



SAMPLE

“CLASH OVER THE ROOFTOPS OF PARIS” - BY LEN KRENZLER

VICTORY FOLLOWED BY A DARING ESCAPE

CAPT. LEONARD ‘KIT’ CARSON & 1ST LT. TED CONLIN OVER THE SEINE RIVER IN PARIS

SIGNED BY TED CONLIN & MERLE OLMSTED

Late in July, 1944, a group of Mustangs began a sweep in the vicinity of Paris and encountered a group of 25 Me 109 and FW190 German fighters attacking a group of P-38 Lightnings.

Kit Carson describes his encounter:

“I Chased a 190 clear across the city of Paris and finally nailed him after a weird rat race past the Eiffel Tower. You could identify the major boulevards in my combat film. It wasn’t until the shooting was over that I fully realized where I was and then clearly recall asking myself, ‘How the hell am I going to get out of this place?’ I shoved everything forward – throttle, mixture, RPM and stick. It was one of the few times that I asked Rolls Royce to deliver everything advertised. The Merlin was laying down black smoke out of both rows of exhaust stacks. I almost never ran an engine at full power in combat. I was at house top level, flat out at 72 inches of HG and 3,000 RPM. Half the flak in Paris was coming up.”

Ted Conlin clearly remembers his experience:

“The game was on and I was on a wild ride earthbound trying to stay in position on Carson. At the time it seemed we were diving almost vertical and the 190 pilot was doing big barrel rolls, and we were right with him.

As Carson closed range, he started getting strikes on the 190. This and the ground coming up caused the German to flare and level off. We were now at about 300 feet and every soldier with a weapon was firing at me. I even saw one officer whip out a pistol and shoot at us! The Germans had AA weapons on the roofs and in parks – they were all concentrating on me! I saw the Seine River off to my right and swung over and down onto it, hugging the north bank which got to be about 50’ high. The guns could not repress enough to reach me that way.

Carson had taken the same route and I confirmed his victory. I had a new appreciation for the daring and flying skills of the man who would ultimately become the leading ace of the 357th, Leonard K. Carson.”

* From Merle Olmsted’s book - “To War with the Yoxford Boys”

Edition Information:

245	20”x29” Chromira Paper Prints	\$180
24	20”x29” Chromira Artist Proofs	\$260
75	20”x30” Canvas Giclée Prints	\$480
10	20”x30” Canvas Artist Proofs	\$590
25	28”x42” Canvas Giclée Prints	\$880
5	28”x42” Canvas Artist Proofs	\$1100

HONORED VETERANS - TED CONLIN & MERLE OLMSTED



Ted Conlin and his Mustang Olivia De H

Ist. Lieutenant Raymond T. "Ted" Conlin enlisted in the Army Air Corps in July, 1942, Detroit, Michigan and graduated as a fighter pilot in November, 1943 at Luke Field, Arizona.

In April, 1944, he was assigned to the 357th Fighter Group, 362 Squadron. Ted took part in 71 combat missions, including D Day Normandy, the Second Shuttle Mission from England to Russia and Italy and back to England and the massive air operation and ground battle known as "Market Garden".

He later became a flight leader and was awarded the D.F.C., Air Medal with 4 O.L.C.s, and received 4 Theatre Battle Stars and the Russian Medal of The Great Patriotic War.

Merle Olmsted was a crew chief with the 357th FG and collected a vast amount of valuable information on the crews and aircraft. He became the official historian of the 357th FG and was the author of several fine books, the latest being "To War with the Yoxford Boys".

Merle's intricate knowledge of the aircraft and events was key to development of several 357th FG art projects. Sadly Merle passed away on January 9, 2008.

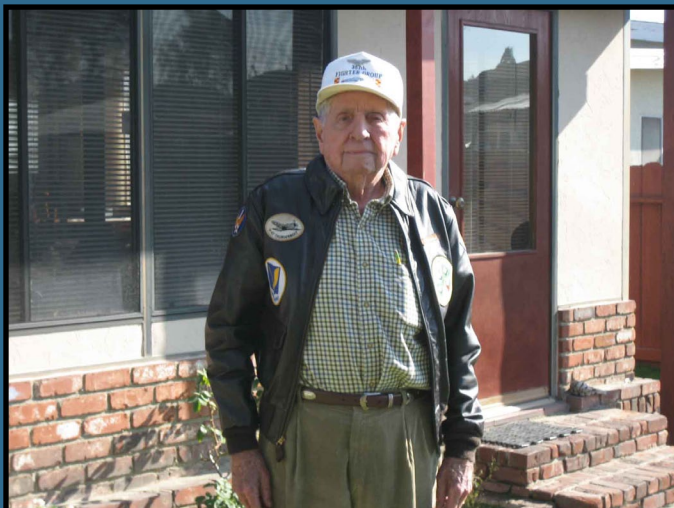
Both Ted Conlin and Merle Olmsted were and integral part of the development of "Clash over the Rooftops of Paris".



Merle Olmsted & Ted Conlin



Ted Conlin and Crew Chief John Warner



Ist. Lieutenant Raymond T. "Ted" Conlin

