

# 55th FG

IAH V OIPNT OIWOD NR 4 OPOP

FROM OIWOD 24/2145A  
TO OIAS  
OIPNT (ATTN: DIO)  
OIAWW  
IAH (ATTN: DIO - AEAF BATTLE ROOM)

BT  
CONFIDENTIAL

- A. 55<sup>th</sup> FIGHTER GROUP -A- COLONEL CROWELL (HQ) LEADING.  
-B- LT. COL. JONES (HQ) LEADING.
- B. "A" 34 P-51'S (16-38 17-343) UP 1100 DOWN 1450.
- C. 2
- D. 8<sup>th</sup> AF F.O. 1448A - SUPPORT OF 3<sup>rd</sup> DIV. B-17'S - BOMBING AIRFIELDS.
- E. 3 NYR - 2 TO E/A, 1 MID-AIR COLLISION WITH 357 A/C.
- F. NIL
- G. 1<sup>st</sup> LT. K.W. GRIFFITH (338) MIA  
2<sup>nd</sup> LT. K.J. MIX (343) MIA. (MID-AIR COLLISION)  
2<sup>nd</sup> LT. W.C. KLANK JR. (38) MIA (FLYING WITH SCOUT FORCE)
- H. 13-0-6 S/E AIR GROUP  
3-0-1 S/E AIR SCOUTING FORCE
- I. RVED AT BRUSSELS AT 1200/20,000 FEET WITH VINEGROVE 1-4, 1-5, 1-6, B-17'S OF THE THIRD DIVISION FLYING GOOD FORMATION, ESCORTING THROUGH TARGET, AND BREAKING OFF IN VICINITY OF HEIDELBERG AT 1400, DUE TO HAVING DROPPED TANKS WHEN BOUNCED BY SPITS IN FRANKFURT AREA. ON WITHDRAWAL AT 1420, 5 LOCOS WERE CLOBBERED, AND 30 GOOD WAGONS SOMEWHAT DAMAGED. "A" GROUP WERE HEAVILY ENGAGED 1240, RETURNED BECAUSE OF GAS SHORTAGE AFTER FIGHT.
- J. NIL
- K. (1) 8 T/E JETS SHADOWING AND SPOTTING BOMBER SHOW FROM FRONT LINES TO ENGAGEMENT AREA. REMAINED HIGH AND OUT OF RANGE.
- L. THERE WERE STILL A FEW HEINIES FOR THE LAST MINUTE SHOPPERS, BEING PRANGED AS FOLLOWS:  
AROUND 1235-1240, NUTHOUSE CALLED IN RATS-HEINIE RATS - APPROACHING THE FRONT BOX OF BIG FRIENDS FROM THE NORTHEAST, WHICH PLACED THE BOMBERS SLIGHTLY E OF THE FRONT LINE AROUND ST VITH. GROUP APPROACHED FROM SW AND E/A WERE OBSERVED IN THE DISTANCE ATTACKING VIOLENTLY FROM THE DOWN SUN SIDE. ON ARRIVAL IN THE AREA THERE WERE ONLY ABOUT 15 SCATTERED E/A LEFT, ONE FLIGHT OF 4 READYING THEMSELVES FOR SECONDS ON THE BIG FRIENDS. HELLCAT ATTACKED AND DESTROYED TWO BUT WERE IN TURN BOUNCED BY 4 109'S, THE LATTER ATTACKING AGGRESSIVELY AND DETERMINEDLY DOWN TO THE DECK. SAME PLACE ONE 190 JOCKEYING FOR A SNEAK ATTACK FROM 5 O-CLOCK LEVEL ON BOMBERS WAS IN TURN UP ON AND CLOBBERED. A RUNAWAY 190 WAS SIGHTED AT 13,000 FEET AND PRANGED IN THE SAME AREA. THREE MORE LONE KRAUTS WERE SIGHTED AT 10,000 FEET BUT IN THE ENSUING BOUNCE, 8 MUSTANGS OF ANOTHER GROUP BOUNCED US, RESULTING IN THE MID-AIR COLLISION. HOWEVER SEVERAL A/C CONTINUED BOUNCE DESTROYING ALL THREE E/A ON THE DECK. SEVERAL MUSTANGS ON DECK, CLOBBERED A 109 AS HE HURRIED HOME, AND OUTFOUGHT AND BUT-TURNED HIS TEAMATE, A 190, WHO CRASHED IN A FIELD. NORTH OF FRANKFURT AT 1415, A LONE 109 AT 1,000 FEET WAS SEEN PURSUED BY 51'S WHO OVERSHOT, WE CLOSED, AND E/A ROLLED OVER AND CRASHED. ENROUTE OUT NEAR VOGELSBURG, TWO 190'S WITH WHEELS AND FLAPS DOWN IN THE LANDING PATTERN WERE SURPRISED AND DESTROYED. 5 P-51'S ON WAY OUT SIGHTED ABOUT 20 190'S WITH TANKS FLYING FLIGHTS OF 4 LINE ABREAST. E/A DROPPED TANKS ON ATTACK AND FLIGHT MADE TWO COMPLETE TURNS THRU GAGGLE FOR CLAIMS OF 2-0-4.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> SCOUTING FORCE: WHILE STOOG ATA 17,000 FEET IN DARMSTADT-FRANKFURT AREA, AT ABOUT 1415, OBSERVING THE BOMBING RESULTS, 4 ME 109'S WERE SIGHTED, BELOW IN A GENTLE DIVE AND IN A 4 SHIP FLIGHT, LIKE OUR OWN. KODAK RED 3 AND 4 DROPPED TANKS, ATTACKED, AND CLOBBERED E/A NO'S 3 AND 4. E/A LEADER PULLED UP AND ONTO TAIL OF RED 4, BUT WAS LIKEWISE DESTROYED. THEN 4 - 190'S SLIGHTLY ABOVE AND UP SUN. MADE PASS THRU THE MUSTANGS, WHICH TURNED INTO THEM AND DISPERSED E/A.
- M. NOTHING TO SAY.
- N. NOTHING TO SAY.
- O. AIR COLLISION DATA:

TUDOR SQUADRON WAS IN A SLIGHT DRIVING BOUNCE FROM 23,000 IN THE GENERAL ENGAGEMENT AREA WHEN 8 P-51'S (357 GP) BOUNCED SQUADRON FROM 9 O-CLOCK HIGH. TUDOR YELLOW BROKE TO PORT AND UP, AS DID THE OTHER GROUPS A/C, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A STRAGGLER WHO WAS PUSHING HIS NOSE UP AND DOWN APPARENTLY HAVING TROUBLE IN DECIDING WHICH WAY TO GO. HE RAN DIRECTLY INTO LT. MIX'S A/C. ANOTHER TUDOR A/C OBSERVED THE ENGINE TO BE PUSHED BACK INTO THE FUSELAGE, AND THE RIGHT WING TORN OFF.  
NO CHUTES SEEN IN AREA.

BT  
TOD.....24/2253A HH AR  
OIPNT R.....  
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JF AR  
IAH R.....2355/24 EJD AR BBBB