

Carcione, Anthony

Bethlehem Fighter Pilot ^{DEC 20 1943} Describes His Third "Kill"

AN EIGHTH AAF FIGHTER STATION, ENGLAND—Bagging a Nazi Messerschmitt 210 on a recent raid over enemy territory, Lt. Anthony R. Carcione, 1917 Huntington Avenue, Bethlehem, Pa., increased his number of "kills" to three. Lt. Carcione previously had shot down two Me. 109's. On his last mission, he was flying with a squadron which knocked down 15 Jerries, chalked up a probable, and damaged an addition German plane—a new squadron record in the ETO.

Here's Lt. Carcione's version of his latest "kill." I was flying No. 3. My wingman had aborted, leaving me on the tail end of a three-man flight. We made rendezvous with the bombers whom we were to escort about 15 miles from the target. Our flight was at 33,000 feet when I spotted some enemy twin engine planes and I called them to Captain Cook, my flight leader. They were at the rear and left of the bombers and I mistook them for a box of bombers at first. We came down and identified them as Me. 210's and 110's. I saw an Me. 210 all by itself headed back so I started to attack him. He did a tight climbing turn to the right—I followed him but had to make a much wider turn to keep from a high speed stall. I closed in on him from the rear and below to the right. I opened fire at approximately 350 yards and closed to about 250 yards when the tail gunner in the enemy plane opened fire on me. I got a few strikes and he flipped over on his back and headed down in a 30 degree dive, and I kept firing while he was rolling. I fired until I was within 100 yards of him. His engines started smoking and his tail gunner ceased firing. I believe I killed him as no parachute was observed. I fired all my ammunition and flew right past. The last I saw the enemy plane was going down in a gradual dive with both engines on fire and smoking like a chimney.

That's a "bird's eye view" of how Lt. Carcione and his fighter pilot buddies—one of the hottest groups in the ETO—are clearing the skies of Axis fighter planes attacking bomber formations.

Next to flying, Lt. Carcione lists photography as his favorite hobby. The lieutenant has delved into this



LT. ANTHONY CARCIONE

pastime to such an extent that a host of his pals now call him "Photo Joe." He already has a huge collection of pictures which he has taken, developed and printed. He's rapidly becoming an "ace" in photography, one of his friends claims.

Lt. Carcione enlisted in the air corps in April, 1940. He received his primary aviation cadet training at Spartan Field, Tulsa, Okla., basic at Randolph Field, Texas, and advance at Foster Field, Victoria, Texas. He received his wings and commission as second lieutenant May 20, 1942. His promotion to first lieutenant occurred in May, 1943.

Lt. Carcione attended grade school in Philadelphia, Slatington and Bethlehem High School, and was graduated from Lehigh University in Bethlehem. He received two years' ROTC training at Lehigh.

He holds the air medal and Distinguished Flying Cross, the former being presented August 13, 1943, the latter October 28, 1943.

He was born January 26, 1919 in Wilson Borough, Pa. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Basil Carcione, now reside at 1917 Huntington Avenue, Bethlehem, Pa.

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