G." F/S. Paterson

"C" F/O. Caldwell

Red Section.

"A" F/Lt. Briggs

"V" F/O. Shi Sho

"T" F/O. Hole

"T" W/O. Sexty

Blue Section.

III. Interception Patrol for 12 plus bandits 14,000 ft. 40 mls E.N.E

Imphal travelling N.

IV. Imphal Main.

V. 3/10s cloud above hills; 10/10s 25,000 ft. Visibility fairly good.

VI. 10.15 Imphal Main.

VII. 11.10 Imphal Main.

FA: 10.13 from readiness.

FB: At 10.35 hrs after seeing A/A bursts to N.W and travelling in that direction saw E/A just South of Kohima travelling S.E. E/A a mixture of OSCAR I & II in two's & threes, were at all heights from dark level to 10,000 ft. Ping Pong Squadron was at 12,500 ft. On being scrambled for 12 plus bandits 40 mls ENE of Imphal travelling North Ping Pong Squadron was told to make height North of base. They were then Vectored 020 & 010 and as they were approaching Kohima were Vectored 350. At this time they saw a terrific A/A barrage, and so the leader made a slight turn to the West around the A/A. At this time Talley 40 was given by Red II and Ping Pong leader saw 1 OSCAR heading S.E 8 O'clock below. Ping Pong leader detailed Blue section to go in first with Ping-Pong section to follow and Red section to remain top cover. Blue I. F/Lt. Briggs, led in Blue section which split into two sections for the attack. Blue I made his attack on a bunch of 6E/A about 3,000 ft below and to 9 O'clock picking 2 E/A which were straggling and not weaving so much as the others. Blue I opened at 300 yds closing to 100 yds with high closing speed. 1st E/A did a violent turn into Blue I and the 2nd rolled over on to its back and strikes were seen on its starboard wing. As Blue I was going so fast and E/A began rolling out underneath Blue I pulled up and no further results were observed. E/A OSCAR claimed damaged. Blue I orbited trying to see E/A being reported in various positions. Flying South East from Kohima he observed another bunch of 5 E/A and attacked the last one. As he did so another Spitfire came down very steeply on E/A from 11 O'clock and so Blue I had to break away without observing any results. On climbing up again an A/C which later proved to be a Hurricane made an attack on Blue I from eastern so Blue I dived down to get away. No further attacks were made by Blue I who reports all E/A seen by him as Oscar IIs, looking new with camouflage similar to a Spitfires, very clear and very prominent red roundels

(P.T.O.)



Blue II F/O Shi She went into attack with Blue I on the initial attack but did not fire and pulled up and went down again on the same formation. He made a port  $\frac{1}{2}$  attack all guns firing from 300 yds to 200 yds seeing strikes on port main plane as E/A was turning to port. Blue II pulled up and looked around picking 2 E/A below and making a similar attack as before but not opening fire. After climbing saw E/A at 15,000 ft. Blue II climbed to same level and as he was going into attack E/A saw him and dived straight down. Blue II then 2 E/A to port and went into attack opening with m/g at 250 yds. Just as Blue II was going to fire his cannon E/A flicked ~~xxxx~~ round and strikes were seen down its fuselage. 2 OSCARS claimed damaged.

After his second attack Blue II saw an A/C dive into the ground and a large column of blue smoke come from it. This would be the A/C attacked by Blue III and seen by him to be spinning down 1500 ft above the hills.

Blue III F/O. Hole followed in with Blue section in attack but continued down in attack on a formation slightly to the East, making a  $\frac{1}{2}$  port attack at fast closing speed but seeing no strikes. Blue III saw another 2 E/A further to the East and made a 40 deg deflection attack from port  $\frac{1}{2}$  with fast overtaking speed firing from 200 - 70 yds. Blue III made a steep turn away and saw two large lumps come away from the port side of E/A which flicked over and then went in an uncontrolled spin down. This E/A (OSCAR) was last seen by Blue III about 1500 ft above the hills still spinning down and is confirmed by Blue II's report. Oscar claimed destroyed. From then on Blue III made at least 8 attacks on E/A firing on 4 occasions. On one of these a  $\frac{1}{2}$  Starboard attack from 150 to 30 yds Blue III saw strikes on E/A's fuselage and tail. E/A did a steep turn away to Star board and Blue III followed but the E/A's No II got on Blue III's tail. Blue III made a steep climbing turn to port and saw the E/A No II firing all his guns but the bullets going behind. Blue III pulled up into Sun and E/A could not hold climb. Being on his own Blue III then tried to join up with 2 A/C which he thought were Spitfires. When about 200 yds away he realised they were Oscars and had a quick spurt at them but being out of ammunition dived steeply away to Starboard. E/A attempted to follow but Blue III pulled up quickly, losing them and returned to base. On the attacks; when Blue III did not open fire the E/A evaded with violent aerobatics.

Blue IV W/O. Sexty followed Blue III and singled out 2 OSCARS. Blue IV was flying about 200' above and 100 yds to the right of Blue III. He lost sight of Blue III but saw the latter's cannon shells and the 2 E/A turned to the right thus breaking into Blue IV. E/A at about 250 yds. saw Blue IV who opened up with a  $\frac{1}{2}$  sec. burst, all guns, seeing strikes down the Starboard side of the engine and fuselage. E/A broke left almost colliding with his No.2. A thin trail of whitish blue smoke was coming from just forward of the Starboard wing root and E/A was last seen diving about 4,000 ft, above the hills. Claimed damaged. Blue IV positioned himself for attack on 2 other occasions but these were not carried out. On one of these occasions a Hurricane started to attack Blue IV opening fire at about 400 yds above and behind but not hitting the Spitfire.

Ping Pong I F/O. Gould, followed in Blue section losing height on what he thought was the starboard side of the gaggle. He saw 2 Oscars in formation and turned into them closing rapidly. He attacked the No.2, firing from 300-100 yds with a  $\frac{1}{2}$  to full beam attack laying just over a ring deflection. E/A half rolled to the right and down no strikes being seen. Ping Pong I pulled up and saw another gaggle and made a similar attack but from slightly above on a lone E/A. Strikes were seen on E/A's tail unit and E/A steep turned under and down Ping Pong I seeing wing tip vortices indicating very steep turn and dive at high speed. Both E/A were Oscar Is and one had the Yellow diagonal markings described in Sortie Report No.3 for May. Ping Pong I pulled up and covered his No.2 when the latter was about to attack on E/A but this was attacked by somebody else. Next saw another lone Oscar 9 O'Clock and turned round to dive towards him but E/A saw Ping Pong I and turned in and down. Looking up Ping Pong I saw 2 Oscars slightly above turning towards him. Ping Pong I pulled up and joined up

continued.....3.



with another Spitfire having lost his No.2. They orbited North of KOHIMA but seeing no further E/A, returned to base. During the engagement Ping-Pong I saw a fire on a hillside with a lot of bluish smoke coming apparently from a burning A/C. This was slightly N.E. of KOHIMA and was presumably the A/C shot down by Red IV.

Ping-Pong II. made attacks on E/A without claiming.

Ping-Pong III F/O. Lloyd. flew with the Squadron despite having no R/T. He went into attack with Ping-Pong section but did not see E/A. He pulled up and Red III came up line abreast Red III went down to attack and following him Ping-Pong III saw 2 E/A. After climbing again he went made an attack on 2 E/A firing at one from 200 - 100 yds with a  $\frac{1}{2}$  port attack. M/C strikes were seen on port main plane and E/A is claimed damaged. Ping-Pong III made one further attack on an E/A, not firing owing to the evasive action taken by E/A. Not seeing any more A/C in the vicinity Ping-Pong III returned to base.

Red I. W/O. Longley. remained as top cover for about 4 mins and after receiving permission went down making a 20° head on attack from above on an OSCAR II. He gave it a burst from 400-250 yds and saw a flash from the side of the cockpit. E/A slow rolled on it's back and passed underneath. E/A continued it's roll and was fired at by Red II who did not see any further results. E/A claimed Damaged by Red I. Section climbed again but only saw a Hurricane which was almost mistaken for an E/A owing to it's tactics.

Red III. W/O. Paterson did not receive the Tally Ho or instructions for Red section to stay up and went down in first general attack. Red III climbed again from this and orbited. He saw 2 E/A below flying line astern and dived on them firing at the rear one from 300 to 50 yds. Red III saw a white trail come from the starboard wing of the E/A which then broke down. Red III broke up seeing no further results and E/A is claimed damaged. Red III made 2 further similar attacks seeing no results. After climbing and orbiting he joined up with Ping Pong I and returned to base.

Red IV. P/O. Caldwell. saw an E/A about 2,000 ft below him and travelling in the opposite direction. Red IV pulled up and went over in a rolling attack diving on E/A from dead astern and about 30/40° above. At about 600 yds Red IV started firing and E/A started to turn to port. Red IV saw white flashes come from behind the cockpit and from the tail and E/A did a steep turn. Just then a large sheet of metal fell off E/A which went into a steep dive. E/A was lost to sight still diving and appeared to hit the hillside. This is most probably the A/C seen burning by Ping Pong I. E/A OSCAR claimed destroyed. On pulling up Red IV saw an E/A firing towards him but 2 Spitfires came down in attack and E/A was lost to sight. Red IV attempted 3 further attacks but was unable to open fire owing to the evasive tactics employed by E/A before he got into range.

F.D: 2 OSCARS destroyed ( F/O. Hole 1. P/O. Caldwell. 1.)  
9 OSCARS damaged. (F/O. Shi Sho. 2. F/O. Lloyd 1. F/O. Hole. 1. F/Lt. Briggs. 1. P/O. Gould. 1. F/Sgt. Paterson. 1. W/O. Longley 1. W/O. Sexty. 1.)

F.E:-F.F: N I L.

F.G: "B" 160 x .303. A.P.  
160 x .303. Inc.  
80 x 20 m.m. Seq. 2 SAP/I & 2 HE/I.  
"K" 240 x .303. A.P.  
240 x .303. Inc.  
50 x 20 m.m. Seq " "  
"A" 40 x .303 A.P.  
40 x .303 Inc.  
20 x 20 m.m. Seq. " "

100 x .303. A.P.  
 100 x .303. A.P.  
 20 x 20 m.m. Seq. 2 SAP/Y. and 2 HE/Y.  
 640 x .303. A.P.  
 640 x .303. IWB.  
 140 x 20 m.m. SEQ.  
 Port cannon stoppage - separated case.  
 80 x .303 A.P.  
 80 x .303 Inc.  
 60 x 20 m.m. Seq.  
 100 x .303 A.P.  
 100 x .303 Inc.  
 40 x 20 m.m. Seq.  
 60 x .303. A.P.  
 60 x .303. Inc.  
 120 x 20 m.m. Seq.  
 60 x .303. A.P.  
 60 x .303. Inc.  
 40 x 20 m.m. Seq.  
 40 x .303 A.P.  
 40 x .303 Inc.  
 400 x .303 A.P.  
 400 x .303 Inc.  
 10 x 20 m.m. Seq. Both cannons: Breach block arrested  
 against underside of rounds.  
 F.H: Camera guns in "B", "V", and "W". Combat films taken.  
 F.G: Controlled by 9 Ops: controlling good: A/A helped in Ping-Pong  
 A/C finding E/A. The E/A used violent evasive tactics the whole  
 time and also made full use of their camouflage by flying low  
 between the hills. Again as earlier in the morning, some had  
 "about 4-6" gaudy yellow diagonal stripes" across their fuselage,  
 while some others had white blobs on them. R.T. good. I.F.F.  
 fitted and adjusted. Hurricanes in the vicinity were a great  
 drawback, they were mistaken at first for E/A giving top cover  
 and as has already been reported laid themselves open to attack  
 by acting in a hostile manner against Spitfires.

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