

**AFEHRI File 19-10**

**Research Materials/Source Documents  
ENLISTED FIRSTS**

**FILE TITLE: 1st Enlisted MIG Killer - Sergeant Harry J. Lavene**

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OFFICIAL CREDIT FOR DESTRUCTION OF ENEMY AIRCRAFT

Technical Sergeant Charles W. Summers, [REDACTED], 28th Bombardment Squadron, 19th Bombardment Group (M), is officially credited with destruction of one enemy MIG-15 type aircraft in aerial combat near Sinuiju, North Korea at 1314I on 30 March 1951. Sergeant Summers was Tail Gunner on a B-29 flying in formation. As the enemy aircraft came in for an attack, Sergeant Summers fired approximately 300 to 400 rounds at the enemy aircraft. Tracers were seen going into the air intake of the MIG-15. The MIG-15 was soon to explode in the air.

Staff Sergeant Ercel S. Dye, [REDACTED], 371st Bombardment Squadron, 307th Bombardment Wing, (M), Combat Echelon, is officially credited with the destruction of an enemy MIG-15 type aircraft in aerial combat near Sinuiju, North Korea at 1026I on 12 April 1951. Sergeant Dye was tail gunner in a B-29 flying in formation. A MIG-15 was observed to turn in on B-29 from 2000 yards high, firing from 6 o'clock, with slow overtake coming in level with B-29. Sergeant Dye started firing at 1000 yards and fired continuously down to 50 feet at which point the enemy aircraft broke off into a sharp descent trying to level off; unable to level off the enemy aircraft was observed going immediately into a vertical dive. A white smoke was observed to be coming from the aircraft as it headed toward the ground. Aircraft was later seen to crash and explode on the ground.

Staff Sergeant William H. Finnegan, [REDACTED], 343rd Bombardment Squadron, 98th Bombardment Wing (M), Combat Echelon, is officially credited with the destruction of one (1) enemy MIG-15 type aircraft in aerial combat near Sonchon, North Korea, at 1410I on 1 March 1951. Sergeant Finnegan was Tail Gunner on a B-29 and destruction of the MIG-15 was confirmed by crew members flying in another aircraft in the formation.

Staff Sergeant Richard W. Fisher, [REDACTED], 371st Bombardment Squadron, 307th Bombardment Wing (M) Combat Echelon, is officially credited with the destruction of one (1) enemy MIG-15 type aircraft in aerial combat near Sinuiju, North Korea, at 1213I on 14 November 1950. Sergeant Fisher was Central Fire Controller in a B-29 flying in number 3 position in a formation of four B-29's. As the enemy aircraft came in for his attack the tail gunner opened fire but was unable to continue because of the limiting cone of his fire. The enemy fighter came within the cone of fire of the upper aft and forward turret which were controlled by Sergeant Fisher. He opened fire and heavy black smoke was observed coming from the enemy aircraft. Sergeant Fisher continued firing burst after burst into the fuselage and wing just forward of the bubble canopy. The enemy aircraft continued emitting heavy smoke and crashed into the ground.

[REDACTED]

Staff Sergeant Norman S. Greene, [REDACTED], 28th Bombardment Squadron, 19th Bombardment Group, (M), is officially credited with destruction of one (1) MIG-15 type aircraft in aerial combat near Sinuiju, North Korea at 1331I on 30 March 1951. Sergeant Greene was left gunner in a B-29 flying in formation. The B-29 was attacked by enemy aircraft shortly before bombs away. MIG attack began at 8 o'clock, slightly low at approximately 300 yards. Sergeant Greene opened fire and observed his tracers entering the enemy aircraft. On his second burst after firing approximately 50 rounds, Sergeant Greene saw the MIG-15 explode in the air.

Staff Sergeant Robert A. Winslow, [REDACTED], 30th Bombardment Squadron, 19th Bombardment Group (M), is officially credited with destruction of one (1) enemy MIG-15 type aircraft in aerial combat near Sinuiju, North Korea at 1025I on 12 April 1951. Sergeant Winslow was central fire control gunner in a B-29 flying in formation. An enemy MIG came in on a tail attack and when approximately 350 yards away, Sergeant Winslow started firing. Enemy aircraft pulled up sharp to climb over B-29 and when enemy aircraft was about 50 feet over B-29 vertical stabilizer, Sergeant Winslow observed the fire from the upper aft turret enter the fuselage of the enemy aircraft. There were 10 to 20 bright flashes as the incendiary burned; then an object which looked like the enemy aircraft tail pipe flow out. At the same time a large burst of flame came from the enemy aircraft and enemy aircraft seemed to lose control. Enemy aircraft was soon spinning and to later crash and burn.

Sergeant Billy G. Beach, [REDACTED], 28th Bombardment Squadron, 19th Bombardment Group (M), is officially credited with the destruction of two (2) enemy MIG-15 type aircraft in aerial combat near Sinuiju, North Korea at 1010I on 12 April 1951. Sergeant Beach was right gunner in a B-29 flying number 3 position in a formation of four B-29's, when about thirty (30) MIG-15's attacked; the B-29 formation broke up and Sergeant Beach started firing. One (1) MIG-15 came from tail high and as he broke away low, Sergeant Beach fired three bursts into the MIG. The enemy aircraft then started to burn and fall away out of control at 3 o'clock; enemy aircraft then crashed and exploded. Another MIG-15 came into B-29 at 3 o'clock low, Sergeant Beach opened fire and when the MIG was approximately 100 yards away he went out of control, nosed down and went into a spin. When last seen, MIG was approximately 1000 feet from the ground still spinning.

Sergeant Harry J. Lavene, [REDACTED], 91st Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron (M) Photo is officially credited with the destruction of one (1) enemy MIG-15 type aircraft in aerial combat near Sinuiju, North Korea at 0134I on 9 November 1950. Sergeant Lavene was tail gunner on an RB-29 flying photo coverage over North Korea. As the enemy aircraft made a tail level attack, Sergeant Lavene observed the attack in time, catching the enemy aircraft in his sights and returning his fire. Enemy aircraft broke off attack at approximately 200 yards from the RB-29 and went into a diving turn to the left, smoking profusely. After descending about 1000 feet, the MIG-15 was seen to disintegrate.

Sergeant Lyle R. Patterson, [REDACTED], 30th Bombardment Squadron, 19th Bombardment Group (M), is officially credited with the destruction of one (1) enemy MIG-15 type aircraft in aerial combat near Sinuiju, North Korea at 1025I on 12 April 1951. Sergeant Patterson was central fire control gunner on a B-29 flying in Number 3 position in a formation at 17,000 feet. An enemy aircraft came into B-29 from 7 o'clock high. Sergeant Patterson started firing with both upper turrets, firing approximately 120 rounds. The MIG made a forward roll, falling away

on its back in a tail forward attitude, then rolled over on a wing and went down apparently out of control; enemy aircraft was seen to hit the ground.

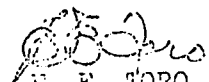
Sergeant David R. Stime, [REDACTED], 371st Bombardment Squadron, 307th Bombardment Wing, (M), Combat Echelon, is officially credited with the destruction of an enemy MIG-15 type aircraft in aerial combat near Sinuiju, North Korea at 1029I on 12 April 1951. Sergeant Stime was left scanner in a B-29 flying in formation. Two (2) MIG-15's came in at 7 o'clock low and opened fire at about 800 yards. One (1) enemy aircraft broke off at 400 yards while the other continued to press its attack to 300 yards before breaking away. Sergeant Stime started firing at both aircraft at about 1000 yards and continued to fire as they pressed home their attack. One (1) enemy aircraft broke off at about 400 yards rolling over and broke away to the right and up. Sergeant Stime continued to fire at the other aircraft and observed his fire to hit the enemy aircraft in the right wing with smoke and small pieces flying through the air. The aircraft seemed to fall off to the right and started down in a vertical dive after trying to regain control. Enemy aircraft passed from view beneath the B-29. When last seen, enemy aircraft had smoke coming from the right wing and was in a vertical dive. Pilot of fighter escort aircraft followed this enemy aircraft down and observed it to crash in the Sinuiju area.

Sergeant Royal A. Veatch, [REDACTED], 30th Bombardment Squadron, 19th Bombardment Group (M), is officially credited with the destruction of one (1) enemy MIG-15 type aircraft in aerial combat near Sinuiju, North Korea, at 1010I on 12 April 1951. Sergeant Veatch was right gunner in a B-29 flying in formation at 17,000 feet. Enemy aircraft was passing under B-29 at 3 o'clock low and when it was 500 yards away Sergeant Veatch opened fire tracking it with short bursts. Sergeant Veatch then fired one long burst and a flash of fire and smoke was observed to come from the enemy aircraft. When last seen enemy aircraft was spinning out of control and on fire.

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