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JAN-45

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DESIGNATION SHEET
HISTORICAL RECORDS

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COMMAND : XXII Tactical Air Command

WING : _____

GROUP : 57th Fighter Group

SQUADRON : 60th Fighter Squadron

OTHER : _____

OUTLINE HISTORY X

WAR DIARY X

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S E C R E THEADQUARTERS 64th FIGHTER SQUADRON
APO 65064th Fighter Squadron
OUTLINE HISTORY,
January, 1945S E C R E T
By Auth. CO *EM*
64th Ftr. Sqdn.
9 Feb., 1945

SUBJECT: Historical Records

TO : Commanding General, Twelfth Air Force, APO 650, US Army. Attention
A-2 Historian.

THRU : Commanding Officer, 57th Fighter Group (Attention Historian)

1. Outline History of the 64th Fighter Squadron for the period 1 January to
31 January, 1945.a. Present designation: 64th Fighter Squadron, 57th Fighter Group, XXII
Tactical Air Command.

b. Changes in organization.

- (1) Changes in designation: None.
- (2) Transfer of units: None.
- (3) Change of Commanding Officer: None.
- (4) Change of Staff Officers: Captain Allen H. Gridley O-1633246,
appointed Squadron Adjutant as rotation replacement for Captain
Henry J. Mack, O-383387.
- (5) Changes in T/O: None.

c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted.

- (1) Month of January, 1945.
 - (a) 1 January: Commissioned, 61; Enlisted, 250
 - (b) Net increase: Commissioned, None; Enlisted, None.
 - (c) Net decrease: Commissioned, 1; Enlisted, 3.
 - (d) 31 January: Commissioned, 60; Enlisted, 247

d. Stations: Grosseto Main L.G., Italy.

e. Movement of Unit: None

f. Campaigns.

- (1) Italian
- (2) Duration, 9 September, 1943. Still in progress.

g. Operations.

- (1) During the month of January, 1945, the Squadron continued in its
role of a fighter Squadron doing dive bombing operations in Northern
Italy. The missions consisted of attacks on enemy communications
lines, particularly railroads, disruption of enemy movement by strik-
ing at his railroad rolling stock, motor transport; and attacks on
enemy supply dumps and, to a small extent, industry. During the
month the Squadron expended 166,100 rounds of .50 calibre ammunition,
950 500-pound general-purpose bombs, and 439 rocket projectiles on
481 sorties flown, or 77 missions. As a result of these expenditures
a partial review of damage claims is as follows:

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There were 49 cuts inflicted on enemy railroad lines, 10 railroad bridges were damaged sufficiently to stop traffic temporarily, 26 railroad cars were destroyed, 17 railroad engines were damaged, 57 M/T were destroyed or damaged, 12 gun positions were silenced, and 15 miscellaneous buildings were destroyed. On many other attacks on supply areas and attacks on communication lines and marshalling yards an accurate damage assessment was not possible. None of these results are included in the above figures.

h. Losses in action:

- (1) 1st Lt James A. Graham, O-821482, is missing in action after a dive bombing attack on enemy communication lines on 20 January.
- (2) 2nd Lt Louis E. Fraser, O-721371, is missing in action after a dive bombing attack on a railway bridge across the Po River, 22 January.

i. Personnel who have distinguished themselves in action.

- (1) 1st Lt John P. Anderson, O-826354: 1st OLC to Air Medal -- Destroyed two large field guns by dive bombing and strafing, 15/10/44. 2nd OLC to Air medal -- Bombed RR bridge and damaged 11 M/T, 7/12/44. 3rd OLC to Air Medal -- Bombed and strafed billets area, damaged or destroyed 11 M/T, 23/12/44
- (2) 1st Lt William F. Berry, O-820448: 1st OLC to Air Medal -- Bombed Brenner Pass RR, damaged or destroyed 20 M/T. 6/12/44
- (3) 1st Lt Vernon F. Farmer, O-711975: 1st OLC to Air Medal -- Bombed RR line, damaged eight cars, one locomotive, seven M/T, 10/12/44. 2nd OLC to Air Medal -- Bombed, strafed barracks, destroyed 11 M/T, 23/12/44
- (4) 1st Lt John Peter Glaws, O-792703: 2nd OLC to Air Medal -- Bombed Brenner Pass RR line, strafed and damaged 14 RR cars, 4/12/44. 3rd OLC to Air Medal -- Bombed, strafed barracks, dest. 11 M/T, 23/12/44
- (5) 1st Lt Bruce H. Hale, O-792829: 2nd OLC to Air Medal -- Bombed RR line destroyed seven cars, damaged forty, 1/12/44.
- (6) James E. Hoffman, 1st Lt, O-792835:-- Bombed RR bridge and damaged 11 M/T, 7/12/44, 1st OLC to Air Medal. Bombed RR line, damaged four RR cars and destroyed five heavy M/T, 15/12/44, 2nd OLC to Air Medal.
- (7) 1st Lt Robert D. Loucks, O-827234: 1st OLC to Air Medal -- Bombed RR bridge and damaged 11 M/T, 7/12/44.
- (8) Joseph M. McGehean, 1st Lt, O-830409: Air Medal -- Bombed marshalling yard, strafed RR cars and 20 M/T, 9/12/44.
- (9) 1st Lt John M. McLaughlin, O-715573: Air Medal -- Destroyed two large field guns by dive bombing and strafing, 15/10/44. 1st OLC to Air Medal -- Bombed marshalling yard, strafed RR cars and 20 M/T, 9/12/44.
- (10) Scrivner Mizell, 1st Lt, O-817994: 2nd OLC to Air Medal -- Damaged two locomotives and 18 RR cars by strafing, 10/12/44.
- (11) 1st Lt Robert W. Scheller, O-801783: 1st OLC to Air Medal -- Damaged two locomotives and 18 RR cars by strafing, 10/12/44.
- (12) 1st Lt Ralph B. Williams, O-436947: 2nd OLC to Air Medal -- Bombed RR line, strafed and damaged 14 RR cars, 4/12/44. 3rd OLC to Air Medal -- Bombed Brenner Pass RR line, damaged or destroyed 20 M/T, 6/12/44.

- j. Inclosed is Unit Journal of Events, 64th Fighter Squadron, for the period 1 January to 31 January, 1945.

Earl D. Lovick
EARL D. LOVICK
Capt., Air Corps
Intelligence Officer

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SECRETSheet No. 1 Unit Journal of Events, 61th Fighter Squadron Squadron, 57th Gp.Grossetto, ItalyMonth of January 1945 Prepared by Earl D. Lovick, Capt., A.C.

DAY	EVENTS
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On New Year's day we started off our annual record by pulling three missions, all of which were against railway targets up in the Po Valley. 2. A USO version of the very popular play or musicomedy, "Panama Hattie" was presented by a USO troupe in Grossetto. Most of the fellows attended and seemed to enjoy it very much. 3. A load of bombs, recently jettisoned by an A-20, is out in the woods near our building. They are expected to explode most any time during the next six days. The road nearby has been blocked off. 4. Vingt-et-une has all but supplanted stud in this outfit as an indoor pastime. We were invited to fill out ballots for the choice of best motion picture of the year, best performance by actor, actress, etc. 5. Very wet and chilly day. No flying. Men at the line were released. 6. New officers for the EM club were elected tonight at a meeting of the Squadron. Our regular Saturday morning inspection came off, and a few were, of course made unhappy, but generally speaking the authoritative sources appeared pleased. 7. Several of our Italian laborers quit today for one reason and another. They were a little reluctant to turn in their GI clothes. 8. Three accidents happened at the field today. First a P-47 crashed while taking off. Then another fell out of formation and spun in. And finally an A-20 failed to get off the ground, barely managing to settle on its belly and skid to a stop before it used up the runway. There is strong suspicion of sabotage, because maintenance is not that bad, so the Squadrons will each furnish six men for night guard from now on. 9. Only two missions today on account of the weather....The bombs which were set off out in the woods today broke a lot of the window panes in our building. They were set off by an ordnance crew after their own time fuses had failed to detonate them. 10. A delegation of Eyeties came through the building today taking down a list of damages done to the property. The government will no doubt pay off the assessment. amount unknown. The visitors formed a very dignified and impressive group. They were probably once-prominent Fascists, because they were spruced up in clothes, the like of which we haven't seen in three years. And there we were, doing sacktime in our grimy herringbone coveralls...conquerors -- an ironical thought. The wisecracks that were tossed about concerning the visitors were better than a ready-made script.

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SECRETSheet No. 2 Unit Journal of Events

11. One of the periodic set of improvements was instituted today regarding mess hall policy. The following rules will be applied, (1) Italian KP's will no longer serve the chow line. They take too much sass from the men, they say. (2) Meals will be served and un-served exactly on time, no fooling around about it for accommodation's sake. (3) The kitchen will not be used as a club-room by Squadron loafers. (4) The banging of messkits and loud unnecessary bitching in the chow line will be disapproved of, since it is not being done in the best-run chow lines.
12. We were called to a meeting tonight, and Lt Gohler announced that it was the first of a series of such meetings which would be held each Friday night in the future. Purpose of the meetings will be to stimulate interest in various subjects and maybe learn something from talks and discussions. The direct objective of such seminars seemed rather vague to us.
13. Heavy mists and generally soupy weather all day, so we played cards, read our comic books, or twiddled our thumbs. Some of the more hardy souls ventured into town to see a showing of a -- for once -- very good and sensible motion picture, "Dragon Seed". We don't ask unreasonable qualities in our entertainment, only that they be good and entertaining. During this war Hollywood seems to have lost the magic formula.
14. The Italians who work for us or just loaf around the place are, contrary to all popular belief, not starving; today they refused to take a handout of diced beets. That is the best test of hunger we know of...The mess sergeant's efforts to please us has resulted in some awfully wierd concoctions. Today, for example, we were treated to a dish called Dehydrated Carrot Pie.
15. Sgt. DeAngelo's distaste for the homegrown Italian popolo led to an amusing fiasco today when one of the employees bridled under his charge of "ladrone", mutinied, blew his top, and screeched back something which sounded like "Ugats", the meaning of which is not known to us, and DeAngelo in his choleric resentment wont tell.
16. Our long-awaited beer ration arrived today. First we've had in over a month. With all the infantile schemas which have so far been advanced to keep us happy in the service, it's a pity the powers-that-be haven't discovered the truth implied in that old song which goes, "Beer! Beer! Beer! cried the privates. Merry men are we..."
17. Major Barnum came down too low today in a strafing run on an alcohol refinery and damaged his plane. Part of the wing was torn off when he struck a tree, but he managed to fly back to Pisa and make an emergency landing
18. The men are all kicking in so we can buy some eating trays similar to the ones which are used back in the States. The trays are made at Naples.
19. The first I and E meeting came off tonoght with very good results. We had a talk by a 5th Army Lieutenant about various aspects of fighting on the Italian Front.
20. Lt Graham is MIA from one of the missions today. He fired his rockets and tried to pull up, but his ship only leveled off and then went in on one wing, cartwheeling for several yards and exploding.

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SECRETSheet No. 3 Unit Journal of Events

21. The new Adjutant, Captain Gridley, arrived today and took over his duties. Since he will wield the stick over the EM more than anybody else, the latter sized him up at a respectful distance and generally agreed that he was all right, on first impression.
22. Lt Fraser is MIA from one of today's missions. He was hit during a bomb run but managed to level off at about twenty-five feet. His ship went in about a quarter of a mile from the target.
23. The dining room is being slicked up and decorated for the dance which we are going to have Thursday night. The Eyeties are doing most of the work on the project, with members of the committee supervising things.
24. We are all sweating out the new Russian offensive. Not since the days back on Cape Bon has home seemed so near and yet so far. We realize this is a good outfit, but we hope we won't be rewarded with a new campaign at the conclusion of this present one, as we have been in the past.
25. The dance we have been preparing for came off tonight, and everybody had a good time. The guest list included every Eyetie family for miles around, mama, papa, fratelli, sorelli, and piccolini. We fed them spam sandwiches and cocoa. Music was made by the 65 band. Sgt. Spiros brought his girl friend, Miss Passionata della Climax, and with hammerlock and head chancery on her, gave an exhibition of athletic muscle dancing which would hardly be allowed anywhere, even in the Savoy.
26. Tonight's I and E program included a talk on enemy transportation routes and sundry other things, and a showing of motion pictures taken by our gun cameras. At this meeting our erstwhile executive officer, Maj. James A. Lynch, made his first public appearance after his return from foreign service in the U. S.
27. We have a character in this outfit name of "Gopher Gus", whose habit of malicious rumor-mongering today reached very serious proportions. It seems he deliberately invented a hot news flash about Germany throwing in the sponge because of the Russian attack. So the mechanics, with their nerves already over-charged, threw down their tools and prepared to celebrate, pilots were reluctant to fly, and things generally got fouled up. The Gopher then took sound advice and left on a five-day vacation, thereby escaping this bunch with his life. We have had this type of tomfoolery.
28. Rain this morning, but it slacked up about noon, so out to the line and help the great steel birds off again.
29. Typhoid shots today for everybody. This country is full of sick Eyeties. They come to Doc Wall, and the good Doc mends their aches and ills with never a lire in payment, and gets only their profuse and highly articulate thanks.
30. Three men transferred out and we got one man in exchange. Now the caliber and timbre of manhood we are getting these days, culled fresh from the States, leaves more than a little to be desired. For one thing, our talk about the good old days at El Alamein and Marble Arch bores them to distraction. They are indifferent and usually intemperate, with a type of irresponsibility which astounds us. We figure their sudden separation from their dollar-an-hour defense jobs may have something to do with their clammy spirits.
31. Pay day, and butting of accounts.

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