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65th Fighter Squadron

P.R.C.

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February 1944 thru August 1944.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~~~(Secret)~~65th Ftr Sqn.
Outline History April 44~~SECRET~~~~Bt Auth CO~~
65th Ftr Sqn.
15, May 1944.SIXTY-FIFTH FIGHTER SQUADRON A.A.F.
A.P.O. 650

15, May 1944

AG 314.7

SUBJECT: Historical Records.

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

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

3. Commanding Officer, Lt. Colonel Gilbert O. Wymond Jr., O-431591.

4. Changes of Staff Officers:

1st Lt Edward J. Silke, O434839 is appointed Graves Registration Service Officer, additional duty.

1st Lt James W. Smith, O675878, is appointed assistant Operations Officer.

1st Lt Stanley P. Lancaster, O674000, is appointed Deputy Flight Commander "a" Flight.

1st Lt Howard N. Hickok, O736211, is appointed Flight Commander "b" Flight.

1st Lt Ivan I. Andrus, O798143, is appointed Deputy Flight Commander "b" Flight.

1st Lt James A. Eaglen, O675682, is appointed Flight Commander "c" Flight.

1st Lt James C. Hare, O675927, is appointed Deputy Flight Commander "c" Flight.

1st Lt Lyle H. Duba, O675681, is appointed Flight Commander "d" Flight vice Captain Clarence F. Musgrave, O736298, relieved.

1st Lt Stephen B. Secord, O675895 is appointed Deputy Flight Commander "d" Flight.

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- c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:
- 1, April 1944: Commissioned-41 Enlisted-220
 - Net Increase: Commissioned-9 Enlisted-11
 - Net Decrease: Commissioned-6 Enlisted-2
 - 30, April 1944: Commissioned-50 Enlisted-231
- d. Stations:
- Alto L.G. Geráica, Date of arrival-28, March 1944.
- e. Movements: None.
- f. Campaigns: Italy. Duration September 18, 1943, still in progress.
- g. Operations:
- Campaign Italy.
 - Nature of Operations: Dive Bombing, Recce, Strafing, Anti-Shipping.
 - Number of missions:44 Number of sorties:585
 - 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 following 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 strafed 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 destroyed. Six cuts were made on tracks in target area.
- h. Losses in action: None.
- i. No awards or decorations made during month of April 1, 1944.
2. Inclosed are War Di ary, Sixty-Fifth Fighter Squadron for the month of April 1944.
- 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

65th Fighter Sq., 57th Ftr Gp.

Prepared by Marvin D. Parkhurst, Capt., A.A. F.

Month of April 1944

DAY

EVENTS

1. Getting in full swing to operate on German communication lines in Italy just east of our Corsica landing ground. Our first mission led by our CO Major Wymond with 16 eager Fighting Cocks went for a bridge at Fog 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 strafed train with no visible results.
- 2-4. One show a day which led to the same type of missions. Dive-bombing communication 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. Weather held our a/c on the ground, crews spent the time doing bits of odds and ends on their aircraft.
- 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 job of it with plenty of spirit. Doing plenty of damage to railroad lines and rolling stock.
- 16-17. Weather-Rain grounding a aircraft-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 "Planes" in shape. 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 runs 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 Manda 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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Sheet No. -2- War Diary.

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18-30 cont'd.

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This month was the biggest month for the "Fighting Cocks" since its two years of overseas service. We rolled up a total of 585 sorties and 976 operational hours. Leading pilot was Lieutenant Herrenbruck with 25 sorties and 46 hours and 40 minutes. From all these sorties we have ZERO percent casualties in flying personnel. No aircraft was encountered in the entire month. Heres looking forward to a better month in May. The crap ga me has just started-until next month.

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