

Truluck Now Has 4 Enemy Planes To His Credit

With the knocking out of a Focke-Wulf 190 on a recent raid over enemy territory, Thunderbolt Pilot First Lieutenant John H. Truluck, architecture '38 of Lynchburg, increased his number of enemy aircraft destroyed to four.

Lieutenant Truluck previously had destroyed two Focke-Wulf 109 and one Messerschmitt 109. On his last mission, he was flying with a fighter group which knocked down 26 Jerries.

We quote Lieutenant Truluck as to his part in the latest raid.

"I was flying the No. 2 position in my flight. We were approaching the bomber formation from about 7 or 8 o'clock to them."

"Captain Mahurin, my flight leader from Fort Wayne, Indiana, reported bandits attacking the bombers and dove down on an Messerschmitt 110. He was going too fast and overshot. I managed to throttle back. The Messerschmitt broke into a controlled spin. I followed him for about two turns and observed scattered hits. As I broke off smoke was trailing from each of his engines. He was only damaged but he was out of this combat."

"I pulled up looking for Captain Mahurin, gaining altitude to about 25,000 feet, saw an F'W 190 closing in on the tail of a Thunderbolt. I dove down on him and when I was about 700 yards away he saw me and broke into the sun. I followed. He came out of the sun and started to dive. I kept on his tail all the time and was about 300 yards behind him when I opened fire. Pieces broke off all over the ship. Split seconds later he exploded. By this time I was so close that I had to fly through the flying particles of what was once a Focke-Wulf 190."

Lt. Truluck holds the Air Medal and Distinguished Flying Cross for combat missions over enemy occupied continental Europe, for the skillful and zealous manner in which he has sought out the enemy and destroyed him.