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372ND BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H) AAF
Office of the Intelligence Officer

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SUPPLEMENT TO HARRAT VE COMBAT REPORT OF MISSION # 307-356

F. BRIEF DETAILS OF COMBAT : (Report of Sgt. Mannaker, right waist gunner of A/C 620, who was hospitalized at Sansapor and has recently returned to base.)

Sgt. Mannaker reported that he saw a Zeke come straight down from 12 o'clock, Sgt. Powers, top turret gunner, fired several bursts. The Zeke was seen to fall over on its back; flames coming from around the engine cowling streamed back to the tail with quantities of black smoke. Sgt. Mannaker watched it go down for about 4,000 feet at which time it was still flaming and heading down into the water in a slow, spiral turn; that he did not see the pilot bail out, and that he could not continue to watch it since other planes began coming in at him. This action occurred about 15 minutes after bombs away when the formation was well out over the ocean.

Sgt. Mannaker further reported that Sgt. Warne, nose turret gunner of A/C 620, who is still in the hospital at Sansapor, was seriously injured and probably will not be returned to duty. The injuries consisted of a two inch piece of bone broken out of the bone in the right forearm and the muscle torn, a number of small holes in the upper arm, and a large shrapnel hole through the right shoulder. Sgt. Warne told Sgt. Mannaker at the hospital that he had fired on a Zeke just before he was hit and had seen pieces splintering from it. Lt. Courtois, co-pilot, reported this Zeke as coming from 10 o'clock high and that he saw it smoking from the right wing as it flashed across the nose of his plane. As a result of this additional evidence, A/C 620 is credited with one sure kill and one damaged.

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