

PERSONAL COMBAT REPORT

F/O Pinches

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(122 Sqn)

Date: 17.6.44.

Squadron: 122

Type and Mark of A/C: Mustang III

Time up and down: 2000 - 2200 hrs.

Place of attack: South of Dreux

Time of attack: 2045 hrs.

Height of E/A on first sighting: "0" ft.

Height of own A/C on first sighting: 200 ft.

Our casualties: Nil

Enemy casualties: 1 ME.109 destroyed. F/O Pinches.
 1 ME.109 destroyed. Shared: F/Lt. Reynolds;
 F/O Hargreaves;
 F/O Tickner.

Personal reports:

F/O Pinches reports:-

I was leading Gander Blue section S.E. of Dreux when two A/C were reported at 12 o'clock heading south. The section immediately gave chase and I got behind one at about 1500 yds. range. After approximately three minutes, I got to within 1200 yds., so gave the E/A a couple of short bursts, a large flash being seen at the starboard wing root.

I was now gaining rapidly, and at 500 yds. commenced firing again, many strikes being seen. When the range had closed to roughly 200 yds., the E/A pulled up sharply, got rid of his hood, went over on to his back, did a couple of flat spins, then dived into the ground from a height of about 300-400 feet. The pilot baled out at about 300-400 ft., his parachute opening 200 feet from the ground.

I claim an ME.109 destroyed, confirmed by F/O Tickner.

F/O Pinches
 F/O. (Pilot)
 122 Squadron.

F/Lt. Reynolds reports:-

I was flying as Blue III and when S.E. of Dreux and travelling in S.W. direction at 300' two ME.109's were reported at 12 o'clock on the deck, travelling in a S. direction. The complete section turned to port, opened up and closed to line astern.

I closed to 300' on one ME.109 which was already emitting smoke. I gave a 2-second burst with high deflection; seeing strikes and smoke increasing, I closed to 250' and 200' giving a 3-second burst. The A/C was then over ~~South~~ landing ground, and turned and crashed just outside aerodrome on the port side. I climbed to 500' and took a 2-second photograph of a/c burning on the ground.

I claim 1/3 ME.109 destroyed with F/O Tickner and F/O Hargreaves. This was confirmed by F/O Pinches.

F/Lt. Reynolds
 F/Lt. (Pilot)
 122 Sqn.

MAIN H.Q. 83 GROUP

Ref: _____

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AIR
INTELLIGENCE.

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F/O Hargreaves reports:-

I was flying as Gándor Blue II, and when we were just south of Droux flying at deck level in a S.S.W. direction, I spotted two a/c flying on the deck west to east at 1 o'clock to me. I reported them and opened up, and closed in behind the nearest one, and identified them as 109's. I opened fire from 2-300 yards with a 3-4 second burst, and immediately saw strikes and the a/c started smoking. Then followed a stern chase for 1-1½ minutes, during which time I was firing intermittently the whole time. During the chase, 2 bursts were fired from behind and on my port side. On coming upon a main airfield (subsequently identified as ~~See AFO~~), I broke port to avoid flak. The 109 continued straight across the field - still smoking. As I continued my break to port - to 180° - the 109 turned 180° to starboard and as I came around, I saw him burning on the ground.

I claim 1/3 destroyed, shared with F/Lt. Reynolds and F/O Tickner.

R. Hargreaves F/O (Pilot)
122 Sqn.

F/O Tickner reports:

I was flying as Gándor Blue V, flying south of Droux when two a/c were reported on the deck flying south. We gave chase and I closed in on the starboard. A/C, now reported as 109's. This a/c was streaming smoke when I closed in and was taking slight evasive action by climbing and diving gently. I overtook an a/c which I believed to be my No. 1, and fired a one second burst from 250 yds. Then closing the range, I got in a two-second burst from 200-100 yds., seeing strikes enter the cockpit and port wing root. The a/c turned starboard, and crashed on the perimeter track of an aerodrome.

I broke over to the other o/a and saw it pull up to 1,000 ft. with Gándor Blue 1 behind. The o/a rolled on to its back and flicked into a flat spin. I gave it a short burst as it was spinning. The pilot baled out at about 350' and touched down in a wood, the o/a crashing on the edge of the wood.

I claim 1 109 destroyed shared with F/O Reynolds and F/O Hargreaves.

R. Tickner F/O (Pilot)
122 Sqn.

Palmer F/O
Intelligence Officer, 122 Wing.