

C O N F I D E N T I A L

ENCOUNTER REPORT, ET

CAPT LESTER G. TAYLOR, JR

- a. Combat
- b. 5 Aug 1944
- c. 369th Ftr Sq
- d. 1220
- e. Tarmstedt, NE of Bremen, from 24,000 ft
down to 18,000 ft.
- f. CAVU
- g. FW 190
- h. One (1) FW 190 Dest
- i.

I was Red Flt Ldr, escorting B-24s to Halberstadt. Yellow Flt had lost me going through some flak and my flt was alone. I saw a gaggle of U/I A/C about twenty miles to the right of the bombers' course and went to investigate with my flt. There were about twenty E/A which seemed to be forming and climbing up. They were level and slightly higher than I was and rather strung out in a turn to port. We turned in behind their string. I took two short bursts at long range and much deflection while in a climbing turn to the left, in an attempt to break them up. Results were unobserved. I maneuvered behind a FW 190, and, after a couple of small deflection shots I got right behind him. I observed strikes on his right wing and fuselage just behind the cockpit, and the E/A caught fire, and then skidded off to the left. I watched him for a short time and he went down burning and smoking, obviously out of control. I last saw him at about 15,000 ft, going down gently, with a skid to the left. I believe from the reaction of the plane, a jerk up after after I hit it, followed by the gentle out of control dive, and place where I hit wing roots, cockpit, that the pilot was killed. The pilot did not get out while I was watching. The E/As tactics consisted of a tight turn to the left from which he straightened out, allowing me to line up on him. My flt broke this gaggle up and they never got to the bombers.

I claim one (1) FW 190 Dest.

j. Ser No of A/C: Markings of A/C: Ammo Exp:
3689 IV-H 472 API.

/s/Frank G. Hahn
FRANK G. HAHN,
Captain, Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer.

/s/Lester G. Taylor, Jr
LESTER G. TAYLOR, JR,
Captain, Air Corps,
369th Ftr Sq.

A TRUE COPY.

Gerald F Costello
GERALD F. COSTELLO, (NCS)
Captain, Air Corps,
Ass't A-2.

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