

Fighter Attack
PRESS RELEASE

Approaching the German Coast, the element Leader was having trouble with his engines, and falling back, behind the formation. Just prior to reaching the coast, he jettisoned his bombs. F/O Kane stayed as long as it was possible to keep up with the remaining formation, and then seeing a second Group off to the right, fell in behind. Upon reaching the Coast, this Group was viciously attacked by enemy fighter planes, and several planes released their bombs, and the formation scattered. Because of the bomb load which F/O Kane's plane was carrying, it fell back, trailing the formation, and was attacked repeatedly by formations of two and three enemy planes, coming in from various directions, from the IP on. There was a heavy concentration of Anti-Aircraft fire on the bombing run, and over the target. A manual bombing run was used, and the bombs dropped on the leader of this Group.

About four minutes after "Bombs Away", coming off the target, the last plane in the Group, and flying low, enemy planes attacked, nose and tail. The frontal attacks were made by planes peeling off, and coming in singly, and pressing the attacks home, viciously. At the tail, they were coming in formations of two and three planes, and the intensity of these attacks was terrific. The tail was shot up, the elevators and control cables on trim tabs were shot away, and the trim tabs jammed in an up position, causing the ship to dive. Number 4 engine was shot out, and immediately feathered. F/O Kane, bracing his feet on a bar, forcibly kept the stick back, and the nose up, and attempted to come back into the formation. Seeing the ship trailing, and in a crippled condition, the enemy planes swarmed in for the kill, with approximately sixteen (16) planes attacking at one time, and about thirty (30) circling, ready to come in and attack. In the course of these assaults, the oxygen in the tail position was shot away, the walk around the oxygen bottles hit, and rendered useless; the ammunition was hit, and one gun jammed. The wing of one JU 88 attacking the tail was seen to fall apart, and the plane finally break up in the mid-air. Just after he had shot down this plane, Sergeant Vachout, tail gunner, bailed out due to the lack of oxygen. Simultaneous with the tail attack, assaults were being made at the waist and nose. Sergeant Foster, Left Waist Gunner shot down one ME 110 which was seen to have the motor burning, and one wing fall off, and finally to break up in mid-air. A twenty millimeter shell struck Sergeant

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Foster shortly after, and practically severed his left leg, driving him on top of the ball turret, where he bled profusely. Sergeant Foster died thirty or forty minutes later.

Sergeant Lozinsky, the Right Waist Gunner was also struck by fragments of a twenty millimeter shell, in the right arm and leg. Sergeant Voorhes, ball turret gunner, his vision blinded by the blood on the plexiglass window, came out and administered first aid to Sergeant Foster. he then manned both waist guns, alternating from gun to gun, while Sergeant Lozinsky, despite his painful wounds, and not stopping for first aid, manned the tail gun that was working. The nose was subject to intensive frontal attacks at the same time as the waist and tail, with one plane making what seemed like a suicidal bid for the kill. The prop pitch on number 2 motor was shot out, Lt. Meade, the Navigator had his oxygen lines shot out, and the helmet shot off his head. A piece of shell from this attack lodged itself in the pilot's seat. 2nd Lt. Lawrence, bombardier manning the nose gun fired burst after burst into the plane, and it was seen to have smoke trailing from the engine, parts falling off the wing, and finally to break up in mid-air. In the course of these attacks, the radio was shot out, and the top turret guns jammed, having been struck by fragments of twenty millimeter shells. The top turret gunner, Sergeant Pikelis worked feverishly and finally cleared his guns and continued firing, warding off attacks. Meanwhile F/O Kane and Lt. Cornell, Co-Pilot were forcibly holding the stick back, co-ordinating perfectly, trying to maintain altitude and bring the ship within protection radius of the formation ahead. This was impossible however, and the plane was still trailing, and flying low. The attacks continued for about twenty minutes, on up the coast, and finally subsided. When they had become less violent, Lt. Lawrence turned the nose gun over to Lt. Meade, and to the waist, intending to take over the tail position, but upon ascertaining that Sergeant Lozinsky had already done this, he administered first aid to Sergeant Foster, who was in a dying condition at this time.

Coming over the sea, on the way back to England the ship was constantly losing altitude. The radio would not work, and an SOS was sent to the lead ship by Aldis Lamp by the Navigator. In the meantime Sergeant Fecteau, the Radio Operator was working on the radio equipment, and about fifty miles off the English Coast, he succeeded in making it operate, and notified Air-Sea rescue. There was a possibility that the ship would have to be ditched because of the constant loss of the altitude, and the danger of having it go into a dive because of lack of controls. All the ammunition cases and equipment was thrown in the tail, to the nose up in case of ditching or a crash landing. The trip of approximately two hours from the target to the English Coast was practically a gliding operation, and if were not for the high altitude the plane would never have made it back to England. Upon reaching the coast a landing was made by the co-ordination of Pilot and Co-Pilot, as the Hydraulic system had been shot out, and the field was small, with grass runways. Upon landing, the crew assumed crash landing positions, but the plane was set down without mishap. Upon later inspection, it was determined that the airplane was too badly damaged to repair, and will be salvaged for parts.

KAYO

Crew list on the Fortress "Kayo". July 29, Kiel Raid.

Pilot	: F/O Joseph W. Kane	Lynbrook, L. I., New York
Co-Pilot	: 2nd Lt. Harold K. Cornell	Stockton, California
Nav	: 2nd Lt. James C. Meade	Bellrose, New York
Bomb	: 2nd Lt. Manning Lawrence	Burbank, California
Rad Opr.	: S/Sgt. Lloyd J. Fecteau	Washington, Rhode Island
Top Tur.	: S/Sgt. LeRoy V. Pikelis	Cleveland Ohio
Ball Tur.	: S/Sgt. Chester S. Voorhis	Erie, Pennsylvania
RWG	: Sgt. Charles B. Lozenski	Moscow, Pennsylvania
LWG	: S/Sgt. Gene L. Foster (KIA)	Billings, Montana
Tail Gnr.	: S/Sgt. John J. Vachout (MIA)	Chicago, Illinois

Enemy aircraft officially destroyed on this raid:

Tail Gunner:	S/Sgt. John J. Vachout (MIA)	Chicago, Illinois
LWG	: S/Sgt. Gene L. Foster (KIA)	Billings, Montana
Bomb	: 2nd Lt. Manning L. Lawrence	Burbank, California