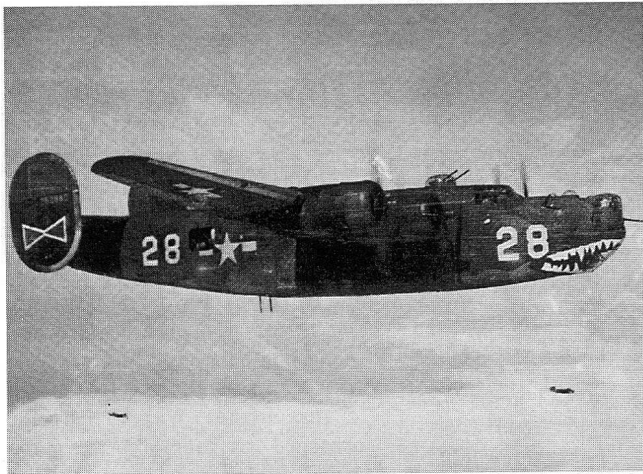


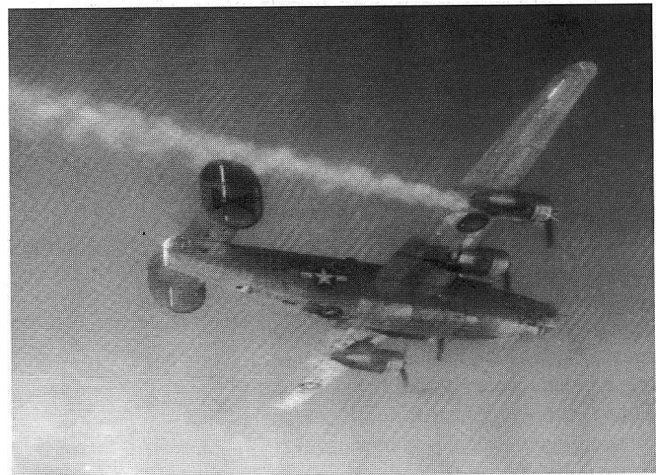
More On The 17/12/1944 Mission

How "Little Joe," Nose No 28, # 42-50934 flown by Charles H Himmler, 824 Sq and (no Name) Nose No 38 #42-51835 flown by Roger A Martin, 825 Sq were shot down

By John Bybee and Peter Kassak



Nose No 28 #42-52680, is a replacement for the one shot down in this story. The lower ball turret is shown retracted with the guns turned straight down to allow the ball gunner to enter the turret. This would occur before entering the combat zone



A 461st Bomb Group B-24 drops out of formation with #4 engine on fire after leaving the combat zone. Note: the lower ball turret is retracted. This indicates that the gunner has exited the turret

Bud: To follow up on my previous reports, This new information was sent to me recently:

Feldweibel Rudi Zwesken, JG300 engaged Ken Smith's 461st BGs 764 42-51324 near Dolone Otrpkovce and shot him down at Trencin. Zwesken then zipped northeast and shot down 484th's Charles Himmler's "Little Joe" 42-50934 of the 824th Squadron at 11:58 AM northwest of Sterberk. Himmler tried to make a crash landing after being shot up, but hooked a wing on a



Vacavov Hill. Zwesken took off at about 10:45 from either Juteborg or Lobnitz flying either a Fw190A-7 or-8. If he lifted off from Juteborg he was a member of Stab or III of JG300. If from Lobitz he was with II JG300. Additional interceptors launched from Borkheide (I JG300) and Reinzdorf (strum and IV JG300) Me-109G-10, G-14s were mixed with Fw-190A-7/8s.

I have found web sites of the old CIA maps and am overlaying modern maps to replot German fighter attacks. More to follow as I work this out. Peter Kassak a twenty-year old biomedical/physics major at Bratislava has compiled a list of German fighter pilots who flew against the 49th BW on 17 Dec 1944. Lt. Roger A. Martin's 484BG, 825 Squadron #38 "Easy 22" 42- 51835 was brought down by Lt. Kraft, in a ME-109, III JG 300 at 12:05 PM. Martin's gunners also damaged Kraft's 109 and he was forced to bail out over Libina. I have forwarded Kassak's data via email to you.

Sincerely
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