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OR

DESIGNATION ALLET

Historical Records

AIR FORCE: Twelfth Air Force

COMMAND: _____

SUB-COMMAND _____

GROUP: 57th FS Sq

UNIT: 67th FS Sq

Documents Transmitted:

(Period Covered)

OUTLINE HISTORY: May 1945

WAR DIARY: May 1945

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS: _____

PHOTOGRAPHS: _____

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS: _____

~~SECRET~~

S E C R E T

64th FIGHTER SQUADRON
57th FIGHTER GROUP
APO 650 US Army

64th Fighter Squadron
OUTLINE HISTORY
May, 1945

S E C R E T
By Auth. CO
64th Ftr. Sq.
15 May, 1945

SUBJECT: Historical Records.

TO : Commanding Officer, 57th Fighter Group.

1. Outline History of the 64th Fighter Squadron for the period 1 May to 31 May, 1945.

a. Present designation: 64th Fighter Squadron, 57th Fighter Group, XXII Tactical Air Command.

b. Changes in organization: None.

c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted.

(1) Month of May, 1945.

(a) 1 May: Commissioned, 62; Enlisted, 243

(b) Net increase: Commissioned, none; Enlisted, none.

(c) Net decrease: Commissioned, 9; Enlisted, 38.

(d) 31 May: Commissioned, 53; Enlisted, 205.

d. Stations:

(1) Villa Franca L.G., Italy.

(2) Grossetto L.G., Italy.

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e. Movement of unit.

(1) An air echelon consisting of 91 EM arrived at Villa Franca L.G. on 2 May, and on 4 May an echelon consisting of 5 officers and 20 EM arrived at Villa Franca L.G. by motor convoy, both joining the advance echelon which had proceeded from Grossetto L.G. on 27 April.

(2) On 8 May 3 officers and 40 EM, traveling by motor convoy, arrived at Grossetto L.G. On 9 May 3 officers and 35 EM, traveling by motor convoy, arrived at Grossetto L.G. Also on 9 May an air echelon consisting of 37 officers and 100 EM arrived at Grossetto L.G. On 12 May an echelon consisting of 7 officers and 30 EM arrived at Grossetto, having made the trip from Villa Franca by motor convoy.

f. Campaigns:

(1) Italian Campaign

(2) Ended May 2, 1945

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S E C R E TE. Operations:

(1) Operations this month were almost nil, due to the cessation of hostilities in Italy very early in the first few days of the month. From May 1 to May 5 only two Forward Fighter Control, two armed recces, ten visual recces, and two patrols were flown for a total of only 40 sorties, amounting to 80 operational hours. Thirty-two 500-lb bombs were expended in this period.

An assessment of some of the damage inflicted during the first days of the month follows: 2 M/T destroyed, 2 M/T damaged, 30 RR cars damaged, 4 HDV damaged, 1 HDV loaded with ammo destroyed, 1 H/W bridge damaged, and 1 house destroyed.

h. Losses in action:

(1) 2nd Lt John R. Chiasson, O2063976, crashed into the sea near Grossetto while on a training mission. Crash occurred at 1000 hrs on 30 May.

i. Personnel who have distinguished themselves in action.

Captain John P. Anderson, O-826354: 6th OLC to AM for mission on 22/4/45.

Captain William F. Berry, O-820448: 4th OLC to AM for mission on 15/4/45.

1st Lt George F. Clutts, Jr. O-665177: Air Medal for mission on 24/4/45.

2nd Lt Ralph L. Crommett, O-2057572: 1st OLC to AM, on 23/4/45.

1st Lt Jack P. Dano, O-719273: 3rd OLC to AM, mission on 22/4/45. DFC for mission on 23/4/45.

1st Lt Merle R. Diarmit, O-2059749: 1st OLC to AM, mission on 22/4/45.

1st Lt Henry H. Diers, O-2059239: 2nd OLC to AM, mission on 4/4/45. 3rd OLC to AM, mission on 24/4/45. DFC, mission on 12/4/45.

2nd Lt Robert W. Doehring, O-2063805: Air Medal, mission on 22/4/45.

1st Lt Edward L. Dorsner, O-722015: 2nd OLC to AM, mission on 5/4/45. 3rd OLC to AM, mission on 22/4/45.. DFC, mission on 24/4/45.

1st Lt Samuel S. Durfee, O-721355: 3rd OLC to AM, mission on 24/4/45. DFC, mission on 23/4/45.

1st Lt Forrest L. Fears, O-721364: 3rd OLC to AM, mission on 24/4/45. DFC, mission on 23/4/45.

1st Lt Dwight E. Gallagher, O-774105: 2nd OLC to AM, mission on 3/4/45. 3rd OLC to AM, mission on 28/4/45/

1st Lt Ray J. Garcia, O-721373: 2nd OLC to AM, mission on 4/4/45. 3rd OLC to AM, mission on 22/4/45. DFC, mission on 25/4/45.

1st Lt Arthur C. Goettel, O-721382: 3rd OLC to AM, mission on 19/4/45. DFC, mission on 18/4/45.

1st Lt Calvin W. Goss, O-774122: 3rd OLC to AM, mission on 23/4/45. DFC, mission on 22/4/45.

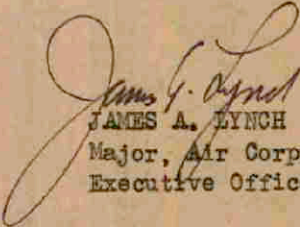
Captain Lawrence G. Grace, Jr, O-821481: DFC, mission on 11/4/45.

1st Lt James R. Green, O-721385: 3rd OLC to AM, mission on 28/4/45. DFC, mission on 29/4/45.

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Captain Paul M. Hall, O-745365: 1st OLC to DFC, mission on 21/4/45.
 2nd Lt Herbert R. Hansen, Jr, O-2038984: Air Medal, mission on 22/4/45.
 1st Lt James L. Harp, Jr, O-771015: 2nd OLC to AM, mission on 7/3/45.
 DFC, mission on 4/3/45.
 1st Lt Charles H. Harris, O-774146: 2nd OLC to AM, mission on 1/4/45.
 3rd OLC to AM, mission on 23/4/45.
 1st Lt William H. Harse, O-721394: 3rd OLC to AM, mission on 20/4/45.
 DFC, mission on 22/4/45.
 1st Lt Edward W. Howard, O-819525: 2nd OLC to AM, mission on 20/4/45.
 1st Lt Robert L. Hubbard, O-721413: 3rd OLC to AM, mission on 22/4/45.
 DFC, mission on 28/4/45.
 1st Lt Edward F. Jones, O-714111: 3rd OLC to AM, mission on 17/4/45.
 1st Lt Charles B. Kitowski, O-721429: 3rd OLC to AM, mission on 19/4/45.
 DFC, mission on 25/5/45.
 1st Lt Robert D. Loucks, O-827234: 4th OLC to AM, mission on 19/4/45.
 DFC, mission on 24/4/45.
 1st Lt Joseph M. McGehean, O-830409: 4th OLC to AM, mission on 18/4/45.
 DFC, mission on 21/4/45.
 1st Lt Ralph D. McDaniel, O-721475: 2nd OLC to AM, mission on 9/4/45.
 1st Lt Harold H. Maxhimer, O-705599: 2nd OLC to AM, mission on 18/4/45.
 DFC, mission on 23/4/45.
 2nd Lt Charles R. May, O-778203: 1st OLC to AM, mission on 25/4/45.
 2nd Lt Eugene A. Monroe, O-737204: Air Medal, mission on 20/4/45.
 2nd Lt Warren G. Murphy, O-695334: Air Medal, mission on 22/4/45.
 1st Lt Albert B. Nickels, O-721500: 3rd OLC to AM, mission on 21/4/45.
 DFC, mission on 25/4/45.
 1st Lt Robert N. Nielson, Jr, O-2059348: 1st OLC to AM, mission on
 15/4/45. 2nd OLC to AM, mission on 19/4/45.
 1st Lt Milton H. A. Opheim, O-720921: 3rd OLC to AM, mission on 17/4/45.
 1st Lt Jack H. Morgan, O-721597: 2nd OLC to AM, mission on 22/4/45.
 Captain William M. Pribyl, O-695203: 6th OLC to AM, mission on 12/4/45.
 1st OLC to DFC, mission on 24/4/45.
 2nd Lt Frank E. Schretter, O-2062884: Air Medal, mission on 22/4/45.

- i. Enclosed is Unit Journal of Events, 64th Fighter Squadron, for the period
 1 May to 31 May, 1945.


 JAMES A. LYNCH
 Major, Air Corps
 Executive Officer

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 1, Unit Journal of Events, 64th Fighter Squadron, 57th Fighter Group,
Grossetto, Italy.

Month of May, 1945.

Prepared by Leonard Bogen, 1st Lt, AG.

DAY

EVENTS

1. The Squadron moved from Villa Franca to a small town about ten miles away. Vallegio is the name of the town. We took over a school building for a barracks. The building is very old, the window panes are busted, and the plumbing and lights don't work very well. Also it is cold and we have no stoves with us, otherwise everything is cozy. Townspeople are very formal to say the least. Anyhow they don't mooch us for cigarettes. A carload of partisans goes blaring by every now and then. They sing "Bandera di Russo" all over town and take a great amount of credit for winning the war. The town itself is somewhat cleaner than the ones we are accustomed to. People are more energetic. We flew a few sorties from the grass field at Villa Franca.
2. Rain. Operations have been called off because there are no definite targets.
3. Two men are going home on rotation, and a number of flying officers are due to go home soon. The enlisted men threw a party at the new club up on the hill and celebrated the end of the fighting here in Italy. The building used for the club is a villa of moderate appearance. It is three stories high, and the upper rooms have been taken over by the First Sergeant and other big spuds of the Squadron
4. All airplanes have been grounded for the time being. The last of the "B" party bunch arrived today.
5. Several two-plane missions were called. The men were paid for last month. The men are still busy exploring the wine joints in this town. For a town of its size it has a lot of them.
6. This morning the word came that we will leave this place and go back to our old base at Grossetto Main...After the noon meal the men had a chance to sign up for the army of occupation. Amazingly enough there were a few who took up the offer. We threw a dance at the big garage which was taken over by transportation. Music was furnished by the Squadron band. Nearly everybody in the village was there. At intermission we served up sandwiches and pastries.
7. "A" party moved out this morning, back to Grossetto. The rest of us celebrated the actual end of the war. It has been ending for several days, but this looks like it. We swam in the goldfish pond outside the barracks,
8. Part of the rear-echelon-ers packed up and pulled out this morning by convoy.
9. The convoy reached Grossetto this afternoon. At about the same time an air echelon arrived. We went back to the little village of Marino where we spent

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Sheet No 2 - Unit Journal of Events.

the winter. The 47th Bomb has taken over all our buildings, so we put up our tents in a cow pasture, where we will live until providence gets us out of this land and back where we want to be. A heavy guard is required around the camp area and all our property is being closely watched, because the citizens in this locality are very fond of our belongings. Except for the guard duty there is not much to keep us busy.

10. Chow this morning at 6:30. Formation flying after 0800. One of our men ran over a volleyball belonging to some players from the 47th Bomb, and relations with that outfit is somewhat strained. After the evening meal Major Lynch conducted a meeting and various matters were discussed, none of any great importance. It ended in a bicker session when he announced that our prize enemy firearms would have to be turned in.
11. More formation flying and simulated combat tactics today. We discussed the points system to great lengths. The score was announced today.
12. The remainder of "B" party arrived today, which completes the double move.
13. Capt. Wall started a physical checkup today for everybody in the Squadron.
14. The cooking dept. is back on the ball. One-half a fried chicken was dished up to everybody at the evening meal.
15. A big list of ratings came out today. All ranks were included.
16. A few armorers and crew chiefs report to the line every day for whatever flying is scheduled. These duties, taken in proper rotation, gives the men lots of time off. We are restricted to the Grossetto area for the time being and can't go on pass. We go swimming in the Med. whenever the weather permits. There is still no word about going home.
17. A check was made on our intellectual backgrounds or possibilities. This was made in connection with the courses of instruction which will be offered in the coming months. Schoolteachers are needed in a lot of the subjects.
18. Fried chicken again tonight. The officers are being recommended like mad for medals of valor. The recommendations are made on the strength of their good showing in the recent push.
19. Today the rations came in, the long-awaited rations. We lost about a week's issue on account of the recent move. We were about to go snipe-shooting like the Eyties do when our cigarettes arrived.
20. One man was restricted for a week. He was seen hauling a couple of Italian girls out to the beach in his jeep, which he uses to fetch the mail from town. He's a good boy; he just didn't have the heart to refuse them.
21. Our Victory Party came off this evening. We throw parties like this ever so often and usuall in celebration of something or other. They are engineered

S E C R E T

Sheet No 3 - Unit Journal of Events

- by Major Lynch, who works feverishly on the plans, decorations, etc. It warms the cockles of his heart when a party goes off right, and he has not been known to stand short on the refreshments, because there is always plenty of beer or various other things to make the occasion locario. This time the Squadron band was there to entertain us with a program. We blocked off a side street, put up tents and tables and started off with the evening meal. Then afterwards we cleared away the tables and had a dance.
22. Colonel Archie Knight left the Group and went home today. He came out and made a talk to the Squadron shortly before he left, and intimated in his talk that we would be home by September.
 23. Everybody was required to attend the GI movies at the Service Group theater this evening. One picture was about VD and another about bombing missions in North Africa. There were several shots of the Black Scorpions in the picture showing attacks on the island of Pantelleria.
 24. Today it rained and blew cold, and the beach was deserted. We hung out at the Red Cross club and drank coffee, played bridge, or just sat there.
 25. The education program got started today. The list of courses offered ranged all the way from Automobile Mechanics to Psychology and Life.
 26. There is still no word on going home, although we listen to all the rumors. The bomb squadron which shares the village with us also is sweating it out.
 27. The weather had a chill in it, but the Eyeties flocked out to the beach in great numbers. Most of our men have head colds from their pre-season swimming.
 28. We got the rosters in order today for the screening process that will be conducted soon. About four days will be required to run everybody through this process. Nine men will go home tomorrow.
 29. Movies are being shown in town every night. These are for our entertainment. Every day we have GI movies. Attendance at these is compulsory.
 30. One of the men who left in the last batch is being held at the POE for investigation, over the matter of some govt. property which was damaged before the man left. His explanation is expected to clear up the matter.
 31. We were paid this afternoon, and with all of us flush there is no place to go.