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DECLASSIFIED
DOD DIR 5200.9

65th Fighter Squadron

SA-FI-65-71
APR 1945
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P.R.C.

April 1945

DECLASSIFIED
DOD DIR 5200.9

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RSI Cont# No
S07263

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SECRET

*SQ-PI-35-11
[APR 50]*

DESIGNATION _____

Historical Records

AIR FORCE: Twelfth Air Force

COMMAND: _____

SUB-COMMAND: _____

GROUP: 57th FG

UNIT: 65th FS

Documents Transmitted:

(Period Covered)

OUTLINE HISTORY: April 1945

WAR DIARY: April 1945

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS: _____

PHOTOGRAPHS: _____

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS: _____



65th Ftr Sqdn.
Outline History April 1945.

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

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

11 May 1945

AR 345-105

SUBJECT : Historical Data.

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

1. Outline History of the Sixty-Fifth Fighter Squadron for the period 1, April 1945 to 30, April 1945.
- a. Present designation: Sixty-Fifth Fighter Squadron, Fifty-Seventh Fighter Group. XXII T.A.C.
- b. Changes in organizations
 1. No changes in designation.
 2. No changes in assignment.
 3. No changes in attachment.

P.R.C.

Subordinates units: None.

Commanding Officer: Lt. Colonel Gilbert O. Wymond Jr., O-431591. Changes in Staff Officers: 1st Lieutenant, Robert E. Simpson, O570260, is appointed Acting Adj., and also Anti-Malaria Officer, additional duty.

- c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:

1, April 1945	Commissioned-63	enlisted-245
Net increase:	Commissioned--0	enlisted---0
Net decrease:	Commissioned--2	enlisted---2
30 April 1945.	Commissioned-61	enlisted-243

- d. Stations:
 - 1, Grossetto, L.G., Italy. Date of arrival-11 September 1944. Date of departure 27 April 1945. Arrived at Villa Franca, L.G., 29 April 1945.

- e. Movements: Moved from Grossetto, L.G., Italy, to Villa-Franca, L.G., Italy, on 27 April 1945. Arrived at Villa-Franca, on the 29th April 1945.

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S E C R E T

- f. Campaigns: Italy, Duration September 16, 1943. still in progress. Southern France-August 15, 1944-finished.
- g. Operations:
1. Campaign-Italian.
 2. Nature of Operations: Dive-bombing, bomber escort, area cover, anti-flak diversion, rocket firing, strafing, armed recce, Auntie, Rover Joe.
 3. Number of missions--241 Sorties--905
 4. All missions during month were of much importance, close support was given to the 5th Army and the Brenner Line was kept unserviceable.
- h. Losses in action: 2nd Lt. James L. Matt, MIA. on the 17 April 1945. 1st Lt. Earle E. Thompson, MIA on the 22 April 1945. 2nd Lt. Joseph J. Hauser, MIA on the 22 April 1945. 2nd Lt. Lloyd J. Haney, MIA on the 23 April 45. Last reported safe at Allied hospital. 2nd Lt. Lenord R.O. Hadley, MIA on the 23 April 45. 2nd Lt. Frank J. O'Rourke, MIA on the 25 April 45. 1st Lt. Truman L. Allen, MIA on the 26 April 1945.
1. Awards and decorations: The following awards have been made during the month of April: The following have received the DFC--Lt. Earle H. Evans, (Posthumously) Capt. Richard L. Coleman, James M. Eubanks, Homer R. Wilson, Sylvester H. Hendricks, Lt's Clarence L. Hewitt, (MIA) and Thomas E. Bowers, The following have been awarded the Air Medal--Lt. Byron D. Beeler, Joseph J. Hauser, Franklin M. Cummins, Chester C. Fowbar, The following have received the 1st OLC, to the Air Medal--Lt. Anjelo J. Alesandrini, Robert R. McCluskey, Jimmie R. Long, Jr. and Lt. Daniel Salinas, The following have been awarded the 2nd OLC to Air Medal--Capt. Joe H. Keith, Lt. Dwight V. Orman, William E. Lyke, and Truman L. Allen, The following have been awarded the 3rd OLC to Air Medal--Capt. Sylvester H. Hendricks, Lt's Thomas E. Bowers, L Melvin L. Fiedler, Francis J. Middleton, John F. Murphy, and Wilburn R. Holmes, The following have been awarded the 4th OLC to Air Medal--Lt's John F. Murphy, and Melvin L. Fiedler, The following have been awarded the 5th OLC to AM. Capt. Homer R. Wilson, The 6th OLC has been awarded to Major Edward H. Ellington, The bronze star has been awarded to the following enlisted men, T/Sgt. Foster E. Burkholder, and T/Sgt. Stephen B. Lambiase,

For the Commanding Officer:

1 INCL War Diary.

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

War Diary Sheet No. 2-cont'd.

DAY	EVENTS
I	In today's first mission, our flight encountered enemy aircraft for the first time in many months. Although none of the enemy aircraft were shot down, a few good bursts damaged two of the enemy planes.
11.	Four missions for a total of 28 sorties today. In the evening there was a stage show at the Group service theatre. The play had an all Italian cast and was very good. It was enjoyed by every one! At the Officers club the announcement of Lt. Hendricks promotion to Captain was made. To top off the celebration at the club, ice cream was served after dinner, and a terrific party followed in the bar afterwards.
12.	Four missions for a total of 31 sorties today.
13.	Four missions for a total of 24 sorties today. We received the news this morning of the death of President Roosevelt. It was quite a shock to us all and we were sorry to lose our Commander-in-Chief. We all are wishing the best to our new President Truman.
14.	Eleven missions for a total of 44 sorties today. The Italian stage show was repeated at the Group Service theatre this evening. Our dinner consisted of steak for the main course, and made quite a dinner. It isn't often that we get steak, and when we do, we can't seem to get enough of it.
15.	Ten missions for a total of 48 sorties. The day was started off with fresh eggs for breakfast. After breakfast, church services were held and again in the evening for those who were unable to attend in the morning. The Italian stage show was again repeated this evening. It is an unusually good show and by the number in attendance it can be seen that it is enjoyed by all.
16.	Ten missions for a total of 43 sorties today. The Italian stage show was repeated again this evening. It is still holding its own in attendance, and many are going to see it a second time.
17.	Twelve missions for a total of 53 sorties. This a record number of sorties flown in one day by this squadron. In the all out effort in support of the ground forces, all men are working hard and long to enable our planes to help in destroying the enemy. 2nd Lt. James L. Matt is MIA as a result of concentrated enemy action. Despite the fact that everyone is busy, time has been found to establish beach clubs for both the Officers and the enlisted men. Work is progressing on the clubs and it is hoped that they will be ready for occupancy in the near future.

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

<u>DAY</u>	<u>EVENTS</u>
1.	Five Missons making a total of 32 sorties for the day. For Easter Sunday, We were greeted with beautiful weather. Church services were held both morning and afternoon. In the evening there was a movie at the Group theatre. We start off the month with good morale and every one is hoping that there is a quick ending to the war.
2.	Five missions for a total of 30 sorties today. An uneventful day with nothing much happening. Another movie at the group theatre, but it wasn't very good.
3.	Four missions for a total of 27 sorties. Encouraging news from the western front has us all wishing that the War will soon be over. The morale of all the men of this organization is excellent, and with the continuance of promising war news it soars ever higher.
4.	Six missions for a total of 27 sorties today. Life in the squadron continues normal with the usual daily routine work continuing. A dance was held at the enlisted mens club this evening. Senorinas from the town were the dancing partners. The 65th dance band provided the music.
5.	Nine missions making a total of 30 sorties today. Nothing of interest happened today.
6.	Four missions for a total of 27 sorties today. The usual movie was held at the group service theatre, with many of the sqdn members in attendance.
7.	Two missions for a total of 11 sorties today. The weather took a turn for the worse and we were weathered in all afternoon. The rest was welcome as all hands have been working hard.
8.	Three missions for a total of 27 sorties. Church services both Protestant and Catholic, were held in the morning and in the afternoon. In the evening there was a movie at the Group.
9.	Four missions for 34 so rties today. Nothing of interest took place today.
10.	Five missions for a total of 27 sorties today. Life in the squadron continues normal. The war on all fronts is progressing well and all members of the squadron are hoping that there will be a quick ending to the war. There was a movie at the group theatre this evening. It was a good movie and was enjoyed by all in attendance.

War Diary Sheet NO. 3-cont'd.

- | DAY | EVENTS |
|-----|--|
| 18. | Eleven missions for a total of 44 sorties today. The current results of the ground forces are very encouraging to all of us. We are hoping that the drive continues with its present success. All men are working hard and long to keep our planes serviceable so we can continue to give the ground forces the air support they need. Work is still continuing on the beach clubs, and it is hoped that they will soon be ready. It is getting warmer with each passing day, and the Mediterranean looks cool and inviting. |
| 19. | Ten missions for a total of 39 sorties today. Customary duties were performed today. A movie was held in the evening for those who were able to attend. |
| 20. | Eleven missions for a total of 43 sorties today. The plane of Lt. Gorman Neel was shot up by flak and he was forced to bail out. He landed safely in friendly territory and will return to the squadron in a few days. |
| 21. | Three missions for a total of 9 sorties. The weather had us grounded most of the day and we were unable to give much support to the ground forces. Perhaps we can do better tomorrow. |
| 22. | Twenty-eight missions for a total of 58 sorties. The number of sorties today is an all time high for this squadron. It was really a day of all out effort and the group as a whole dealt a serious blow to the enemy's transportation system. As a result of enemy action, 1st Lt. Earl T. Thompson, and 2nd Lt. Joseph J. Hauser are MIA. As a whole the Squadrons aircraft were hit hard by enemy flak and it is doubtful if we can duplicate the number of sorties tomorrow. Church services were held today. |
| 23. | Fourteen missions for a total of 27 sorties today. With a limited number of planes serviceable, we were able to contribute 27 sorties to the all out effort. This was quite remarkable, as the total of planes serviceable at one time, was never more than seven. The present rate of drive of the ground forces has bolstered every ones morale to its highest point. We can't see how the Hun can last much longer. Lets pray that he is finished soon. As a result of enemy action, 2nd Lt Lloyd J. Haney and 2nd Lt. Leonard R. O. Hadley are MIA. Capt James Eubanks was forced to crash land in friendly territory, but was reported un hurt and will return to the squadron in a few days. |
| 24. | In the continued all out effort against the German armies, fourteen missions for a total of 37 sorties were flown. The Jerry's are falling back across the Po River, and it now seems just a matter of time until he will be defeated here in Italy. We are all hoping and praying that this comes to pass very soon. |

War Diary Sheet No. 4-cont'd.

- | DAY | EVENTS |
|-----|---|
| 25. | Thirteen missions for a total of 28 sorties today. We are continuing our attacks upon the enemy's motor transport and retreating columns with a very high degree of success. The blows dealt the enemy in this campaign cannot be taken lightly. All members of the squadron deserve much praise in the effort put forward. Everyone is happy at the present, and the morale is at its highest peak. 2nd Lt. Frank J. O'Rourke, is MIA as a result of enemy action. |
| 26. | Seven missions for a total of 16 sorties today. Orders were received to move the squadron to the newly captured air drome at Villa Franca, Italy. The "A" party is to move out tomorrow morning. Operations will continue from Grosseto until plans have been made to operate from the new base. As a result of the move, the evening movie was interrupted several times to prepare for the move. |
| 27. | One mission for 2 sorties today. The weather was extremely bad and it was impossible to get many missions off today. "A" party moved out for Villa Franca this morning at 1000 hours. They are scheduled to arrive at the new base sometime tomorrow. Meanwhile, life in Grosseto continues the same. |
| 28. | Seven missions for a total of 18 sorties today. Operations against the enemy are continuing along the same lines. He is still on the retreat and his motor transport are easy prey for our formations. "A" party spent the night in the rain, bivouaced just south of Bologna. They are scheduled to arrive at the new base tomorrow morning. |
| 29. | Ten missions for a total of 27 sorties today. We received some good news today! Lt. Lloyd J. Hayney reported missing in action the 23rd of April has been reported safe in the 35th Field Hospital. It is not known as yet the extent of his injuries or when he will return to the organization. We hope that it is soon! Our "A" party has arrived at Villa Franca and are hastily making preparations for the arrival of the others. The planes are supposed to arrive tomorrow and operations are to start from the new base. We are now closer to the enemy and the operational time of our flights can be cut down. |
| 30. | The last day of the month finds us ending the month with eight missions, for a total of 16 sorties. All through the month the work of the squadron has been splendid, and in our all out effort against the enemy, everyone did his best to carry on the fight against the enemy. Our efforts have been well rewarded with the continued retreat of the enemy. Perhaps next month will see the end of the war. We all earnestly pray that it will end in the near future. |

S E C R E T