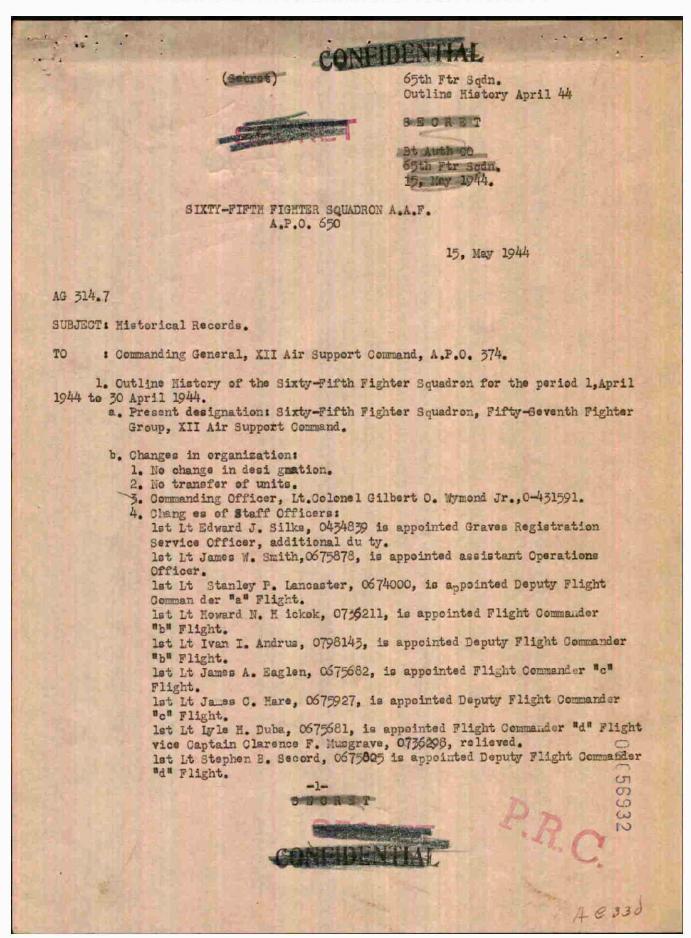


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CONFIDENTIAL SEORT c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted: a. 1, April 1944: Commissioned-41 Enlisted-220 b. Ne t Increase: Commissioned-9 Enlisted-11 c. Net Decrease: Commissioned-6 Enlisted-2 d. 30, April 1944: Commissioned-50 Enlisted-231 d. Stations: a. Alto L.G. Gordica, Date of arrival-28, March 1944. e. Movements: None. f. Campaigns: Italy. Duration September 18, 1943, still in progress. g. Operations: a. Campaign Italy. b. Nature of Operations: Dive Bombing, Recce, Straffing, Anti-Shipping. c. Number of missions: 44 Number of sorties: 585 d. Results of most important mission: April 18, 1944, T.O.12:15 T.D.1420. Dive-bombed R.R. tracks between Certaldo and Castelfiorenti no, resulting in the foldowing damaged and destroyed; 10 engines destroyed, 1 R.R. ammo car destroyed, 1 R.R. car loaded dest royed, 45 R.R. cars heavily loaded with MT were straffed resulting in many fires, 7 R.R. cars destroyed, 10 R.R. tank cars destroyed, 2 self propelled passenger cars damaged or destroyed and a large oil tank damaged or destroy ed. Six cuts were made on tracks in target ar ea. h. Losses in action: None. i. No awards or decorations made during month of Apri 1, 1944. 2. Inclosed are War Di ary, Sixty-Fifth Fighter Squadron for the month of April 1944. For the Commanding Officer: Marum D. Barkhuret 1 Incl: MARVIN D. PARKHURST, War Diary Captain, A.A.F., Squadron Historical Officer. -2-AC 330

(SHOREY)

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Sheet No. -1- War Diary

65th Fighter Sq., 57th Ftr Gp.
Prepared by Marvin D. Parkhurst, Capt., A.A. F.

Month of April 1944

EVENTS

lines in Tto

1. Getting in full swing to operate on German communication lines in Italy just east of our Corsica landing ground. Our first miss ion led by our CO Major Wymond with 16 eager Fighting Cocks went for a bridge at Pog gibonsi. On observation bridge had been previously destroyed so our formation went for R.R. line and train north of town. Results fair with one hit on tracks. Some straffed train with no visible results.

2-4. One show a day which led to the same type of missions. Dive-bombing comminication lines in Italy to give Jerry a headache on supplying the troops opposing the Rome beach-head.

5. No flying, weather was a welcome-day off as the men needed time to get the tents liveable since the recent move.

6-7. One show each day with good results on railroad lines.

8-9. Wea ther held our a/c on the ground, crews spent the time doing bits of odds and ends on their a ircraft.

10-15. Three shows a day with the exception of April 13th-who wants to fly on the 13th. If this keeps up every pilot will have 100 missions or more and be on their way home. These kind of operations sure keep the crews going and they sure are doing a good jeb of it with plenty of spirit. Doing plenty of damage to railroad lines and rolling stock.

16-17. Weather-Rain grounding a ircraft-Good thing this weather keeps us on the ground every so often-Gives us a chance of catching up on sack time or getting the "Flanes" in s hape. It happened, Captain Hadnot, Musgrave, Sherbondy, Lundquist and Lieutenants Silva, Miholich, are on their way to the good old U.S.A. Good luck boys and were still wondering what the poor people are doing in the states.

18-20. On the 18th "The Fighting Cocks" issued us a new type of Dive-Bombing called Low Level Bombing. Bombs have 8-11 second fuzes and each aircraft makes individual muss on the target. This type of bombing is best suited for railroad lines, bridges and tunnels of which most of our targets consist. Our percentage of hits jumped nearly 50%. Captain Ma nda and Hickok, Lieutenant Smith started home on a thirty day leave. Something new that looks like a good deal for those that want it. Technical Sergeant Harter also went home on the rotation list. By the end of the month mail started coming through good and have started getting fresh meat and real creamery butter.

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