

29-ET-65-11
(Nov-44)

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DESIGNATION SHEET
HISTORICAL RECORDS

COMMAND : XXII Tactical Air Command

WING : _____

GROUP : 57th Fighter Group

SQUADRON: 65th Fighter Squadron

OTHER : _____

OUTLINE HISTORY X

WAR DIARY X

P.R.C.

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65th Ftr Sqdn.
Outline History November 1944

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By Auth CO
65th Ftr Sqdn.
7, December 1944.

SIXTY-FIFTH FIGHTER SQUADRON A.A.F.
A.P.O. 650

7, December 1944

AG 514.7

SUBJECT: Historical Data.

TO : Commanding General, XII Air Support Command, A.P.O. 374.

1. Outline History of the Sixty-Fifth Fighter Squadron for the period
1. November 1944 to 30, November 1944.

a. Present designation: Sixty-Fifth Fighter Squadron, Fifty-Seventh
Fighter Group, XII Air Support Command.

b. Changes in organization:

- 1. no change in designation.
- 2. no change in assignment.
- 3. no change in attachment.

Subordinate units: NONE

Commanding Officer: Lt. Colonel Gilbert O. Wymond Jr., O-431591.
Changes in Staff Officers: NONE

c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. 1 November 1944: Commissioned--56 | Enlisted--248 |
| 2. net increase : Commissioned--2 | Enlisted--0 |
| 3. net decrease : Commissioned--0 | Enlisted--1 |
| 4. 30 November 1944: Commissioned--58 | Enlisted--247 |

d. Stations:

- 1. Grosseto L.G., Italy, Date of arrival--11, September 1944.

e. Movements: NONE

f. Campaigns: Italy, duration September 18, 1943, still in progress.
Southern France August 15, 1944, finished.

g. Operations:

- 1. Campaigns, Italy.
- 2. Nature of operations: Dive-bombing, bomber escort, rocket firing,
straffing.
- 3. Number of missions--57 Number of sorties--456.

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g. 4. Most important mission: Fourth mission of the day on the 29th of November was the best show of the month. Led by Captain Smith the flight bombed a locomotive with 20 cars loaded with half-tracks and others with lumber. Flight cut tracks in two places by bombing. By rockets and strafing one car was set on fire and exploded, four others were left on fire and the loco was severely damaged. Two carts being pulled by six mules each were strafed and destroyed. Six MF with two trailers were strafed and left burning. One trailer exploded. Half tracks on cars were damaged. Flak was encountered from target area.

n. Losses in action: 1st Lieut Ralph B. Bradshaw, 1st Lieut Orvie Nicholson.

i. Awards and decorations:

The following named pilots have been awarded the air/medal: Lts, Evans, Fiedler, Floerke, Hewitt, Holmes, Lyke.

The following named pilots have been awarded OLC to air/medal: Lts, Atwood-1&2, Wallin-2&3, Ward-2&3, Welbes-2, Wilson-2, 3&4, Mitchell-3, Burgess-4, Gustafson-4, Grant-5&6, Herrenbruck-5&6, Coleman-1, Burgess-2&3, Gustafson-2&3, Mitchell-2, Donahue-5, Hubanks-5, Welbes-1, Wright-2&3, Richardson-5&6, Capts Smith(MB)-1 OLC, McGilvary-3, Hickok-7.

The following named pilots have been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross: Lieut Meyd and Lieut Richardson, Capt. Grant, Capt Spiers and McGilvary.

The following named officer received the Bronze Star: Capt Manning.

For the Commanding Officer:

1 INCL: War Diary

Marvin D. Parkhurst
MARVIN D. PARKHURST,
Captain A.A.F.,
Squadron Historical Officer.

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Sheet No.1-War Diary
 Month of November 1944.

65th Ftr Sq, 57th Ftr Gp.
 Prepared by
 " Marvin D. Parkhurst, Capt,AAF.

DAY	EVENTS
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1. This is the month for elections and Thanksgiving. Hope our month is as busy as the people will be back home. One mission to open the month with Lt Atwood leading an eight ship show on a rail line from Villfranca north. Effect of bombing was five direct hits and one near miss. Heavy and light flak which holed one aircraft. All returned safely to base.
- 2-4. Sunny Italy was off the beam so we had time-off to discuss politics and women for three days. Some of the gang turned in some good non-operational night sorties-water was pretty high in places also causing damage to Grossetto roads and bridges.
5. First mission led by Lt Spiers with eight aircraft. Weather kept them from main target so bombed 20 rail cars north of Modena destroying six cars. Scant light flak at target. Second was a twelve ship show led by Capt Smith to a large rail bridge between Brescia and Lonato with good results. Four direct hits on center section knocking down span with damaging hits to both approaches. Six direct hits on rails in vicinity of bridge cutting tracks. Flak holes in one aircraft which was Cat #1.
6. All our aircraft on one mission today. Our first 16 ship show for some time led by Major Manda. Were ordered to destroy transformer station at F-670903. Target had previously been hit by bombers leaving it completely demolished. Our formation put 12x500 in same area plus 57 rockets. No results were observed. No flak. That's all for today.
7. Twelve aircraft were ordered to attack bridge at L-5569 which is just north of Modena. Bombs were in target area but smoke, dust and debris prevented observation of damage. 22 rockets were fired in bomb run. Some light flak was encountered in run on target. Second mission led by Capt Smith was on 3 gun positions at M-035383 which is four kilos west of Castel S. Pietro. Weather 10/10 from 3-6000' to target but clear at pinpoint. All bombs plus ten rockets in area of guns but results not observed. Heavy and light flak intense made recyng hazardous. One ship cat#1, another cat#2 due to flak. Third and last mission for day was led by Lt Wallin with eight aircraft landed at Florence after completing mission and returned to L/G Nov 8. They attacked rail line from F-9024 to F-9617 effecting three cuts in tracks. Reason for landing at Florence was due to weather. Heavy flak was encountered from target area with four aircraft holed-cat#1.

Sheet No 2- War Diary cont'd.

(SECRET)

DAY

EVENTS

8. The dawn mission leader Lt Meyd was to attack bridge at F-6914. Two direct hits on east approach to bridge with several near misses. Rockets were fired in bomb run. Four aircraft landed at Pisa when leader of second section was hit by flak in oil line. All returned later in day. No more for today.
9. Weather keeping us on the ground giving jerry one more day of rest.
10. First mission of eight led by Lt Burgess out on armed recce in Verona-Vicenza area. Bombed M/Y at Sanbonifacio. Two bombs fell among 20 plus wagons and two bombs on warehouses. Definite results not observed. Rockets and strafing followed bomb run with hits being scored on wagons in M/Ys. Heavy flak was encountered with one ship holed.
Second mission of six aircraft on RR line at F-4350 to F-4630. Three aircraft became separated from leader in weather over mountains and bombed highway bridge at F-8557--no hits. Lt Atwood with the other two aircraft proceeded to target getting two direct hits cutting tracks and rockets hitting tracks causing damage. On return strafed and destroyed six MT. Lt Atwood was hit by flak in engine but made it back to Pisa IG, aircraft cat #2.
Third mission lunch hour with plenty of meat. Lt McGilvary led eight ships on highway bridge near Filizzano. Both approached cut by direct hits. One return our aircraft rocketed and strafed with following results--two steam engines destroyed and one damaged, six cars destroyed plus many damaged. Heavy flak was encountered with one aircraft holed cat #1.
11. Election day for four shows. Lt Gustafson led an eight ship armed recce to Brescia-Verona. Bombed M/Y at Lonata getting four direct hits in yards. Fired rockets in bomb run.
Second show led by Lt Meyd on RR line with two cuts in tracks by bombing. No rockets or strafing. One aircraft hit by flak.
Third mission led by Lt Burgess on 3-88mm gun positions at M-024395 close to bomb-line. Four near misses on gun positions. Believed pits empty. Six rockets fired in bomb-run--no results.
Fourth show led by Capt Grant with eight aircraft bombed rail-line at F-3222, results were 2½ cuts in tracks. On return strafed four MT--all flamers with smoke rising to 2,000'. Looks like another Franklinslide in the elections.
12. Well I have a new CO for another four years. FDR done it again.
Twelve aircraft on first mission today. Ordered to attack bridge at Romano. Bombs knocked down west span of bridge rendering it unserviceable. Highway bridge running alongside was also destroyed by direct hits. One aircraft had engine trouble, bellied in on friendly territory--cat#3. Lt Bradshaw is OK and back at the squadron.
Lt Gustafson with four aircraft bombed ~~XXXX~~ buildings from which ack ack was firing destroying buildings. One aircraft cat #1 from flak.
Twelve aircraft led by Lt McGilvary was ordered to attack bridge at K-5788 west of Bergano. Weather forced them to bomb at L-5667 north of Modeba. 20x500 lbs bombs in M/Y which destroyed at least three cars with damage to others.

Sheet no. 3 War Diary cont'd.

(SECRET)

- | DAY | EVENTS |
|-----|---|
| 13. | First show led by Lt Atwood was ordered to attack pipe-line transfer point at Ostiglia. Bombed buildings in target area with two direct hits and white smoke fire left burning. Two aircraft strafed. One aircraft hit by flak. Second mission was area cover for medium bombers in area of Vicenza. patrolled area for 25 minutes--saw five groups of bombers but did not observe bombing. All aircraft returned safe. |
| 14. | Nine aircraft ordered to bomb pipá-line transfer points in Po Valley. Due to weather all aircraft jettisoned bombs in Po Valley thru overcast and returned to base. |
| 15. | Not ing much doing today, a day of rest. |
| 16. | Four aircraft plus photo recce ordered to attack area I-566213 but due to 10/10 overcast in that section bombed bridge at M-3753--got one near miss on bridge and shot six rockets in town. All a/c returned to base. Second mission was area cover for bombers in Bassano area. Patrolled area for 30 minutes with no bombers observed. Returned to base. Third mission on POL dump at Casalmaggiore led by Lt McGilvary. 14x500# bombs in target area with one building completely destroyed. Rockets were also fired into area. No fires from target, all down safe. |
| 17. | Eight aircraft were orde red to cut rail line in area of Reggia. Bombing effected three cuts in tracks and M/Y. Bombed, Rocketed and strafed resulting in another cut, two ca's destroyed and twanty cars damaged. Heavy and light flak holed three aircraft. Second mission of eight aircraft on ammo dump near Bologna. 12 bombs and 40 rockets in target area. Results not observed due to intense flak. One a/c cat#1, one a/c cat#2. Four aircraft on next mission bombed occupied town at I-952368. All bombs landed in target area and rockets hitting buildings. One a/c strafed town, all aircraft returned safe. Four aircraft on Nebel Mortars at M-001378 led by Capt Smith, flight bombed mortar positions but did not observe any direct hits, one fire was left burning in area. Flak holed one ship, cat#2, that's all for today. |
| 18. | Dawn patrol with nine aircraft led by Lt Meyd on a pontoon bridge over the Po river at S. Benedello PO. On reaching target found pontoon sections lined up on shore. Got two direct hits on these plus near misses. Rocketed and strafed light flak positions and pontoon sections. Town of Gargo was also strafed. One aircraft was hit by flak and Lt Nicholson was forced to abandon his ship at I-3328. His chute was seen to open and he landed safe but in enemy territory. Lt McGilvary with eight aircraft was ordered up on a patrol over Villafranca IG prior to attack by bombers. Observed no activity of any sort but received flak from four gun positions. Rocketed these and silenced them. Nothing more to report. |

Sheet No. 4 War Diary cont'd.

(SECRET)

DAY

EVENTS

18 cont'd.

Third show was four aircraft on gun area near front line at L-9539. Lt Burgess reported good hits in area with all rockets fired in bomb run. Gun pits observed to be empty. One bomb cratered road, some flak was encountered. Fourth show led by Lt Gustafson bombed fuel storage tanks at Bergamo. Scored two direct hits and 14 near misses. Results unobserved because dust and smoke obscured target area. Heavy and light flak intense from target area.

19. Capt Smith with eight aircraft was ordered to bomb rail line in central Po but due to weather could not reach target so bombed highway bridge at Vignola. Two direct hits knocked out one span and another span was badly damaged with 2/3 of road bed gone. One direct hit on south approach cratering road. One MT destroyed that was crossing bridge. No rockets fired. Lt Meyd could not reach primary target so bombed rail-line in area of Bologna. One cut in rail line and highway cratered in three places. 10 MT strafed, 1 destroyed and 3 damaged. Heavy and light flak, weather very bad.

20. Major Hunziker, Group operations officer led our first show today on a stores dump near Parma. Very good bombing with 14 hits in target area completely demolishing two buildings and damaging three others. 29 rockets were fired into buildings in area. Flak was encountered in target area, all down safe.

21. Lt Atwood led eight aircraft on occupied building west of Castel S. Pietro. All bombs plus 43 rockets in target area. Strafing passes made with no visible results. No flak was encountered. Second mission bombed rail line near Porto Maggiore. One cut was effected and one bomb made half cut. 8 cars were damaged by bomb hit. 25 rockets and strafing damaged 6 cars. Some flak was encountered. Lt Spiers led third mission on rail line north of Mantova. Effected four cuts in tracks with three near misses. 6 rockets fired in bomb run. Heavy and light flak holed two aircraft. All returned safe.

22. Major Manda led show on petrol dump near Alessandria. Two large explosions of short duration from bombs with heavy brown smoke from target. All bombs in area. One aircraft strafed and caused large explosion. Strafing locomotive and two cars at Vaghera, loco exploded, two cars destroyed. Two other locos sighted but after bombing could not locate them. Flak was encountered, one a/c cat #1. Mission No 2 led by Lt McGilvary with four a/c on gun positions north of Modena. Bombed buildings in area. One demolished and others damaged. All houses fired in target area from bombing and strafing. No flak encountered. Capt Smith of third mission bombed rail line from Suzzara to Poggio Rusco. 3 direct hits cut tracks and 1 cut on rail. Lt Bradshaw in 46 went too low in bomb run, his ship was hit by bomb blast after getting a direct hit on line. Part of left wing blown off causing him to tumble and hit the deck. He was last seen burning on ground when our a/c left target area, missing in action. Lt Atwood on 4th show for the day on rail line Bergamo-Brescia. Got 4 direct hits Rail cars all along track, destroyed ten by bombing and one locomotive destroyed by strafing in same area. That's all for today.

Sheet No5 War Diary cont'd.

(SECRET)

- | DAY | EVENTS |
|-----|--|
| 23. | Two aircraft on weather recce. Got to Florence area where clouds were 500' to 16000' 10/10. Returned to base, all flying cancelled for the day. |
| 24. | Weather, all aircraft grounded. |
| 25. | Other squadrons off on missions but weather bad. All missions cancelled. |
| 26. | Dawn mission with Lt Atwood leading 9 aircraft on Brenner Pass. Weather bad so bombed rail line in Verona area. Three direct hits on tracks cutting same and one crater in road running parallel. 9 rockets were fired in bomb run. Brenner Pass again with clouds still obscuring target. Lt Gustafson led his formation on line north of Vicenza. Got two direct hits cutting tracks. Fired rockets in bomb run but damage not observed. One a/c cat#1-flak. Last show for day was armed recce in Po Valley. Could not get to Po on account of bad weather and was forced out to sea where they jettisoned bombs and returned to base. |
| 27. | No operations due to weather. |
| 28. | Brenner Pass again and this time Lt McGilvary reached the southern mouth bombing rail line with four direct hits cutting tracks. Fired 27 rockets in small town, no results observed, flak was encountered. Second show got a little farther into Pass to effect two cuts in rail line. Rockets were fired in bomb run with no results. One unidentified a/c sighted below our formation. No contact made, flak was encountered. Third show an armed recce over Po Valley. No bombs, one MT destroyed by strafing and two damaged. 6 rockets fired on MT, no results. Flak heavy & lt |
| 29. | A dawn mission on the Brenner Pass was successful with two cuts in tracks near Ravereto. 6 rockets in houses in area. Two MT destroyed by strafing. Brenner Pass again on second show but weather had closed in so bombed highway with no results. All down safe. Third show was again on Brenner Pass. Bombed engine and twelve cars destroyed engine and five cars, plus four cuts on tracks. Rocketed and strafed five more cars damaging same, one terrific explosion resulting from strafing. All down safe. Fourth show was armed recce in area south of lake Garda led by Capt Smith. They bombed a locomotive with 20 cars loaded with half-tracks and others with lumber. No hits on train but two cuts on rail line. By rockets and strafing one car exploded, four set on fire and loco severely damaged. Two carts with six mules killed. 6 MT with two trailers strafed and left burning. One trailer exploded. Half tracks on cars were damaged. Flak was encountered but all returned safe from the best show of the month. |
| 30. | Lt Meyd ordered on rail line from Milan to Piacenza. Effected three cuts in tracks and left one fire burning. Before bomb run saw engine with steam up pulling 30 cars. After bombing prepared to attack train but it had disappeared. Our aircraft strafed cars destroying two and damaging six. One pilot observed engine in shed and rocketed and strafed with no visible results. All down safe. |

Sheet No 6 War Diary cont'd.

(SECRET)

DAY

EVENTS

30 cont'd.

Second mission led by Capt Smith on armed recce to Alessandria - Brescia area. 100 plus rail cars were bombed with 11x500 bombs in cars. Destroying at least two and leaving others in flames. Factory was strafed resulting in a large column of steam and smoke rising from factory. All aircraft down safe.

Third show was an armed recce led by Lt Ward. Got three cuts by bombing and one house destroyed. Fired rockets into 200 plus cars in M/Ys. Cars destroyed and damaged. Flak was encountered, all safe.

Fourth and last show for month was led by Major Hunziker, an armed recce to area south of Lake Garda. Dive-bombed 15 camouflaged buildings reported to be MT park. Three direct hits destroyed four buildings and damaged another. 14 rail cars in same area attacked-one car destroyed and one cut in tracks. Factory heavily damaged with rockets. All down for the month--December next--

S E C R E T