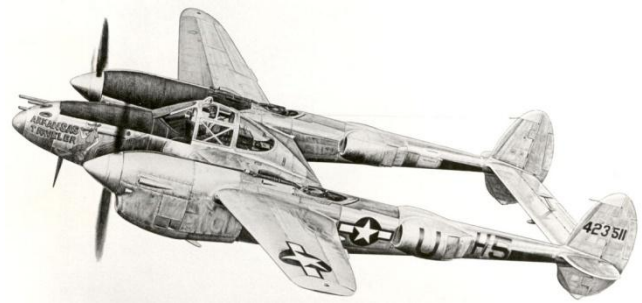




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Dear Friends, Families and 367th Fighter Group members,

In this new issue of the newsletter you will find the second and last article dealing with the first dogfight in which the Gang was involved. This encounter with the German pilots would not be the last one. We will see in a future newsletter that one these encounter had turned into a big dogfight.

I added in the mission list the targets and their location whenever the information was available in the reports. Note that all the targets for September 1944 were in France.

Thanks to Dave, the brother of 'Doc' Livingston, you will see that a special nose art has linked the 2 brothers.

As always I wish you a good reading.

The first dogfight of the 367th Fighter Group, part 2

The 394th FS reached its target and direct hits were made on railroad track with excellent results 4 miles north of Dreux. 13 bombs had been also dropped on a target in the area when the squadron was jumped by 6 to 8 Me 109's. Major Robert Smith engaged the enemy and damaged one Me 109.

In his Combat Report Major Robert Smith gave the following statement on weather and fight :

"The weather was 8/10 cloud cover, base at 3500', top at 5000', visibility good"

"I was leading Itmar" squadron as top cover on Dive Bombing mission, Ops. O#393D. Rebel Squadron was bounced during bomb run. As 6-8 Me-109's pulled up from Rebel squadron, we met head on. E/A (enemy aircrafts) broke 180° left putting Itmar squadron 400-500 yards dead astern. Closed to 350 yards when they made right hand climbing turn for overcast. I fired three, 3 second bursts at 350 yards observing strikes in rear of the fuselage before E/A disappeared into overcast".



Lt. William Lemley, 394th FS. He was Maj. Smith wingman on June 17, 1944. He was killed in action on January 25, 1945 (archive 367th FG)



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In his Combat Report, 2nd Lt. William Lemley confirmed Major Robert Smith's claim :

"The weather was 8/10 cloud cover, base at 3500', top at 6500', visibility good".

"I was 2nd element, Itmar Red Flight, on Dive Bombing mission, Ops O#393D. Me-109's broke through overcast at 4000'. They were 250-400 yards away at 12 o'clock. Major Smith fired as E/A climbed back in to overcast. I observed tracers hitting the Me-109 and black smoke before E/A returned to overcast".

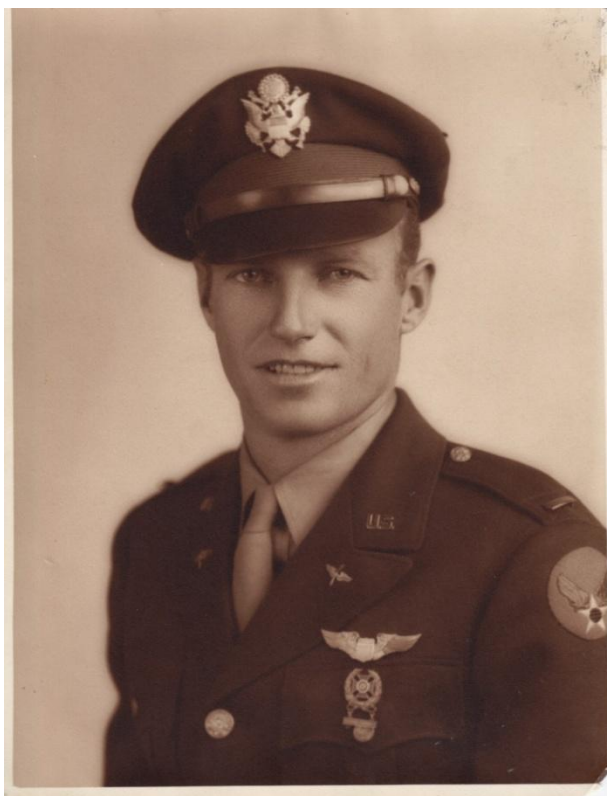
The 394th FS' pilots were again attacked 4 miles south west of Châteauneuf-en-Thymerais by 6 to 8 enemy planes. Lt. Carmody

damaged one German A/C during this attack.

The 392nd FS did not reach its target. The pilots were jumped by 8 Me-109 and 2 FW-190. All bombs were jettisoned and the pilots broke formation to face the enemy. Lt. Richard Garland fired at one FW-190 observing hits on fuselage and cockpit, noting explosion emitting white smoke, then large volumes of black smoke. The enemy aircraft was last seen entering clouds burning. Lt. Frank Leppin attacked one Me-109 observing hits but the damage were undetermined. Lt. Hugh Hallman added the following comment in his logbook : *"jumped by 8 Me 109. Too much radio chatters to call. 24 and 25 sorties. 2h15. Garland shot 1 FW-190.*

Gillespie shot down". Lt. Henry Gillespie was leading the flight, acting as to cover.

Lt. Clark Livingston wrote the following statement in the MACR of Lt. Gillespie : *"I was flying number four in Lt. Gillespie's flight. Lt. Gillespie turned into the attack, and in the following mixup of planes I observed a Me-109 on Lt. Gillespie's tail, and his right engine started smoking. His ship went over into a vertical dive, down through the overcast. I did not get down through the overcast soon enough to see if he bailed out".* Unfortunately Lt. Gillespie went down with his aircraft. His body was recovered from his P-38 in Maillebois, a small village near Nonancourt, 10 miles SW of Dreux.



2nd Lt. Henry Gillespie. This picture was taken when he was commissioned 2nd Lt on October 1st, 1943 (Eugene Darnell/archive 367th FG).



Lt. Hugh Hallman, 392nd FS. He wrote a comment in his logbook concerning the chatting of the pilots which did not help to call on the radio (Clyde Deavers/archive 367th FG).



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2nd Lt. Robert Moorhead, 392nd FS in front of his P-38 'Mattie' named after his wife. Lt. Moorhead led the 392nd FS on June 17, 1944. He was an original pilot of the 392nd FS and finished his tour as a Captain (Carolyn Cobb/archive 367th FG).

Lt. Ray Jackson, 392nd FS 'A' flight, gives the account of his part in the dogfight in a letter written to his parents on June 18, 1944 :
 "We had our first 'real' excitement yesterday when we went on a dive-bombing mission and were jumped by enemy fighters before we got to the target. We were flying just beneath some low clouds and about 8 Messerschmitt 109's popped out of the clouds and started shooting. We jettisoned our bombs and scattered like a bunch of quail. I took after four of them by myself and they ducked back up into the clouds before I could get a shot at them. I went up through the clouds expecting to find them up on top but when I broke through the overcast I was all alone. I couldn't find the rest of the gang so I ducked back in the clouds and came back home alone."

The following combat report concerning the dogfight was written by Lt. Franklin K. Leppin only on 31 august 1944 : "On a dive-bombing mission on June 17th in the area of Evreux, France, my flight led by Lt. Gillespie went up above an overcast because the top cover of another flight of another squadron was being jumped. When we got above the overcast, we were jumped and I had my left engine shot out by a Me-109. I broke away and another flew in front of me and I fired a burst at him. It appeared to me that my tracers were hitting him, however, there was no visible proof that I had hit him such as pieces flying off, smoke or fire. As soon as my tracers seemed to be hitting him, he rolled over and went down. I did not follow because my left engine was already out. This was my first encounter with enemy aircraft in the air and at the time I did not feel that it warranted any claim but subsequent experiences have caused me to feel that there was a possibility of my having damaged the enemy plane".



Lt. Ray Jackson, 392nd FS. He went after 4 E/A on June 17, 1944, but did not manage to shot at them (Carolyn Cobb/archive 367th FG).



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The claims for this dogfight was originally 2 enemy aircrafts shot down, one probable and 5 damaged :

- Cap. Joseph Griffin : one Me-109
- Lt. Earl Peters (393rd FS) : one Me-109
- Lt. Milton Grosse (393rd FS) : one Me-109 probable
- Lt. Richard Garland (392nd FS) : one FW-190 damaged
- Lt. Frank Leppin (392nd FS) : one Me-109 damaged
- Lt. Cortland Carmody (394th FS) : one Me-109 damaged
- Maj. Robert Smith (394th FS) : one Me-109 damaged
- Cap. Raymond Ray (393rd FS) : one Me-109 damaged

According to Jean-Bernard Frappé in his book, 'La Luftwaffe face au débarquement allié (The Luftwaffe facing the allied invasion)' the German lost 3 Me-109 of the Jagdgeschwader 3 (fighter Group) against a P-38 group : Gefr. Gustav Neilssl (wounded) of 3/JG3, Hauptmann (Captain) Ulrich Bensch (KIA) of St III/JG3 (pilot of the III/JG3 Head Quarters) and the name of the third is not known.

The body of Hauptmann Bensch was found a few days after the dogfight (see NL #6), still in his aircraft. His squadron mates thought that he had been killed while trying to belly land his plane after a mechanical problem. It is more than probable that Hauptmann Bensch was the pilot shot down by Cap. Joe Griffin. He was killed after his ship hit the ground with his wingtip during his very low evasion action.

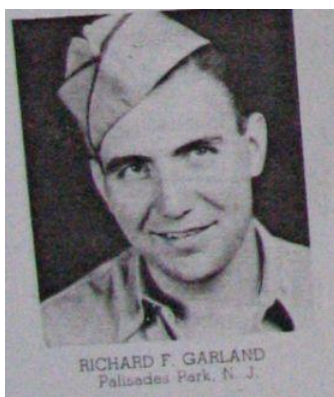
According to the German claim list for the western front, 3 P-38s were claimed in the same area and time as the dogfight for the same fighter group as the one which lost 3 pilots :

- one P-38 for Uffz. George Küpp of 7/JG3 of the III/JG3 at 14H35 south of Laons/Dreux at 3300 feet, coordinate 19 BC-5
- one P-38 for Fw. Norbert Geyer of 7/JG3 of the III/JG3 at 14h40 north of Brezolles at 3300 feet, coordinate 19 BC-1
- one P-38 for Gefr. Paul Watzlawik of 7/JG3 of the III/JG3 et 14h40 south of Damville at 2700 feet , coordinate 19 AC-7

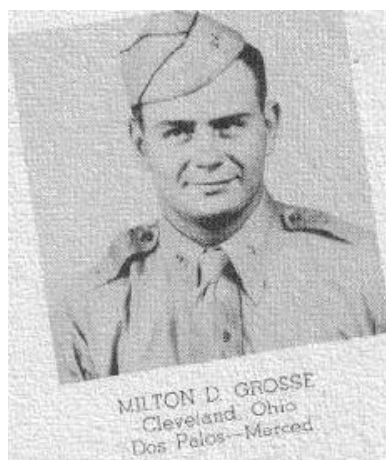
The Obfhr. Lothar Hirtes of the I/JG 3 claimed also P-38 but the time and place are not known. As the pilots of the JG3 were not involved in an other dogfight on June 17, it is probable that he damaged one of the P-38 of the 367th FG.



Lt. Franklin Leppin, 392nd FS.



Lt. Dick Garland, 392nd FS.



Lt. Milton Grosse, 393rd FS.



Lt. Cortland Carmody, 394th FS.

The pictures were taken for the Yearly book of Class 43 I of Luke Field except for Lt. Carmody whose picture was taken for the Yearly book of Class 43 F of Luke Field.



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If Hauptmann Bensch was the pilot who shot down George White (cf Cap. Joe Griffin's statement in newsletter # 6), the total claim for the German was not 3 but 4 aircrafts.

Mr. Quesnay, a teen-ager at this time, was an eyewitness of the dogfight. He was with his father and some workers in the small village of Mallebois. It was payday and his father was paying the men for the work they had done in the wood. They saw one twin boom aircraft being shot down and a short time later a second P-38 hitting the ground very close to them. The two aircrafts were the mount of Lts. Peters and Gillespie. Their bodies were recovered from the wreck and were buried in Dampierre-sur-Blevy on June 21, 1944. Their dog tags were screwed on their coffin.

According to his deceased file, Lt. White's body was first buried near the wreckage of his Lightning by a patriot before the German arrived to investigate. In fact, Mr. Gle, a member of the Resistance, misdirected the German troops coming to investigate the crash and was himself able to get to the crash and bury the pilot in an isolated grave in the llou woods before the German were able to find the wreckage. The remains of George White were removed from the isolated grave after the German troops had left the area and reburied in the Community cemetery on June 26, 1944.

After the war the bodies of the three 367th FG pilots were reburied in a temporary American cemetery. Lt White remains were reburied in the cemetery in Saint André de l'Eure. It is more probable that the remains of Lts Peters and Gillespie were also reburied in Saint André de l'Eure. The three of them found their final burial place in 1949 in the American cemetery in Colleville sur Mer, just above Omaha Beach in Normandy. On June 18, 2005, a plaque in honor of Lt. White was unveiled by his widow, Mickey Connelly, in Dampierre-sur-Avre. The dedication was organized by the French association Forced Landing. The president and vice-president of the association, respectively Jean Pierre and Jean-Luc Grusson have attended several Reunion of the 367th FG association.



Graves of Lts. Earl Peters and Henry Gillespie in Dampierre-sur-Blevy, France. One can see the 2 crosses . Notes the amount of flowers laid by the French people (Jean-Luc Grusson/archive 367th FG)





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367th Fighter Group missions list – August 1944

1 August 44

394th FS : B-26s bomber escort mission, Col. Young leading 16 P-38s. Uneventful.

394th FS : dive bombing mission for armed column in Brittany (France), Maj. Gardner leading 12 P-38s. 24 1000lbs bombs jettisoned in Channel after flight had been recalled.

393rd FS : A-20s bomber escort mission Normandy area, Maj. Joy leading 12 P-38s. Uneventful.

2 August 44

394th FS : dive bombing and B-26s bomber escort mission, Cap. Matheson leading 11 P-38s. 2 hits in the vicinity of Nantes (east), 6 hits on gun emplacements at Nantes, 2 hits on heavy gun emplacements in the vicinity of Nantes (south) and 4 hits on heavy gun emplacement Nantes. Rendezvous with bombers and escort to Nantes and return to mid-Channel.

393rd FS : unreadable.

392nd FS : bomber escort mission, Cap. Rogers leading 16 P-38s. Uneventful.

3 August 44

394th FS : dive bombing mission, Cap. Jack Reed leading 12 P-38s on rail road bridge in Monfort, 2 miles E of Le Mans.

393rd FS : type of mission unknown. Lt. Col. Crossen leading 16 P-38s but recalled due to bad weather.

392nd FS : dive bombing mission . Maj. Rogers leading 11 P-38s. Bridge destroyed in the vicinity of Tours.

392nd FS : dive bombing mission . Maj. Rogers leading 10 P-38s. Bridge blown over the Seine river at Pont-de-l'Arche, as well as double rail road. Road intersection destroyed 2 miles SE of Courville-sur-Eure. Double tracks destroyed 5 miles NW of Vernon.

4 August 44

394th FS : dive bombing mission, Maj. Gardner leading 11 P-38s. One direct hit on fuel dump at 804808. 4 direct hits on marshalling yard , 9 miles SW of Angers. 2 direct hits on rail road 16 miles SW of Angers.

394th FS : dive bombing mission to Angers, Maj. Gardner leading 12 P-38s. 8 direct hits on convoy of 30 plus trucks 7 miles SW of Angers.

393rd FS : dive bombing mission on a fuel dump in Angers, France, Maj. Joy leading 15 P-38s. Lt. Pyron KIA. Ran into trees. His name was given to a street in Saint Martin du Fouilloux , a small village in the vicinity of Angers.

393rd FS dive bombing mission on marshalling yard in Montreuil Belley, France, Lt. Col. Crossen leading 11 P-38s. Lt. Northrop killed in crash 10 minutes after take-off for unknown reason.

392nd FS : dive bombing mission on a fuel dump in Angers, France, Maj. Rogers leading 12 P-38s.

392nd FS : dive bombing mission, Lt. Malone leading 7 P-38s. Road bridge destroyed on the Loire river, 8 miles SW of Angers. Marshalling yard bombed at Champtocé-sur-Loire, 10 miles SW of Angers.

5 August 44

394th FS : dive bombing mission, Cap. McCarthy leading 12 P-38s. Train dive bombed but missed in the vicinity of Orléans.



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394th FS : dive bombing mission, Cap. Jack Reed leading 14 P-38s. Rail road tracks and trains bombed near Chartres.

393rd FS : dive bombing mission, Maj. Joy leading 12 P-38s. Dive bombed rail road bridges and lines cut 8 times between Orléans and 5 miles SE of Orléans.

393rd FS dive bombing mission, Lt. Col. Crossen leading 12 P-38s. Bombed and strafed a train of 15 cars near Bellegarde. Fuel dump destroyed at Montargis. Trains strafed in the area of Orléans.

392nd FS : dive bombing mission, Maj. Rogers leading 12 P-38s. Marshalling yard and trains dive bombed 5 miles E of Chateaufort-sur-Loire. Trucks destroyed along road a few miles south of Montargis. 3 locomotives destroyed 8 miles SW of Montargis.

392nd FS : dive bombing mission, Maj. Griffin leading 12 P-38s. Rail road tracks and train dive bombed near Gien. Other targets (locomotive, freight cars, fuel supply) destroyed in the area.

6 August 44

394th FS : dive bombing mission, Maj. Gardner leading 13 P-38s on bomber escort (B-26s). Escort uneventful. Cap. Cortland Carmody and Lt. William Forbes collided in mid-air near Carentan. Both killed.

394th FS : dive bombing mission, Maj. Gardner leading 13 P-38s on bomber escort (A-20s and B-26s) to Oissel. Escort uneventful.

393rd FS : unreadable.

393rd FS : bomber escort mission (B-26s), Maj. Joy. Number of aircraft unreadable. Mission recalled.

392nd FS : bomber escort mission (B-26s), Maj. Griffin leading 7 P-38s.

7 August 44

394th FS : patrol mission over Cherbourg and beaches, Cap. McCarthy leading 7 P-38s. Uneventful.

394th FS : patrol mission over Cherbourg and beaches, Col. Young leading 8 P-38s. The controller sent the flight to patrol over Vire and Mortagne.

394th FS : patrol mission over Cherbourg and beaches, Cap. Matheson leading 8 P-38s. Uneventful.

393rd FS : patrol mission over and beach Head, Lt. Col. Crossen leading. The rest is unreadable.

393rd FS : second mission unreadable.

392nd FS : patrol mission over Vire and Mortain, Maj. Griffin leading 8 P-38s. Uneventful.

392nd FS : patrol mission over the Cherbourg peninsula, Lt. Moutoux leading 6 P-38s. Uneventful.

8 August 44

394th FS : bomber escort mission (B-26s) to Mantes-Gassicourt, Maj. Gardner leading 18 P-38s. Uneventful.

394th FS : bomber escort mission (B-26s) to south of Saint Quentin, Col. Young leading 14 P-38s. Uneventful.

393rd FS : dive bombing mission, Lt. Col. Crossen leading 12 P-38s. Fuel dump bombed at La Ferté-Macé.

393rd FS : bomber escort mission (B-26s), unreadable leading 12 P-38s. Uneventful

392nd FS : bomber escort mission (B-26s), Maj. Rogers leading 11 P-38s. Uneventful.



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392nd FS : bomber escort mission (B-26s), Lt. Hansen leading 10 P-38s. Uneventful.

9 August 44

394th FS : bomber escort mission (A-20s) to Chartres, Cap. Reed leading 16 P-38s. Uneventful

394th FS : bomber escort mission (B-26s) to L'Île Adam, Cap. Mathisen leading 15 P-38s. Uneventful

393rd FS : bomber escort mission (B-26s), Maj. Joy leading 12 P-38s. Target unreadable. Uneventful.

393rd FS : bomber escort mission (B-26s) to rail road bridge near Chauny, Maj. Joy leading 12 P-38s. Uneventful.

392nd FS : bomber escort mission, Maj. Griffin leading 11 P-38s. Uneventful.

392nd FS : bomber escort mission, Maj. Griffin leading 10 P-38s. Uneventful.

10 August 44

394th FS : bomber (A-20s) escort mission to Cayeux sur Mer, Cap. MacCarthy leading 16 P-38s. Uneventful

393rd FS : bomber (B-26s) escort mission to a bridges at Nogent sur Seine, Lt. Blumer leading 12 P-38s. Target unreadable. Uneventful.

393rd FS : bomber (B-26s) escort mission to rail road junction in Mantes-Gassicourt, Cap. Moody leading 12 P-38s. Uneventful.

392nd FS : bomber escort mission, Maj. Rogers leading 12 P-38s. Uneventful.

392nd FS : bomber escort mission, Lt. Hansen leading 15 P-38s. Uneventful.

11 August 44

394th FS : dive bombing mission 10 miles NE of Mortain, Lt. Simmerman leading 12 P-38s.

393rd FS : dive bombing mission between Domfront and La Ferté-Macé but sent to target near Argentan by controller, Lt. Nugent leading 11 P-38s. Lts. John Axton III and Leo Nugent shot down. Lt. Axton was liberated from hospital in Paris and Lt. Nugent was KIA; his name is on the wall of missing in Saint James cemetery, France. Lt. Herman Busse seen to crash land near Argentan. He made it to the squadron.

392nd FS : bomber escort mission, Maj. Griffin leading 12 P-38s. Late to rendez-vous and missed the bombers.

392nd FS : bomber escort mission (B-26), Maj. Griffin leading 12 P-38s. Uneventful.

12 August 44

394th FS : dive bombing mission to Sourdeval, Lt. Hunt leading 12 P-38s. Bombs dropped on motor convoy 3 miles E of Evreux and bombs dropped in the vicinity of Rouen (target not specified).

394th FS : dive bombing mission to Rambouillet, Lt. Matheson leading 11 P-38s.

393rd FS : dive bombing mission to fuel dump in Rambouillet forest, Lt. Col. Crossen leading 12 P-38s.

393rd FS : dive bombing mission 10 miles W of Falaise, Maj. Joy leading 12 P-38s.

393rd FS : dive bombing mission, Lt. Blumer leading 11 P-38s. Mission scrubbed by squadron leader because of bad weather.



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392nd FS : dive bombing mission, Maj. Rogers leading 16 P-38s. Ammunition dump bombed at NE of Rambouillet forest.

392nd FS : dive bombing mission, Maj. Rogers leading 15 P-38s.

392nd FS : dive bombing mission, Maj. Rogers leading 16 P-38s. Rail road tracks destroyed 2 miles SE from L'Aigle. 47 trucks destroyed (this road was used by the German to escape the Falaise pocket). Lt. Hugh Hallman shot down in Piseux. Escaped the German soldiers and dogs by staying a few hours in a chicken coop. He made it to the squadron by walking 4 nights.

13 August 44

394th FS : dive bombing mission, Cap. Matheson leading 12 P-38s. Bombs dropped on rail tracks at Epernon.

394th FS : dive bombing mission, Col. Young leading 12 P-38s. Cap. Simmerman shot down. KIA.

394th FS : dive bombing mission, Cap. MacCarthy leading 12 P-38s. Bombs dropped on gun position 10 miles SW of Falaise. Lt. Michelson shot down. POW.

393rd FS : dive bombing mission, Lt. Blumer leading 12 P-38s. Unreadable.

393rd FS : dive bombing mission, Maj. Joy leading 12 P-38s. Unreadable.

393rd FS : dive bombing mission, Lt. Petersen leading 12 P-38s. Unreadable.

392nd FS : no information.

14 August 44

394th FS : dive bombing mission to Evreux, Cap. Matheson leading 12 P-38s. Bombs dropped on ammunition dump.

394th FS : dive bombing mission to Livarot, Col. Young leading 12 P-38s. Bombs dropped on target 2 miles NW of Rânes.

393rd FS : dive bombing mission, Cap. Moody leading 12 P-38s.

393rd FS : dive bombing mission, Maj. Joy leading 11 P-38s.

392nd FS : dive bombing mission, Maj. Griffin leading 12 P-38s. Convoy bombed 2 miles E of Mantes-Gassicourt. Lts. Webb and York shot down respectively near Voves and Chartres. Both managed to make it to the squadron.

392nd FS : dive bombing mission, Maj. Rogers leading 12 P-38s. Bombs dropped on convoys. Lt. Jaeger KIA. He ran into trees just before his strafing run against German trucks in Poigny-la-Forêt.

15 August 44

394th FS : dive bombing mission, Cap. unreadable leading 11 P-38s. Bombs dropped on numerous targets in Gaillon, and on tunnel entrance at La Roche-Guyon.

394th FS : armed reconnaissance mission, Cap. unreadable leading 12 P-38s. Motor convoy attacked at 10 miles W of Versailles.

393rd FS : dive bombing mission, Lt. Col. Crossen leading 12 P-38s. Multiple targets, tanks and vehicles at 10 miles S of Dreux, 0,5 miles S of Dreux and 3 miles E of Nonancourt. Lt. Petersen KIA from bomb blast 10 miles south of Dreux.



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393rd FS : dive bombing mission, Maj. Joy leading 12 P-38s. Bombs dropped at Tremblay-le-Vicomte assisting U.S. tanks at Tremblay-les-villages.

393rd FS : dive bombing mission, Lt. Col. Crossen leading 11 P-38s. Multiple motor transport targets attacked 1 mile N of Saint-André-de-l'Eure, 3 miles E of Saint-André-de-l'Eure, 9 miles SW of Evreux and 4 miles SW of Evreux.

392nd FS : dive bombing mission, Maj. Griffin leading 11 P-38s.

392nd FS : dive bombing mission, Maj. Rogers leading 8 P-38s. Approach to bridge destroyed at 1 mile W of Evreux.

16 August 44

No mission.

17 August 44

394th FS : dive bombing mission to Argentan, Maj. Gardner leading 12 P-38s. Bombs dropped on German convoy 2 miles S of Argentan.

394th FS : dive bombing mission to Falaise, Maj. Gardner leading 8 P-38s. Bombs dropped on road 3 miles SE of Falaise.

393rd FS : dive bombing mission, Cap. Moody leading 12 P-38s. Vehicles bombed between 4 miles W of Argentan and Argentan.

393rd FS : dive bombing mission, Maj. Joy leading 12 P-38s. Bombs dropped on convoy from 2 to 6 miles SE of Falaise.

392nd FS : dive bombing mission, Maj. Griffin leading 12 P-38s. Convoy bombed 2 miles of Mantes-Gassicourt. Lts. Parmenter and Garland shot down respectively near Bailleul and in the vicinity of Falaise. Lt. Parmenter was severely burned and helped by a French woman. Stayed hidden until allied troops came to the area. Lt. Garland was taken prisoner but managed to escape the German with one pilot of the 406th FG and one pilot of the 474th FG.

392nd FS : dive bombing mission, Maj. Rogers leading 8 P-38s. Bombs dropped on vehicles 8 miles N of Falaise, 6 miles N of Falaise and 2 miles SE of Falaise. Lt. Phillips shot down 1,5 miles SE of Falaise. He evaded from the German soldiers and stayed hidden 5 days and nights. He made it to the squadron as allied troops liberated the area where he stayed hidden.

18 August 44

392nd FS : dive bombing mission, Maj. Gardner leading 12 P-38s. Bombs dropped on barges on the Seine river.

393rd FS : dive bombing mission, unreadable leading 12 P-38s. Pontoon bridges and barges bombed on the Seine river.

394th FS : dive bombing mission, unreadable leading 12 P-38s. Bombs dropped on barges.

19 August 44

392nd FS : dive bombing mission, unreadable leading 11 P-38s. Bombs dropped on barges.

393rd FS : dive bombing mission, Maj. unreadable leading 12 P-38s. Bombs dropped on barges.

394th FS : dive bombing mission to Elbeuf, Cap. unreadable leading 11 P-38s. Bombs dropped on docks.

20 August 44

392nd FS : dive bombing mission, Maj. Rogers leading 12 P-38s. Bombs dropped on a dry dock. Different targets



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bombed respectively 2 miles SW and 2 miles E of Duclair.

392nd FS : dive bombing mission, Col. Young leading 12 P-38s. Bombs dropped on a river boat 1 miles W of Pont-de-l'Arche on the Seine River and 5 trucks destroyed along road.

393rd FS : dive bombing mission, Lt. Buchanan leading 11 P-38s. Bombs dropped on barge at Les Andelys on the Seine River and military positions one miles of Etrépagny.

393rd FS : dive bombing mission, Cap. Blumer leading 12 P-38s. Bombs dropped on 4 plus armored cars 10 miles S of Beauvais.

394th FS : dive bombing mission, Maj. Gardner leading 10 P-38s. Bombs dropped on barges 2 miles S of Duclair on the Seine River, on ship yards 0,5 mile SW of Le Trait on the Seine River and on loading platform 1 mile S of Jumièges on the Seine River. Cap. Reed flew a Droop Snoot P-38 which carried a reporter for Life magazine for the purpose of taking photographs.

21 August 44

No mission.

22 August 44

392nd FS : dive bombing mission, Maj. Rogers leading. # of P-38s unreadable. Bombs dropped on Caen Airfield.

393rd FS : dive bombing mission, leader and target unreadable on report. The squadron jumped by enemy fighters. Lt. Stanley Johnson shot down. Finished the war as a prisoner.

394th FS : unreadable.

The 3 squadrons were involved in the dogfight. The 392nd FS pilots claimed 6 E/A shot down, the 393rd FS one E/A shot down and the 394th FS 6 E/A shot down.

23 August 44

No mission.

24 August 44

392nd FS : dive bombing mission, Lt. Hartwig leading 12 P-38s. Gun emplacement destroyed 5 miles SW of Bourges and road severed in three places 35 miles NW of Clermont-Ferrand. Lt. Slepicka killed on take off.

393rd FS : dive bombing mission, Maj. Joy leading 12 P-38s. Approx. 25 motor trucks destroyed 10 miles NW of Moulins . Road intersection destroyed 9 miles NW of Moulins. One tank probably destroyed 15 miles NW of Moulins and 35 horse drawn artillery destroyed 8 miles NW of Moulins.

394th FS : no mission.

25 August 44

392nd FS : dive bombing mission, Maj. Griffin leading 11 P-38s. Bombs dropped on airfield miles W of Dijon.

393rd FS : dive bombing mission, Cap. Blumer leading 12 P-38s. The bombs were dropped on target, the airfield of Dijon.

394th FS : dive bombing mission, Maj. Gardner leading 12 P-38s. The targets were Clastres and Archer airfields.

The 394th FS spotted 30+ FW190. The squadron jumped the E/A and called the 2 other squadron for help.



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The 392nd FS pilots claimed 3 E/A shot down, the 393rd FS 10 E/A shot down, the 394th FS 3 E/A shot down and Group (Lt. Sidney Platt) 1 E/A shot down .

The loss for the 392nd FS was Lt. Don Eberhardt (stayed hidden by the French Resistance until the area was liberated) The losses for the 394th FS were Maj. Grover Gardner (belly landed his P-38 and made it to the squadron), Lt. James Johnston (made it to the squadron), Lt. Robert Dawn (stayed with a French family until the area be liberated), Lt. Wilson Harrel (stayed hidden by the French Resistance with Lt. Eberhardt), Lt. Cyril Brownley (KIA) and Lt. Edward Cooney (KIA).

392nd FS : fighter sweep, Maj. Rogers leading 10 P-38s. The squadron saw 20 to 25 JU-52 on an airfield in the vicinity of Dijon. The claims were 16 E/A destroyed.

393rd FS : fighter sweep, Cap. Reed leading 12 P-38s. Uneventful.

394th FS : fighter sweep to intercept enemy armored columns in the Dijon-Bordeaux area, Col. Young leading 12 P-38s. Engine and 30+ box cars strafed between Bourges and Dijon.

26 August 44

392nd FS : bomber escort mission, Maj. Rogers leading 11 P-38s. Uneventful.

393rd FS : A-20 bomber escort mission, Maj. Joy leading 12 P-38s. The bombers failed to appear at designed rendezvous.

394th FS : B-26 bomber escort mission, Maj. Gardner leading 12 P-38s. B-26 failed to appear.

27 August 44

392nd FS : fighter sweep, Maj. Rogers leading 12 P-38s. One train of 10 to 12 freight cars with 1 to 2 trucks on each heading Dijon destroyed. Locomotive of train heading toward Gray destroyed. At Gray, 2 JU-88, 1 JU-52 and 1 FW-190 destroyed and 1 FW-190 and 2 JU-88 damaged. Lt. Ken Markley KIA.

393rd FS : fighter sweep mission, Lt. Buchanan leading 12 P-38s. 3 trains attacked, locomotives destroyed, and 60 cars strafed between 4 miles, W of Le Creusot and 2 miles, NE of Chagny.

394th FS : fighter sweep mission, Cap. unreadable leading 11 P-38s. 2 trains destroyed 5 miles, SW of Nevers.

392nd FS : fighter sweep, Maj. Rogers leading 11 P-38s. One twin-engine aircraft damaged 5 miles W of Montier-en-Der.

394th FS : dive bombing mission, Cap. Matheson leading 10 P-38s. Marshalling yards bombed at Chantilly.

28 August 44

The Group took off for a high altitude precision bombing mission. Lt. unreadable piloting a droop snoot P-38, leading 32 P-38s. Bombed dropped Between Bourges and Dijon

393rd FS : fighter sweep mission on Bourges Airdrome, Maj. unreadable leading 12 P-38s. No target seen.

29 August 44, 30 August 44 and 31 August 44

No mission.



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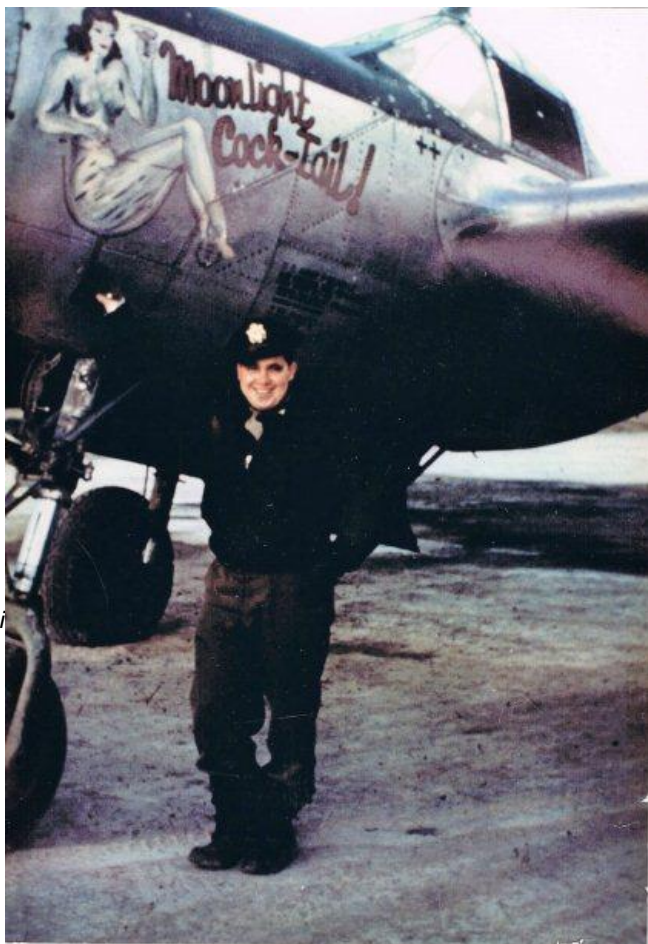
A special nose art

I think that a lot of you have already seen the great nose art on the Lightning of Cap. Clark 'Doc' Livingston, 392nd FS. This P-38J-10-LO, serial number 42-68004, was destroyed with Cap. James Fishburn on December 23, 1944.

What is new to me is that Dave, his youngest brother, became a fighter pilot and next a test pilot and that he had a special link to the 367th FG. Let's Dave giving his comment :

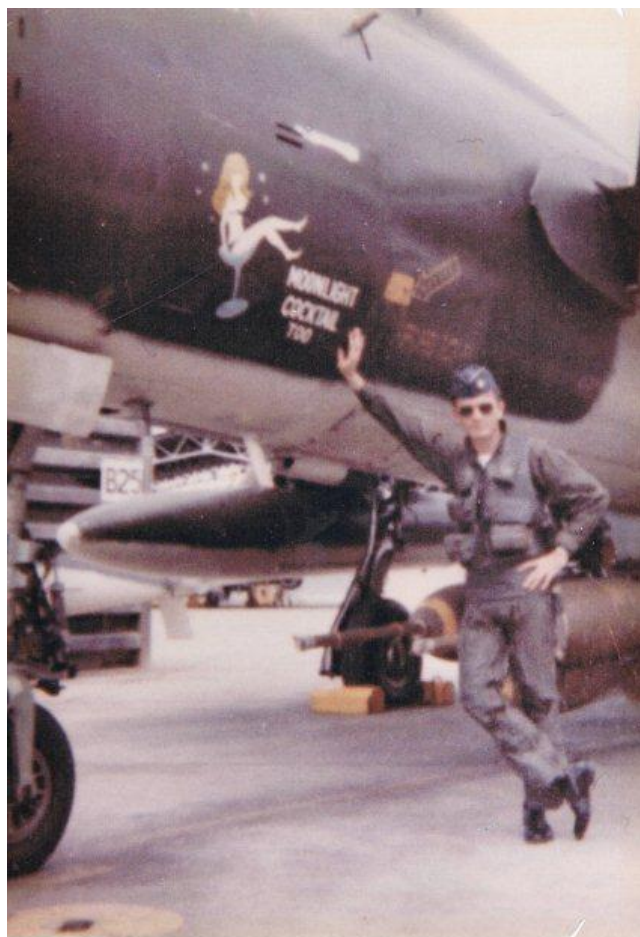
'When it became my turn in the barrel, I remembered what he had named his aircraft and wanted to carry on the name. Using what I could remember (I was 7 in 1944), I gave the young airman a sketch of what I wanted painted on the aircraft along with the name "Moonlight Cocktail Too". Below are the pictures of Ray ("Doc") beside his P-38 and me beside my F-105. There are two aspects of my side of the story that I find very interesting. First is the art work. Note how similar but different the two young ladies are in the paintings. Times and styles changed from 1944 to 1970. The other interesting aspect was that my painting lasted 3 days. It was shot down - not by the enemy but by the brass. It seems there was a concern if I was shot down and the bad guys found the airplane, they would use the aircraft name as an interrogation. We were told to paint over the name!'

Thanks a lot Dave and Art (Doc's other brother) for sharing with us this great story and pictures. Note the size of the 'One-O-Five' comparing to the size of the Lightning.



Fair

"Moonlight Cocktail!"
P-38 Lightning
Dave's Brother Ray
1944



"Moonlight Cocktail Too!"
F-105 Thunderchief
Ray's brother Dave
1970



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Books and Links

WALK AROUND # 30 - P-38 Lightning by Larry Davis, a Squadron/Signal publication

This book is made of numerous pictures of the P-38 and details a lot of parts of the aircraft.

WALK AROUND # 11 - P-47 Thunderbolt by Don Greer, a Squadron/Signal publication

As for the P-38, this book shows a lot of details about the Thud. It also makes you understand why the P-47 was a so tough aircraft. Very interesting.



<http://wwiimemorial.com/>

This web site is dedicated to men who served in all branches of the US forces during WWII. Click on WWII Registry to find a relative or friend. You can also help to honor them. The men of the 367th FG need to be honored !

Coming in the next Newsletter



- the airfields of the 367th FG in the USA
- honoring the pilots, part 1
- missions list, September 1944

