

THE PILOT WHO FOUGHT THIRTY ENEMY PLANES

WHEN a wing of Flying Fortresses returned from the great raid over Central Germany last week their crews wanted to know the name of the Mustang pilot who single-handed had challenged 30 to 40 enemy fighters to protect the bombers.

Seated in the cockpit of his plane, giving the O.K. sign (the picture right), is the 6ft. 2in. pilot, Major James H. Howard, former "Flying Tiger," now C.O. of a squadron of the new long-range Mustangs.

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His identity was revealed yesterday when his report was read out in the briefing room of a U.S. base to a full company of pilots of the new long-range fighter Mustangs.

Uneasily and in a small voice he told his story. He said:

"I scared some of the enemy away by 'stooging' up to them suddenly. Others I gave a 'squirt,' which caused them to break away.

"On the first encounter,



which turned into a melee, my flight lost me. I regained bomber altitude and then discovered that I was alone. I spent half an hour chasing and scaring away attacking enemy aircraft from 21,000 to 15,000 feet. I had five combat encounters during this time.

"For the first two encounters and combat all four guns fired. On the

third I had two guns, and on the fourth and fifth encounter only one gun."

This is the lone pilot's official record of his fight: Two enemy planes shot down, two probably destroyed, two damaged.

On account of his height he has to have the foot-rests of his Mustang, "Ding Hao," moved forward and the seat back.

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