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DECLASSIFIED  
DOD DIR 5200.9

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59-11-61-1  
MAR. 1945  
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65th Fighter Squadron

P.R.C.

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March 1945

DECLASSIFIED  
DOD DIR 5200.9

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SP-F1-65-H1  
MAR 45

DESIGNATION SHEET  
HISTORICAL RECORDS

(9)

COMMAND : XXII Tactical Air Command  
WING : \_\_\_\_\_  
GROUP : 57th Fighter Group  
SQUADRON : 65th Fighter Squadron  
OTHER : \_\_\_\_\_

OUTLINE HISTORY X

WAR DIARY X

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DOD DIR 5200.9

P.R.C.

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65th Ftr Sqdn.  
Outline History March 1945.

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By Auth CO  
65th Ftr Sqdn.  
11, April 1945.

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

11. April 1945

AR 345-105

DECLASSIFIED  
DOD DIR 5200.9

SUBJECT : Historical Data.

TO : Commanding General, XXII T.A.C.

1. Outline History of the Sixty-Fifth Fighter Squadron for the period 1, March 1945 to 31, March 1945.
  - a. Present designation: Sixty-Fifth Fighter Squadron, Fifty-Seventh Fighter Group. XXII T.A.C.
  - b. Changes in organizations
    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., 0431591. Changes in staff officers: 1st Lt. JAMES E. BEARDEN, II, 0682038, is appointed Summary Court Officer, additional duty, vice Captain. MARVIN D. PARKHURST, 0380793, 1st Lt. ROBERT H. WHEATON, 01576802, is appointed Armament Officer, and Unit Gas Officer, additional duty, vice 1st Lt. JOHN G. SINCLAIR, JR., 0857502, relieved.

- c. Strength, Commissioned and enlisted:
 

1, March 1945	Commissioned-61	enlisted-250
Net increase:	Commissioned--2	enlisted---0
Net decrease:	Commissioned--0	enlisted---5
31, March 1945	Commissioned--63	enlisted-245

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- d. Stations:
  1. Grossetto L.G., Italy. Date of arrival-11 September 1944.

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- e. Movements: None.

- f. Campaigns: Italy, Duration September 16, 1943. still in progress. Southern France-August 15, 1944-finished.

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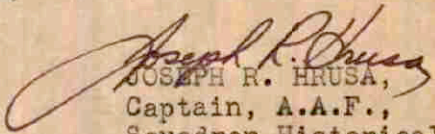
S E C R E T

## G? Operations:

1. Campaign-Italian.
  2. Nature of Operations: Dive-bombing, bomber escort, area cover, anti-flak diversion, rocket firing, strafing, armed recon, Auntie, Rover Joe.
  3. Number of missions--111 Sorties--752
  4. All missions during month were of much importance, close support was given to the 5th Army and the Brenner Line was kept unserviceable.
- n. Losses in action: 1st Lt. Loye M. Copeland, MIA. on the ~~IX~~ March 1945. 1st Lt. Clarence L. Hewitt, III MIA. 7. March 1945. 1st Lt. Earl H. Evans, KIA. 14 Mar 45.
1. Awards and decorations: The following awards have been made during the month of March: The following have received the Silver Star--Maj. Francis Manda, O664212 The following have received the DFC--Lts Clarence L. Hewitt, Fergus (NMI) Mayer, The following have been awarded the Air Medal--Lts Robert J. Pinkowski, and Robert R. McCluskey, The following have been awarded the 1st OLC, to the Air Medal--Lts Truman L. Allen, David P. Black, Herbert H. Brothers, Harry J. Cavanagh, Octavio J. Cowart, Jack J. Glesener, Carl L. Greener, Loye M. Copeland, and Capt Joe H. Keith, The following have been awarded the 2nd OLC to the Air Medal---Lts Thomas E. Bowers, Bradley A. Muhl, John F. Murphy, and Capt Sylvester H. Hendricks, The following have been awarded the 3rd OLC to the Air Medal--Lts Wilbur C. Crowe, Max M. Floerke, Jr. Stanley J. Morrow, Clarence L. Hewitt, and Earle H. Evans, The following have been awarded the 4th OLC to Air Medal--Lt. Richard L. Coleman, and Capt's Myron B. Smith, and Benjamin W. Attwood, The following have been awarded the 5th OLC to the Air Medal Capt Alvin M. Welbes, The following have been awarded the 7th OLC to the Air Medal--Capt James C. Hare,

For the Commanding Officer:

1 INCL War Diary.

  
 JOSEPH R. HRUSA,  
 Captain, A.A.F.,  
 Squadron Historical Officer.

S E C R E T

S E C R E TSheet No. 1 War Diary  
Month of March 194565th Fitr Sq., 57th Ftr Gp.  
Prepared by  
Joseph R. Hrusa  
Captain, Air Corps.

- | DAY | EVENTS   |
|-----|--|
|     | <p>1. Today the weather was bad and we didn't get any shows into the air. "Arch sure came in like a lamb, let's hope that it goes out like a lamb. Todays rest was well earned as all ground crews have been working hard. Perhaps before the month is over we will be a little closer to the end. Let's hope so! The enlisted men won tonight by forfeit. Twelve in a row, only one more to go.</p>   |
|     | <p>2. One mission totaling six sorties today. We were weathered in all morning and didn't get a show off until late in the afternoon. Today Lt's Wallin and Wilson were promoted to Captain and there was quite a party in the Officers club afterwards. Early in the evening the enlisted men's basketball team played the Officers and after a long debate and argument, it was rumored that the Officers won. The score is unknown, but who really won is a question?</p>   |
|     | <p>3. Six missions today for a total of 27 sorties. All a/c returned safely. Life in the squadron is normal and morale is excellent. Chow is good at present and we all hope that we continue eating good.</p>   |
|     | <p>4. Five missions totaling 32 sorties for the day. The enlisted mens basketball team won the league title today by defeating 64 Squadron of this group. The score was 36-28. It looks pretty much as if the team will get to Florence for the championships. Church services were held in the morning and again in the evening.</p>  |
|     | <p>5. Two missions for a total of 12 sorties. Other than the usual movie at the service group theatre nothing much of interest happened today.</p>   |
|     | <p>6. Five missions and 32 sorties today. The usual routine duties were performed today, with nothing exceptional taking place. The daily movie at the group theatre was just fair, but tomorrow we are expecting something better. In fact it is a U.S.O. play. Practically all of us enjoy these plays and wish that we could see more of them. The enlisted men's basketball team was defeated for the first time this year, 47 - 28. The Victora were the boys from the 9th Bomb Sq. We're still in the fight.</p> |
|     | <p>7. Four missions for a total of 31 sorties. The second mission today was our most tragic in quite a long time. 1st Lt. Clarence L. Hewitt, III and 2nd Lt. Copeland were both shot down and are missing in action. Lt. Copeland's plane was seen to dive thru an overcast and disappear. It is not known whether he got out fo his plane.</p>   |

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War Diary Sheet No. 2-cont'd.

DAYEVENTS

Lt. Hewitt was seen to bale out and land in the rear of a farm house. The loss of two pilots on one mission although stunning failed to deter the morale of the pilots. Tonight at the service group theatre there was a U.S.O. play named "Blithe Spirit" with Annabella the wife of screen actor Tyrone Power, and herself a cinema star. The play was very good and a good performance was given by the entire cast. Also tonight there was a dance held for the enlisted men with the 65th's dance band furnishing the music.

8. Four missions for 31 sorties today. The play of last night was repeated for the benefit of those who were unable to see last night's performance. The enlisted mens basketball team was defeated for the 2nd straight time yesterday, by a score of 39-37. It was a heartbreaking defeat as it eliminated the team from further competition, and the trip to the play-offs in Florence is gone.
9. Four missions for a total of 28 sorties today. Again an uneventful day with nothing much happening. The group theatre had the usual nightly movie and there were many in attendance from the squadron.
10. Three missions for 23 sorties today. There were movies at the Officers club this evening showing scenes of strafing passes at motor transport, buildings, rail cars, and various other targets. A second film showed scenes of experimenting firing with rockets. Some one slipped in a stag movie and after its showing, the squadron flight surgeon gave the Officers a lecture on sex morale.
11. Five missions totaling 26 sorties for the day. We started the day off right with fresh eggs for breakfast. It would be wonderful if we could have them a little more often! Tonight at the group service theatre an all girl orchestra was presented. Although the music was not of the Harry James type the sight of so many American girls at one time was a sight for sore eyes. Church Services, both catholic and protestant, were held in the morning and evening.
12. Four missions for a total of 26 sorties today. There was a repeat performance of the all girl orchestra at the group service theatre this evening. There were many faces familiar from the night before. I guess the boys enjoyed the girls music after all! Or was it the music? The dinner tonight was a big surprise for us all! Of all things a nice big tender steak, with French Fries, peas & carrots for the added trimmings. Every one enjoyed the meal very much as was evidenced by the bare kitchens after the meal. We're for bigger and better steak dinners.

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War Diary Sheet No. 3-cont'd.

- | DAY | EVENTS  |
|-----|---|
| 13. | Three missions for 22 sorties today. Outside of the Usual movie nothing of much interest happened today. The morale of all members of the squadron is excellent, and all are praying that there is a quick ending to the war.   |
| 14. | Four missions for a total of 31 sorties today. In the first mission of the afternoon, 12 P-47's took off for an attack on a H/W Bridge in the N. Po valley. In the dive bombing run on the target, the plane of the leader of the section providing flak diversion, in the face of heavy AA fire, was badly shot up. The pilot was 1st Lt., Earl H. Evans, His A/C badly shot up by flak and unable to release one cluster of bombs, he attempted to bail out just east of the base. He was seen to hit the stabilizer of the plane, while trying to clear it and his chute did not open. Lt. Evans was on his 99th mission and was soon to return to the states. |
| 15. | Four missions for 28 sorties today. There was an unusually good movie at the theatre tonight and everyone enjoyed it very much. The meals are still continuing to be very excellently served and is playing a large part on the high morale of these members of the squadron.   |
| 16. | Four missions for 27 sorties today. The enlisted men have undertaken the job of remodeling their club and recreation room. They hope to complete it in the near future. The Officers have added to the attractiveness of their club, by adding modernistic booths. The seats are still in the process of being re-upholstered, but it is hoped that the materials for the job will be had soon so that the job may be completed.  |
| 17. | Three missions for 26 sorties today. The Orientation Officer gave a very interesting lecture this evening on the conduct of the war. The usual movie was on this evening, but it was a quickie and wasn't very interesting.   |
| 18. | Four missions for a total of 32 sorties. It was a beautiful Sunday afternoon and we are hoping that the weather continues the same way. Church services, both catholic and protestant were held this morning and again this evening. There was a movie at the group service theatre, it was fair.   |
| 19. | Four missions for 24 sorties. Today is blue monday and as usual on a Monday night nothing much of interest happened. The usual movie was held at the service theatre, but it wasn't any too good.   |
| 20. | Four missions for 28 sorties. We had fresh eggs for breakfast again this morning along with some nice bacon. Bacon is quite an improvement over the usual spam ration. There was an excellent movie at the group service theatre this evening. The  |

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War Diary Sheet No. 4-Cont'd.

DAY	EVENTS
	The picture was "Animal Kingdom" with Ann(Oomph) Sheridan and Alexis Smith. It was a very enjoyable picture with plenty of laughs and curves.
21.	Four missions for a total of 32 sorties today. Today is the first day of spring and it was really a beautiful day. It won't be long and we will be able to add swimming to our list of extra curricular activities. The enlisted men held a spring dance this evening with the local Senorinas providing the feminine touch. The 65th dance band provided the music and the music was excellent.
22.	Four missions for a total of 27 sorties. The Weather continues good with the weather man in our favor. We are kind of hoping that a spring offensive gets under way soon so that we can put an end to the War here in Italy. With the Armies in France going great guns, we all feel that we should like to take an active part in a offensive on this front. The Group had a movie again tonight which was just fair.
23.	Four missions totaling 32 sorties today. The progress on the alterations to the enlisted mens club and recreation room are progressing along nicely. It should be completed in a few days. The policy of rotation is working along nicely, along with the system of furloughs to the states. There are many men who are eligible for rotation but refuse to leave until the war is over. Their morale is high and they hate to leave when their job isn't finished. This is a tribute to the Squadron and we hope that the high morale is maintained.
24.	Five missions for 28 sorties today. Nothing of much interest happened today, The softball teams, both Officer's and enlisted men, are practising daily for the coming season. It is hoped that one of the teams can duplicate the feats of the EM basketball team.
25.	Four missions for a total of 32 sorties were flown today. It was a very quite day today. Church services, both catholic and protestant, were held in the morning and in the evening. The movie at the group service theater, although a quickie was a fairly good movie. It was enjoyed by all.
26.	The weather took a turn for the bad and there were no missions flown today. Nothing else happened.
27.	The weather was still bad and again there were no missions flown today. This gives our planes a much needed rest and a chance to get them in good condition. The ground crews also deserve the rest and are glad to get. The movie tonight was fair..

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War Diary Sheet No. 5- Cont'd.

- | DAY | EVENTS   |
|-----|--|
| 28. | The weather was still bad although it let up in the afternoon and we were able to get two missions into the air. This was good for 9 sorties. Lt. Coleman received his promotion to Captain today and there was a balls out party at the Officers club that night. When the last remnants of whiskey disappeared, the remaining members of the party finally went to bed in the early hours of the morning. Another dance was held for the enlisted men with the local Senorinas again provided as dancing partners. The 65th dance orchestra furnished the music. |
| 29. | The weather took a turn for the better and the Squadron flew five missions for a total of 36 sorties. A record number for a single day this month. The enlisted men finished their club and it is really a marvelous looking place. They put in quite a bit of work, but their labors are well rewarded.   |
| 30. | Four missions today for a total of 32 sorties. Nothing of much interest happened today.  |
| 31. | Five missions for a total of 32 sorties today. There was the usual movie tonight which was fairly good. This is the last day of the month, and true to the old saying, March came in like a lion and went out like a lamb. Tomorrow is Easter Sunday and also April Fool's day. But with the coming of Easter we are all praying that the war is over soon, and that we may all re join our loved ones in the near future.   |

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