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DECLASSIFIED
DOD DIR 5200.9

65th Fighter Squadron

*Sq. 11-65741
June 1944
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P.R.C.

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June 1944 - *10344*

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RSI Contl No
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SQ-F1-65-H1
June 44. (#)

65th Ftr Sqdn.
Outline History June 44.

DECLASSIFIED
DOD DIR 5200.9

By Auth CO
65th Ftr Sqdn.
3, July 1944.

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

3, July 1944.

AG 514.7

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, June 1944 thru 30, June 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, ret'd to duty 20, June vice Captain Richard O. Hunziker, O-664187.

4. No change of staff officers during month.

c. Strength, Commissioned and Enlisted:

a. 1, June 1944, Commissioned—47 Enlisted—251

b. Net increase, Commissioned—0 Enlisted—6

c. Net decrease, Commissioned—5 Enlisted—0

d. 30, June 1944, Commissioned—42 Enlisted—257

d. Stations:

a. Alto L.G., Corsica. 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, Strafing, Recce, Anti-shipping, Bomber Escort.

c. Number of missions—69 Number of sorties—791

d. Result of most outstanding mission: June 16. T.O. 07:15 T.D. 09:15. Dive-Bombed railroad bridge and viaduct with each end disappearing in tunnel, rough as it is in the mountains near the city of Marruli. Lt. Herrenbruck got a direct hit in east tunnel mouth blocking tunnel. Two other aircraft got hits on arch at each end crumbling it but left tracks hanging across break in bridge. For number of bombs this is the best show this month.

P.R.C.

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RSI Cont'l No
S07254

DECLASSIFIED
DOD DIR 5200.9

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- h. Losses in action:
1. 2nd Lieutenant William J. Fournier, O-811881.
 2. Flight Officer William (NMI) Swartz, T-61817.
- i. Awards and decorations made during month of June 1944:
1. Captain Richard O. Hunziker, O-664187, awarded D.F.C.
 2. 1st Lieut. William O. Moreau, O-799228, awarded Air Medal.
 3. 1st Lieut. Gregory J. Herrenbruck, O-688260, awarded Air Medal.
 4. 2nd Lieut. Joseph R. Donahue, O-812775, awarded Air Medal.
 5. 1st Lieut. Herbert M. Thomas, O-571805, awarded Air Medal.
2. Inclosed are War Diary, Sixty-Fifth Fighter Squadron for the month of June 1944.

For the Commanding Officer:

- 1 Incl:
War Diary

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

-2-
S E C R E T

(SECRET)

65th Ftr Sqdn.
Outline History August 1944

S E C R E T

By Auth CO
65th Ftr Sqdn.
4, September 1944.SIXTY-FIFTH FIGHTER SQUADRON A.A.F.
A.P.O. 650

4, September 1944

AG 514.7

SUBJECT: Historical Report.

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

1. Outline history of the Sixty-Fifth Fighter Squadron for the period 1, Aug 1944 to 31, Aug 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 changes in attachment.

Subordinate units: NONE

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

Changes in Staff Officers:

1st Lieutenant Caruthers Ewing, Jr., O565313, is appointed Legal Assistance Officer, additional duty.

1st Lieutenant Gregory J. Herrenbruck, O-688260, is appointed Flight Commander "C" Flight.

1st Lieutenant Richard E. Grant, O-686847, is appointed Flight Commander "D" Flight vice 1st Lieutenant William O. Moreau, O-799228, relieved.

- c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:

1, Aug 1944: Commissioned--55	Enlisted--256
net increase: Commissioned--8	enlisted--3
net decrease: Commissioned--5	Enlisted--15
31, Aug 1944: Commissioned--58	Enlisted--244
- d. Stations:
 - 1. Alto L.G., Corsica, Date of arrival--28, March 1944.
- e. Movements: None.

S E C R E T

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

G. Operations:

a. Campaigns, Italy, South France.

b. Nature of operations: Dive-bombing, Bomber Escort, Delousing, Strafing, Anti-shipping, carrying rockets.

c. Number of missions ²⁴ Number of sorties ⁵⁹²

d. Most important mission: The invasion of Southern France on the 15th of August was beyond a doubt a day of great importance to this squadron. Many missions important to our troops were flown, many coastal defense guns were put out of action, enemy troops were strafed and bombed. This squadron contributed largely to the destruction wrought upon the enemy during the course of the invasion. Cover was provided for the troops landing on the beaches and also the paratroopers which had landed further inland.

H. Losses in action: William W. Bateman, 2nd Lieutenant, O-705525.

I. Awards and decorations: Tech Sergeant Edward F. Rooney, 6947106, awarded S. Medal. The following named enlisted men were awarded the Bronze Stars; T/Sgts Emil P. Mistrik, 6994623, Woodrow W. Stewart, 18007900, S/Sgts Jacob C. Gallick, 6995076, Vern M. Coe, 6995076, Michael I. Minnaugh, 3470632, Kenneth B. Taylor, 12005131, Luther C. Spencer, 18048099, Fernando S. Rovbal, 18016812, Philip C. Jones, 6899253, Sgt Paul E. Wethington, 6887356. T/Sgt Fred Symank was awarded Legion of Merit. The following named officers were awarded the D, F, C; Captain Howard N. Hickok, O-736211, Capt Lyle H. Duba, O-675681, Capt James A. Eaglen, 0675682, Capt Ivan I. Andrus, 0798143, Capt William O. Moreau, 0799228, Capt James W. Smith, 0675878, Major Francis S. Manda, 0664212, Major Richard O. Hunziker, 0664187, Capt James C. Hare, 0675927, Capt Stanley P. Lancaster, 0674000.

The following named officers were awarded the Air Medal; 1st Lieut Benjamin W. Atwood, 0811836, 2nd Lieut Richard L. Coleman, 0818341, 1st Lieut Howard C. Mithell, 0816639, 1st Lieut Alvan B. Wallin, 01100816, 1st Lieut Guydell Ward, 0816961, 2nd Lieut Alvin M. Welbes, 0702874; F/O William Swartz, T-61817.

Capt Ivan I. Andrus—4-5-6-OLC to Air Medal, 1st Lieut Harold E. Burgess, 0814646, Air Medal and 1st OLC, 1st Lt Raymond H. Church, 0674034, 3-4-5-OLC to A.M., 1st Lt Joseph R. Donahue, 0812775—1-2-3-OLC to A.M., Capt Lyle Duba, 0675681—5-6-OLC. Capt James A. Eaglen—5-6 OLC to A.M., 1st Lt James M. Eubanks, 0811872—1-2-3 OLC, 2nd Lt William J. Fournier, 0811881—A.M. and 1 OLC., 1st Lt Richard F. Grant—1-2-3-4-OLC., 1st Lt Kenneth J. Gustafson, 0810361—A.M. and 1 OLC., Capt James C. Hare, 0675927—5-6 OLC to A.M. and 1st OLC to D.F.C., Gregory J. Herrenbruck, 1st Lt—0688260—2-3 OLC, Capt Howard N. Hickok—5th OLC., Major Richard O. Hunziker—1st OLC to D.F.C., Capt Stanley P. Lancaster—4-5 OLC., 1st Lt George C. Lovato, 0815728—A.M. and 1st OLC., Major Francis S. Manda—OLC to D.F.C., 1st Lt Martin C. McGilvary—1st and 2nd OLC., 1st Lt Harry A. Meyd—1-2-OLC., Capt William O. Moreau—2-3-4-5-OLC., 1st Lt Stanley J. Morrow—1-2-OLC., 1st Lt Jack Richardson—1-2-3-4-OLC., 1st Lt Stephen P. Secord—5-6-OLC., 1st Lt William R. Spiers—A.M. and 1-2-OLC., 1st Lt Herbert M. Thomas, 0671805—DFC—3OLC to AM., 1st Lt T'eron E. Wright—AM and 1 OLC.

For the Commanding Officer:

1 Incl:
War Diary

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

S E C R E T

Confidential
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Sheet No.1-War Diary

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

Month of June 1944

- | DAY | EVENTS |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | Starting off a new month, I hope that this one will be as good as the past one. Had two shows to-day, the first one at 10:05 and the second at 16:30. Attacked a railway and a highway bridge scoring good hits on both bridges and approaches. |
| 2. | First mission of 12 aircraft took off at 11:15 to bomb a Marshalling yard with 50 plus box-cars at Montevardi. All the bombs hit the target. Difficult to ascertain the amount of damage due to smoke and dust after bombing.
Second show took off at 16:30 to bomb a railroad bridge. 1 good hit on bridge. Two aircraft strafed 12 box-cars getting two damaged. Tracks were also cut in two places by bombing.
Third show of 8 aircraft taking off at 17:55 had an exceptionally good show. Near Luca they damaged 1 locomotive, destroyed 11 MT, damaged 5 MT and 1 aircraft strafed 30 plus soldiers riding on bicycles. |
| 3. | A full day of 3 shows. Take-Offs at 06:30, 10:30, and 18:00. Targets consisted of railroad line and bridges and highway bridges. Results of bombing; 3 hits on bridges, tracks cut in five places. On the last mission due to strafing one locomotive was damaged and 12 box-cars also damaged, also destroyed two MT. |
| 4. | 12 aircraft took off at 09:25 to escort 23-B25s. Our first escort mission in a long time. Didn't observe bomber hits, escorted all the bombers back.
12 aircraft took off at 16:00 to bomb a highway bridge south of Grosseto. Damaged it badly with several direct hits. Four aircraft strafed six staff cars destroying five and damaging one. |
| 5. | 12 aircraft bombed highway between Foligno and Spoleto. Got 6 direct hits on highway and 1 probable. Two aircraft strafed 1 MT and destroyed it.
Second mission took off at 14:45 to bomb a railroad line. Got 3 cuts on tracks and 1 hit on highway running parallel to it. |
| 6. | A comparatively late take-off at 10:50 to bomb a highway junction. Clouds obscured the assigned target so bombed a road junction. No report on results because of hanging smoke and dust over the target. Did observe transformers shooting off sparks probably due to shorting out due to bombing.
Second take-off at 17:00 and dive-bombed a highway. Several hits on it, also strafed a wandering Mt damaging it. |
| 7. | This was one of those full days of 4 missions. 12 aircraft took-off at 06:00 to bomb highway between Foligno and Spoleto. Got 5 hits on the road and several near misses. Two aircraft strafed a factory on their way home, didn't set any fires. |

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Sheet No. 2 War Diary cont'd.

DAYEVENTS

- 7cont'd. 8 aircraft off at 09:30 without bombs to straffe opportune MT targets. A report came in that Jerry is moving out. As a result of mission got 1 bus damaged, 7MT destroyed and 2 flamers bringing score up to 10 MT in all destroyed. Also silenced a light ack ack post. Lt. Fournier bellied in from a strafing attack, may have gotten out O.K. F/O Swartz crashed in a strafing attack. 12 aircraft at 14:00 carrying bombs dive-bombed highway bridge between Chiusi and Orvieto leaving three big holes in bridge and direct hits on the road. Destroyed one MT near the bridge. The last mission took-off at 19:30 with 12 aircraft and dive-bombed highway bridge and intersection. Two hits on bridge and four bombs lit on the highway. Also got several hits near the junction. On the way home the flight was requested to recce the San Stefano harbor and this caused the boys to land at 21:30, almost completely dark. We were really sweating them out.
8. This morning at 08:00 our aircraft took-off to dive-bomb railroad between Perugia and Cortona. All but two aircraft got direct hits on tracks which meant ten cuts in tracks. Captain Hunziker the leader wondered what could be wrong with those other two pilots that missed, "If I knew who they were I would make them walk around the field". After the bombing they strafed motor transport on road between Ficulle-Citta de Pieve, Captain Hunziker getting four flamers and Lt Hare damaging six. On return to west coast saw a sign made of white rocks near Monte Balligli. Sign read "Help Partisans" with Italians moving green and white flags as our planes went low to investigate. All landed safe. Our next mission was at 16:30. Target was highway between Poggibonsi and Siena. Our aircraft carried 6 to 12 hours delay time-bombs. Bombed a bridge just south of Poggibonsi. With time-bombs results are hard to observe. Straffed six motor transport north of Poggibonsi getting one flamer and damaging other five. Nothing more to report. Must be on my way to see the show "The Iron Major" before it's finished. Today's rumor came from the armament shop "Allies invade southern France from North Africa with 7th Army" Came from the third bowl from the right in the Squadron Chic-Sales 8 holer.
9. 12 aircraft took off to bomb a highway between Cortona and Chiusi. Each flight bombe a different part of the road with a total of five direct hits on the highway and one cut on a railroad line for the 12 aircraft. No movement of MT on any of the roads. Jerry must be moving at night the way the bomb-line is moving. Got one of those quickies this afternoon. We were ordered up to bomb gun emplacements on Elba. Eight of the aircraft bombed flak and machine-gun installations silencing them with direct hits and machine-gun fire. The third flight led by Lt Thomas dive-bombed and strafed a small destroyer spotted by Lt Andrus. Results; a smoking listing destroyer caused by three close hits on the starboard side. A sun-down show ordered to bomb the Siena-Radicofani highway. Still having time after briefing before getting into the planes, we were picking out airdromes on the map of Italy. Fields we would like to be moved to after the bomb-line moved up. Two aircraft returned after being out an hour-electrical failure on one. The other ten aircraft bombed a 75' highway bridge with one direct hit on north end and a close miss that blew the east side out. 12 sorties, all back.

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DAY

EVENTS

10. What a life—our first take-off is at 10:00—Bankers hours. Only 11 aircraft made it as our serviceability is down due to three and four missions a day. Our target was highway between Foligno and Spoleto. Bombing was obscured by dust from bombs so estimate of damage will have to wait until we return to that area. On return, Lt Lancaster observed 50 plus MT and armored vehicles moving north along highway east of lake Bolsena. Went down and strafed but as this was behind the bomb-line and MT was hard to identify, only two aircraft strafed getting one flamer. The reason for believing the concentration was allied was in the past our pilots in all their missions have not seen that many Jerry MT in one place. Later later the Army called Group and stated that these trucks were Jerry and our pilots were much relieved that they had not strafed our own boys but mad as hell that they had not been able to identify them.
- Our next show at 1800 hours finds 11 aircraft in the air with Lt Duba leading. Target was Poggibonsi-Monte Archi highway. Weather bad so couldn't reach target so bombed bridge south of Cassino Di Ferro. Very good results on three span bridge, south span down and $\frac{1}{2}$ of middle. Three direct hits on south approach cutting road and one on north approach. No other movement or activity. One aircraft was hit by light flak blowing tire and hitting hydraulic system. Lt Richardson made a good landing with this aircraft. Good show boys, see you tomorrow.
11. A twelve ship mission was sent out to dive-bomb the highway between Chiusi and Arezzo. Due to a solid overcast over the target Captain Hunziker led the boys to another target, a 75' concrete highway bridge just east of Cecina. Direct hits knocked the east span of the bridge completely out, also a water main running along the bridge. One bomb knocked the road out about 20' east of bridge. The first day of rain in a long time—what a relief to have this dust settled if even for a short time. Lt Hare led the boys through 8/10 at 4,000' of cumulus clouds to dive-bomb the Siena-Buoncoivento highway. Found a 40' concrete bridge, knocked half of its side off and gutted the highway south of the bridge. On the way back we spotted MT and half-tracks which we preceeded to straffe with a total score of three MT destroyed, four MT damaged, two half-tracks damaged and one railroad coach damaged. This is one of those days when due to bad weather the spotting of targets is almost impossible—yet one never knows.
12. Whiskey Cumulus after the big party last night. The official opening of the Fighting Cocks beach club on the Tyrecamia sea was well attend d by nurses from the 55th Station hospital. Beer, cokes and whiskey was plentiful. Our first mission today is still on German lines. Lt Hare led our boys to the Arezzo-Chiusi highway but saw little results as clouds obscured target. One direct hit was registered near Arezzo. Received light and heavy flak from target area with one aircraft holed. On return saw many fires in San Stefano and Orbetello harbors. Looked like heavy fighting going on inland a short distance and many fires observed in mountains. All returned safe. Now for some shut-eye.
- Next mission 18:00 to dive-bomb road between Perugia-Cortona, clouds were bad obscuring target but we got one hit cutting highway at R-4702. Another at R-4304. Straffed MT along north shore of Lake Trasemeno, one flamer staff car and one MT near Fiora. One flamer and several damaged. Heavy and light flak from Lake Trasemeno and Fiora. Four aircraft hit, not serious. All returned safe. Large white smoke fire at Casligione and Lake Trasemeno—later A.L.O. reported Fifth Army had been shelling.

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Page No. 4-War Diary cont'd.

DAY

EVENTS

13. 06:20 mission bombed a concrete railroad bridge with one direct hit on tracks knocking them out. Although no flak was reported, Lt Wittenberger received a direct hit by something, maybe a bomb fragment which caused his elevator to lock. Only by kicking against the dash-board was he able to release it and then only for limited movement. He was able to land with it—miraculously. The 17:00 mission bombed a highway and canal bridge just southwest of Citta D Pieve. Knocked out side of the canal bridge and gutted road west in four places.
14. At 09:15 twelve aircraft took off to bomb highway bridge near Serravalle—missed the bridge itself but got the road junction north of the bridge. Two aircraft straffed 2 MT on the way back and got two flamers. The 18:15 mission was sent out to bomb highway bridge two miles northwest of Fellonica. Results; one hit on west end of bridge and one hit on highway 75' east of the bridge. One aircraft pranged on landing due to unlocked tail wheel.
15. 12 aircraft were sent out to bomb two destroyers south of Genoa that were reported in by PT boats. After the mission took off they were called in on the MT that the destroyers weren't there, so Captain Hunziker turned inland and bombed a highway bridge about six miles east of Pisa, got one direct hit on center of bridge, one hit on west approach of bridge and hit the highway running perpendicular to the bridge. The leader section straffed a factory south of Rosignano. Didn't observe any damage. At 16:30 twelve aircraft bombed a 190'-four span railroad bridge at M-153115, knocked off tracks on north approach to bridge, knocked the railing off on the west side of bridge, cut the tracks just north of bridge. Got in two new pilots today, Lts Welbes and Colman. Welcome to the Fighting Cocks roost.
16. Up early at the Krant on a 07:15 take off led by our C.O. Captain Hunziker. The target a railroad bridge and viaduct with each end disappearing in tunnel. Rough as it is in the mountains near the city of Marrudi. Lt Herrenbruck got one direct hit in east tunnel mouth blocking tunnel. Two other aircraft got hits on arch at each end crumbling arch but left tracks hanging across break in bridge. For number of bombs this is one of the best shows this month. Good going boys. 15:45 take off with a railroad viaduct as target near Pontassieve east of Florence led by Lt "RED" Lancaster.
17. Our neighbors on Elba are in for a hot time today. A large concentration of French troops were to invade Elba early this morning and our job is to knock out their guns installations. 12 aircraft took off at 05:45 to bomb and straff gun positions at Capocchia. Hits were on the target area causing them to cease firing. Fragmentation and 500 lb GP bombs were used on this mission. The next assignment was to knock out gun positions on Eufola which seem to be giving the French trouble. Because of a low ceiling over the island, our eight aircraft carried delay fuses on bombs permitting them to come in low and bomb quite accurate. Hits were good and straffing in their bomb run started an ammo dump on fire in the target area. Third mission of eight ships took off at 16:20 to again bomb Eufloa, hits were good and we made another straffing pass at the target just to make sure. Were standing by on 45 minute readiness just in case another target drops in. Eight aircraft were sent out to recon boating on east coast of Elba. From

Page No. 5 War Diary cont'd.

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Confidential

DAY

EVENTS

17. cont'd.

Found four 50' boats in one of those harbors and bombed them. Got one direct hit and two near misses. It was getting too dark for close observation of results. The other four aircraft brought their bombs back.

18. Three four ship shows to Elba, weather bad but did get one large barge and two smaller ones. Lt Moreau was hit in head by flak but got his aircraft home safe. He was not seriously hurt and is back in the squadron. Elba nearly done in.

19. An early mission at 06:00 to bomb gun installations of east side of Port Ferraro harbor at Elba. All bombs hit in target area with the exception of one which lit in the water.

Stood by on an hours readiness from 13:00 till 16:00 when we got a mission to bomb coastal guns that were harrasing our shipping. Got no direct hits but some darn close misses and all bombs hit on the small peninsula where the guns were. Lt Thomas noticed guns located about 2000 yds east of our target. He bombed that scoring a direct hit.

20. Took-off at 08:00 to bomb bridge at Cesena, Italy. No more ops to Elba, it is now in our hands. Weather too bad so bombed bridge near Pontedera, one cut on road also. Hit marshalling yards setting a house on fire.

Good steak for dinner with a 13:30 take-off for road bridge in city of Pisa. Bridges are numbered from one to six, from east to west over the river Arno. We got No. 1. Very good results with three hits making bridge impassible for at least a few days. Pilots say they got a look at the Leaning Tower for the first time, looked interesting. Show was led by Lt Andrus and was complimented on the good for m-up over the field and also on the formation on the return and good landings. Another good show for the Fighting Cocks. All down safe.

21. At 10:15 twelve aircraft bombed a highway bridge with a direct hit on bridge and cut tracks in four places on a railway line running parallel to it. At 15:00 twelve aircraft left to bomb railroad line in the vicinity of the mornings target. Colonel Wymond flew his first mission today after he came back from the states (Gods Country) Each flight bombed a different bridge in the vicinity of Chiavari with all aircraft getting fairly good hits. Also four aircraft staffed a 50' motor launch causing definite damage.

22. Take-off at 08:30 led by Lt Duba to dive-bomb bridge at Pisa. Bridge was completely covered by bomb bursts and dust so damage could not be observed by our pilots. Large fire seen in Leghorn harbor on return. Some flak encountered. Next mission led by Lt Red Lancaster on another bridge in Pisa. There are six road bridges in Pisa and we have the job of knocking them out. Bridge was damaged and road post-holed but not sure if it is not unserviceable. Reccd bridge which was mornings target and found three spans had been knocked down—confirmed by 64th Sqd. Observed activity in Leghorn harbor, possibly getting ready to block south entrance. Saw empty dinghy in water with two Colalinas in area. Missions coming fast today, take-off at 15:00 with Lt Dude Eaglen leading flight to same bridge as 12:00 show. Post-holed bridge and cut road—believed bridge will be unserviceable temporary. Saw large explosions on north end of bridge looked like gas.

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Page No. 6-War Diary cont'd.

DAY

EVENTS

23. Bad weather over target, no shows. A day for rest.
24. Took-off at 05:30 what was an ungodly hour. Wonder who called the turn on this one to bomb rail communications on Pisa-Lucca-Florence line. Lt Hare leading bombed bridge north of Pontedera, one hit on bridge-line cut north of bridge. Saw two JU88s flying north as we came off bomb run-chased them until they disappeared in clouds north of Lucca-saved by weather-lucky krauts. Another take-off at 14:00 led by Capt Hunziker back to the old bombing ground near Lucca. Weather still bad but bombed near Lucca. Recce observed four cuts in tracks and one bridge out. Some may have been previous cuts-all down safe.
25. The milk run again, Pisa-Lucca-Florence railway line, off at 07:00, weather a md haz e bad so observation poor. Bombed between Pistoia and Lucca, observed four cuts in tracks after bombing. One building destroyed. Some flak. You guessed it-Again at 19:15. Bombed bridge east of Lucca. Lead section got two cuts in track near bridge. No other observation there due to dust from bombing. Four aircraft strafed on way down silencing some ack ack guns in target area. All down safe. Medical whiskey in today-I see it coming.
26. All morning on one hour readiness-weather. Finally at 12:30 we took off for a long haul to Forli, Italy. What a relief to the milk run. Weather over to target bad. Cumulus from 5000 to 14,000' overcast but target clear. Lt Thomas bombed bridge east of Forli with good results. One hit in center of bridge knocking out half of structure and one rail, one hit on end near abutment cutting tracks. Two aircraft effected two cuts in rails northwest of bridge. All returned safe. Some flak from target area and Siena. Next mission take-off at 17:00, formation led by Lt Hare, bombed a 100' railroad bridge at Q-8552, results not observed due to dust. All bombs in target area. One cut on tracks west of bridge. Weather 9/10 from 4,000 to 6,000'-heavy haze. Light ack ack and heavy ack ack moderate-inaccurate around target. No MF or shipping.
27. 1st show at 09:45-weather very bad, 8/10 f on deck to 12,000' so bombed alternate target-highway bridge at Q-1276, bombed with good results, two hits on west end and one hit on east end. Bridge believed to be unserviceable. 2nd mission off at 16:15-same target. Railroad bridge at L175821 but obtained no hits. One cut on tracks southeast of bridge. One possible hit on west approach weather very poor-10/10 up to 15,000'. No flak or enemy aircraft.
28. Rained most of the day-weather very bad, time to catch up on some sack time.
29. First show off at 09:55 led by Lt Lancaster, target was Fascist headquarters at L-045170. one set of bombs hit on tracks east of town, another set lit west of town, all other bombs hit in town, all aircraft strafed making 20 passes. No ack ack-no enemy aircraft. Second show led by Lt Hare off at 15:30, target was railroad bridge at L-7961, knocked down south span, cut tracks at south end, strafed 20 plus cars at bridge setting three on fire and another one smoking, set station on fire which probably contained ammo and set one MF on fire south of target. No ack ack.

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Page No.7-War Diary cont'd.

DAY

EVENTS

30. First show off at 09:00 led by Capt Hunziker. Target was highway bridge north of La Spezia at P-620220. Seven aircraft bombed target-hits on mountain covering road with dirt. Five aircraft bombed bridge at P-5426 getting two direct hits leaving holes in south half of bridge, one hit on north approach. One aircraft strafed a MI near target damaging it. Light and heavy ack ack light intense two miles south of target.

Next show off at 13:00 led by Lt Hare bombed highway bridge at P-620220, four aircraft to bomb bridge at P-4224. Four aircraft bombed first target getting one cut in road south of bridge. Eight aircraft bombed bridge at P-5824 getting three hits on south end and approach, one hit on north approach. Three aircraft bombed railway bridge at P-4224 cutting two spurs of tracks. One aircraft strafed in bomb run. Heavy ack ack light intensity from La Spezia.

Third show off at 17:00 to bomb bridge at L-681509 getting two direct hits on north end-definite cuts. Four hits on tracks at southwest approach, three direct hits on northeast approach. One aircraft strafed in bomb run. Light ack ack, light intensity from Q-6077.

Heres looking forward to another good month in July.

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