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*File  
Organization  
History*

65th Ftr Sqdn.  
Outline History August 1944

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DOD DIR 5200.9

By Auth GS  
65th Ftr Sqdn.  
4, September 1944.

SIXTY-FIFTH FIGHTER SQUADRON A.A.S.F.  
A.P.O. 639

4, September 1944

**P R C**

AG 511.7

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: 1st Colonel Gilbert O. Raymond Jr., O-431591.

Changes in Staff Officers:

1st Lieutenant Garuthers Being, Jr., O-665313, is appointed Legal Assistance Officer, additional duty.

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

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

c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:

1, Aug 1944: Commissioned--35	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.

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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, Helousing, Strafing, Anti-shipping, carrying rockets.
- c. Number of missions— Number of sorties—
- 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 H. Bateman, 2nd Lieutenant, O-735525.

I. Awards and decorations: Tech Sergeant Edward P. Rooney, 6947106, awarded G. Medal. The following named enlisted men were awarded the Bronze Stars; T/Sgt Paul F. Distrik, 6994627, Woodrow W. Stewart, 18007900, S/Sgt Jacob C. Gallick, 6995076, Vern H. Coe, 6995076, Michael I. Hiraugh, 3470632, Kenneth B. Taylor, 12005131, Luther C. Spencer, 18048099, Fernando S. Rovbal, 18016412, Philip C. Jones, 6899253, Sgt Neal E. Withington, 6887356, T/Sgt Fred Symank was awarded Legion of Merit. The following named officers were awarded the D, F, C; Captain Howard H. Hickey, O-736211, Capt Lyle H. Dube, O-675641, Capt James A. Baglan, O675682, Capt Ivan I. Andrus, O798143, Capt William C. Korman, O799228, Capt James W. Smith, O679878, Major Francis S. Hanks, O664212, Major Richard C. Hamaker, O664187, Capt James G. Hare, O679927, Capt Stanley P. Lancaster, O674000. The following named officers were awarded the Air Medal; 1st Lieut Benjamin W. Atwood, O611836, 2nd Lieut Richard L. Coleman, O6118341, 1st Lieut Howard C. Mitchell, O611639, 1st Lieut Alvan B. Mallin, O1100816, 1st Lieut Caydell Ward, O616961, 2nd Lieut Alvin H. Welbes, O702874, 1st/O William Swartz, T-62817. Capt Ivan I. Andrus—4-5-6 OLC to Air Medal, 1st Lieut Harold E. Burgess, O611616, Air Medal and 1st OLC, 1st Lt Raymond H. Church, O674034, 3-4-5 OLC to A.M., 1st Lt Joseph R. Donahue, O612775-1-2-3 OLC to A.M., Capt Lyle Dube, O675681-5-6 OLC, Capt James A. Baglan—5-6 OLC to A.M., 1st Lt James E. Roberts, O611872-1-2-3 OLC, 2nd Lt William J. Fournier, O611881—A.M. and 1 OLC., 1st Lt Richard P. Grant—1-2-3-4 OLC., 1st Lt Kenneth J. Gustafson, O610361—A.M. and 1 OLC., Capt James G. Hare, O679927—5-6 OLC to A.M. and 1st OLC to D.F.C., Gregory J. Herrenbruck, 1st Lt—O668250—2-3 OLC, Capt Howard H. Hickey—5th OLC., Major Richard C. Hamaker—1st OLC to D.F.C., Capt Stanley P. Lancaster—4-5 OLC., 1st Lt George C. Lovato, O615728—A.M. and 1st OLC., Major Francis S. Hanks—OLC to D.F.C., 1st Lt Martin C. McIlwray—1st and 2nd OLC., 1st Lt Harry A. Boyd—1-2 OLC., Capt William C. Korman—2-3-4-5 OLC., 1st Lt Stanley J. Norris—1-2 OLC., 1st Lt Jack Richardson—1-2-3-4 OLC., 1st Lt Stephen P. Secord—5-6 OLC., 1st Lt William E. Spiers—A.M. and 1-2 OLC., 1st Lt Herbert H. Thomas, O671405—D.F.C. and 1 OLC., 1st Lt T. Wren H. Wright—4th and 1 OLC.

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 Ftr Sq, 57th Ftr Gp,  
Prepared by,  
Marvin D. Parkhurst, Capt, AAF.

Month of August 1944.

Day	Event.
5.	<p>1. 1st Take off 0900 - D/B RR F7226 to F8028. Got 2 cuts on tracks in M/Y at F8927, 1 at F8226, 1 at F8526, another probable there. Strafed 15 RR cars in M/Y at F8927, many damaged - 1 exploded. Engine on siding - steam up. There was a smoke screen over the bridge at F7512. 2 a/c back early but sortied - bombed RR bridge at P4126- RNO. No e/a. Weather 3/10 at 9000' - tgt area, 5/10 at 8500' over Mts. 15 Miles visibility. LA/A, scant, inaccurate - F8037. 2nd Mission 1600 - D/B RR bridge H707358. Got bridge in water with 1 D/H and hits on both ends when formation formed up. Weather 10/10 at 8500' with holes over mts, closing in over water. HA/A, int., Acc. H9328, H A/A, mod., inacc., O-5632.</p>
2.	<p>Two shows:- First, 12 a/c cut the tracks at 1045 on the electric rail line from Tarivi to Asti. Savona sent up both heavy and light flak without hitting anything. The second mission was over the target at 1655. 12 a/c dropped 24x500 to G.P. in the vicinity of some bridges in Italy. The terrain was impossible for dive bombing and read cuts were only secured.</p>
3.	<p>1st T.O. 0700 - D/B RR bridge at Canneto - FL47737 - four bombs holed bridge, 2 hits at south approach - 1 at north approach. 300' concrete foundation, steel girders - tracks cut and bridge U/S. No flak or e/a. 10/10 heavy haze becoming clouds at 8500'. 2/10 at 8500' over water. 2 serviceable concrete strips at M0798 - 1 M/T there. 2nd show at 1300 hrs. D/B Quistella RR bridge - F606060. Got 1 D/H, probably many others - dust and smoke obscured target. 1 hit on west approach, 1 hit on levy west of bridge - H A/A, scant, inacc, F5813, P8700. 1 SE a/c unidentified at 20,000' at 18585. No contact. Weather 9/10 7000' to 14000' over mountains. No clouds over Po River but heavy haze, 10 miles visibility. 4 M/T at Q0287. 4 large fires, black smoke to 1000' at P7706.</p>
4.	No operational missions.
5.	No operational missions.
6.	<p>12 a/c took off at 10 with 24x500 lb bombs to bomb a RR bridge near Paucalieri, but due to a solid overcast we weren't able to get out to it. Finally thru a hole in the clouds we spotted a highway bridge and bombed it with one direct hit on side of bridge and damaged the west approach and cut the east approach. The rest of the bombs hit a building area in the vicinity of the bridge. Observed a large column of smoke rising from one of the buildings. Our second show took off at 1300 with eleven a/c carrying 500 lb bombs and Col. Wymond flying his craft equipped with six rocket butes. The weather cleared up some in the Po valley and it wasn't difficult finding the target. Bombing damaged the south approach to bridge and also a direct hit cut the north approach about 20' from bridge. Col Wymond fired his rocket projectiles at bridge and tracks but did not observe any damage. Third mission took off at 17:00. 12 a/c with 8-1000 lb bombs and 16 500 lb bombs. The target was the RR line between Genoa and Tortona. 6 a/c bombed a RR bridge north of Genoa, cut tracks N.E. approach to bridge and also cut read</p>

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Sheet No. 2, War Diary. (Con'd)

DAYEVENTS

6. running parallel to tracks. 4 a/c bombed a small M/Y about 1 mile N.E. of Cont'd bridge with 20 plus box cars. Destroyed 6 and cut tracks in 4 places. 3 a/c strafed a line of 15 plus box cars saw hits but no flames. In addition the section leader scattered out and strafed M/T on road near target scoring 2 flammers 1 definitely damaged and 2 probably damaged. A total score of 35 sorties today.
7. Just one mission at 10:00, Dive bombing of pontoon bridge and bridging supplies at Ficeroli at L9798. Bombing was excellent. 6 pontoon sections destroyed and 3 damaged. Bldg's and 2 canal locks hit. 1 A/A, intense, inacc. at F9700. H A/A, scant, acc. at L3484 (Reggio). H A/A, mod, acc, at La Spezia. Weather clear over target. 8/10 deck to 15000' over mts. 1/10 over water. Visibility 2-10 miles. Lt Donahue and Lt Mitchell landed at Cecina to refuel. Other observations: Factory at L9697: Smoke pots over bridge at ML283: 3 large fires north of there.
8. 2 a/c of the 65th piloted by Lt Atwood and Collins took part in a twelve plane mission, Group show, against shipping. A successful attack was made against a 200' barge and tug, direct hits were scored but the water thrown over them obscured the final results. 1 set of bombs exploded on the dock and another set a three story building on fire. The second mission of 8 a/c hit a pontoon bridge in Italy at K3423 with bombs and rockets. Hits were scored, several near misses, and the approach from the south was damaged. all a/c down safely. at 1130.
9. A mission up at 1555. Major Manda led 12 planes thru heavy A/A, secured a direct hit near the center of a 3 span rail bridge at Q-723737, and destroyed one building in the target area.
10. 8 a/c up at 0800 to dive bomb gun emplacements at O-524286. Scant inaccurate flak was encountered. Gun positions seemed abandoned and bombs were dropped in a nearby concrete-surrounded house. The second mission of 8 a/c was up at 1005 after the same target, again no guns were found where supposed to be, but concrete emplacements were located east of the designated area and Lt Richardson destroyed one gun, and all bombs were in target area. Heavy and Light A/A fire was encountered, but no one was hit and all planes were down at 1205.
11. Stood down by the weather. Heavy rain and high wind.
12. three missions today all direct against gun positions along the Italian coast southwest of Savona. The first mission of 7 A/C was over the target at 1300 dropped 14x500 1/10 second bombs in the target area, and scored 2 direct hits on the gun emplacements which seemed not to contain guns. One D/H was secured on a building. 4 planes strafed in the bomb run. The second mission of 7 planes was led by Col Wymond and ran into heavy and light A/A from Savona, and the Colonel's plane was holed. At 1520 the gun emplacements could not be located and a factory was bombed. 1 a/c strafed in run. The thire mission of 8 a/c could not locate gun emplacements containing any guns, so at 1707 they cut a road, scored a hit in the center of 3 small buildings, got one hit on an empty gun pit, and one 1 a/c strafed.

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Sheet No. 3 War Diary cont'd.

- | DAY          | EVENT   |
|--------------|---|
| 13<br>cont'd | One mission today. 12 a/c set out at 0620 to strafe Bergamo A/D. Light and heavy and accurate A/A was encountered over the target and four ships were pranged. Capt Hickok damaged 2 JU 88's, Lt. Bateman damaged one HE lll, Lt. Burgess strafed gun positions, Lts. McGilvary and Holmes hit at a flak tower and Lt. Douglas started a fire in the town. Some ten e/a were on the drone.  |
| 14.          | Thirteen (one spare) a/c took off in record time of 3 minutes - best so far to strafe a radar station just south of Autibes. Strafing passes were made with all sections strafing. No fires were started.   |
| 15.          | "D" day. Our contribution to the invasion of Southern France was ten missions. The first was supposed to be four a/c but only McGilvary and Bowers made it. They joined up with the 87th squadron of the 79th Group and dive bombed the town of Cavalaire at 0705. The next show was a four ship show, three of which made sorties, became separated and made dive bomb runs of different targets in France. The planes took off at 0545. Some ten minutes later Lt Carnahan led Lts Bateman and Wallin to dive bomb gun positions east of St. Raphael. Lt. Richardson led the next mission that was over its target at 0820. Again gun positions were hit and strafed. The next two missions were four ship shows, and their target was given them by the controller. One hit was scored on a road bridge east of St. Raphael and the highway was postholed. At 1300 hours Capt Hare led an 8 ship mission against a bridge some 25 miles inland from Marseilles. Near misses were scored. The next mission was a group show of 12 a/c to escort 36 B-25's of the 17th Bomb Gp. Major Leaf of 66th Squadron led the mission. Four Fighting Cocks participated in the mission. The next mission of 4 a/c, 2 of which returned early (one was a sortie) was up at 1735 and rendezvoused with a/c of the 27th Fitr Gp. All a/c there executed a patrol in the area of Toulon until released at 1945 by the controller "BABY". The last mission was also an area ptrol of 4 a/c up at 1945 and down at 2155. Although "BABY" called in a JU-88 and fifty plus e/a we were enroute home and did not see them. |
| 16.          | The battle of Southern France continues. We ran two missions today. The first mission of 16 planes was sent up at 0720 to dive bomb gun emplacements near Mont Pellier. Although the gun emplacements were located only one of them actually had a gun in it. 8 a/c dropped 16x500 GP, one tenth second fused, in the area of the gun. The other 8 a/c scored hits near a small bridge in the target area. The second mission of 8 a/c was up at 1705 and the target was gun positions on the island of Port-Cros, in the group of islands known as Iles D'Hyeres. Lt Richardson led the mission and the bombing was excellent. One fire was started which caused both white and black smoke. 5 a/c strafed on the way down and 4 strafed from deck level.  |
| 17.          | Three missions today. Capt J.W. Smith led 8 a/c on an armed patrol over France. At 0845 all a/c strafed six stationary coaches on the rail line paralleling the Durance River near Corbieres. Five a/c dropped their wing tanks on the train, starting many fires, and destroyed six couches. Heavy and light A/A came from Toulon and from a point south of Avignon. Over France there was a 9/10 overcast at 15000'. The second mission was also 8 a/c conducting an armed patrol over southern France from 0910 to 1135.   |

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Sheet No. 4 War Diary Cont'd.

- | DAY          | EVENT  |
|--------------|--|
| 17<br>Cont'd | The mission was flown thru 7/10 clouds and visibility was very poor. No incident. The third mission was another armed recce of southern France. Heavy clouds were over the area and at one point the formation ran into rain. The controller called KOLA. Leader Lt Hereenbruck, and the 8 a/c rectared on some M/T on a road near Montpellier. 4 a/c strafed 10 M/T, making 3 strafing runs after having made 3 identifying runs. 4 M/T were destroyed with 1 a flam-er. 4 a/c bombed the M/Y east of Nimes. Heavy and light flak came up south-west of Toulon and east of Montpellier, but all a/c were down safely at 1600.   |
| 18           | Two missions. 8 a/c of this squadron and 8 from the 66th were up at 0800 to excoirt 36 B-25's of the 340th Bomb Gp. Over the sea it was 10/10 up to 14000'. Over France it was clear with good visibility. Strafing damaged 3 M/T, a power station near the Durance River and Lt Bateman hit a high tension wire and crashed into a nearby resivor at T-750680. The plane exploded upon impact and Lt Bateman was not seen to get out. The second mission of 8 a/c took off at 1005, with 16x500 GP one tenth second fused bombs, to carry out an armed recce in the area from Digne and east of the Durance River to the Italian border. All bombs were dropped in the approach area to a bridge. Rockets hit the bridge with unobserved results. Strafing resulted in destroying 1 small M/T. This was in the vicinity of St Raphael. 1 a/c landed at a different landing ground.  |
| 19           | Four missions today were sent over France. The first mission of 11 a/c were up at 1020 to provide area cover for 18 B-26's of the 319th Bomb Gp. The bombers were called, but did not answer. Heavy flak came up south of Mallemort. Scattered M/T was observed headed north. A serviceable A/D was seen with a good runway at S-7156. 3 single engine a/c were on the A/D and 2 in the northwest dispersal area. The second mission of 6 a/c took off at 1050 carrying 16x500 GP bombs to conduct an armed recce in the vicinity of Toulon. Heavy and light flak was sent up from that place. All bombs were dropped on gun positions at Toulon and 2 bombs scored direct hits on the position of 4 guns. The third mission of 7 a/c was up at 1350, led by Lt Eubanks, no bombs and the purpose was armed recce south of the Durance River. 3 M/T were located and were strafed by 2 a/c with 2 flamers and 1 damaged. 2 a/c strafed 20 stationary flat cars near Senas. The cars were loaded with a red substance. The last mission of 8 a/c was up at 1630 to recce the same area. The weather was very hazy and no opportune strafing targets were located. An enemy landing strip running northwest-southeast at T-1038 was observed five e/a dispersed around it. There were obverved by one pilot who had become separated from the flight and he did not feel justified in attacking the planes alone. 1 ME 109 was seen going SE at 1820, but no contact was made. Both the recces ran into heavy and light A/A, but no one was hit. |
| 20           | Today we flew 5 missions. The first mission of four ships was led by Capt Grant, up at 0625 to dive bomb gun positions SE of Toulon. The flight was led thru intense heavy and light A/A and small arms fire to drop its bombs in the target area. Many guns had obviously been moved from the pits. 3 a/c strafed in the bomb run. Lt Donahue led the second flight of 4 a/c after the same target and dropped bombs at 0820 hours. One direct hit was scored on a flak tower, but gun positions did not appear to contain guns. All a/c strafed in the bomb run. The third mission was led by 3 a/c of 64th Squadron and 4 of our a/c flew to provide cover for 18 B-25's of the 310th Bomb Gp. attacking  |

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Sheet No 5 War Diary Cont'd.

20. a highway bridge near Livron. The bombs were released at 0900 in good pattern. The next show was again after another colsatl guns and this time the 4 a/c led by Lt Eubanks dropped 8x500 Gp 1/100 second bombs at 1010. Two bombs hit on the easternmost two guns and 4 bombs hit the west gun position. Dust obscured final assessment of results. Heavy A/A of scant intensity, light A/A and small arms fire were encountered. The last mission of 8 a/c went up at 1240, without bombs, on an armed recce in the Durance River area. 50 M/T with troops in them were located and strafed, and the following was the final score:

	Flamers	Damaged
Lead Section.		
Carnahan	5	0
Fiedler	0	2
Burgess	3	2
Bowers	2	3
Red Section.		
Morrow	1	2
Evans	2	1
Wilson	1	2
Douglas	1	2
	<u>15</u>	<u>14</u>

When they had to leave Tiller Controller was advised and more planes were sent after the remainder.

21. First mission of 8 a/c were up at 0825 and provided escort for 18 B-25's who made a good bombing pattern on the target bridge. The second show of 8 a/c was led by Lt Richardson over the target at 1015. All 16x500 GP bombs were dropped in the NW corner choke point of the M/Y in France. Heavy and light A/A from target area south of Rovigo, Italy in providing area cover for B-25. The bombers scored good hits on target at 1735. The fourth mission of 8 a/c carried 16x500 GP 8 to 11 second fused bombs over Italy in extreme hazy weather and at 1820 cut highway twice, put 2 holes in a 3 span concrete bridge and knocked the side out at Pinerolo, Italy, and postholed the highway.
22. Three missions. The first of 8 a/c was up at 0840 to escort 18 B-26's hitting a bridge east of Modena, Italy on the way in heavy A/A was accurate enough to prang one B-26 so it had to return. No bombing results observed because of dust. The second mission of 8 a/c dive bombed the Cuneosan Buco Highway, scoring several hits and near misses on highway 3 miles west of San Buco. No flak and a/c down at 1620. At 1730 the last mission of 8 a/c were up to carry out an armed recce over the Rhone River and west. Weather was 10/10 at 2000', very hazy, and nothing observed.
23. 7 a/c (one returned early) carried out an armed recce in the Rhone River valley at 1000 hrs. In spite of poor visibility targets were located. In a M/Y near Nimes all a/c strafed some 50 cars, some of which were burning from previous attacks. Our attack caused 2 flamers and damaged five. All a/c strafed a 2000 ton MV in a canal near the mouth of the Rhone. The second show, up at 1015 of 8 a/c to recce the same area. Strafing damaged one truck near Nimes where two others were already burning. 2 a/c damaged a trailer in a

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Sheet No 6 War Diary Cont'd.

DAY

EVENT

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23. field bearing German markings. Heavy accurate and intense A/A was experienced from Marseilles. The last mission of 8 a/c carried 16x500 GP bombs against coastal defense installations near Marseilles. Flying through heavy and light A/A Lt Herrenbruck led his flight in to score 6 direct hits and other near misses. 6 a/c strafed in bomb run. All down O.K. at 1900.  
Cont'd
24. First mission. 8 a/c took off 0610 on armed recce Genda to Ventimiglia, dropped 11x500 1/10 second GP with 4 D/H on road and bridge approach northern outskirts, 3 a/c strafed M/T on bridge and 2 a/c strafed A/A pit with no results observed. Second mission 8 a/c escorted 18 B-25's of 321 Bomb Gp, without incident against rail bridge in Italy at P-8367.
25. Two missions today. 1st Mission 12 a/c up at 1040 postholed highway SW of Inola with 4 hits and got 6 hits in small town of Borgo. 1 Rocket hit was scored on a bridge. All down safely at 1240. 2nd Mission of 12 a/c, up at 1725 to dive bomb gun positions on NW tip of island about 2 miles SW of Marseilles with 24x500 1/10 and 6 rockets (carried by Col. Wymond) w0 mm fire was experienced from the target area and 4 a/c strafed in bomb run. Col Jackson, 64thm Fighter Wing, flying with us hit the road north of the target, hit the rest of lead and black section missed altogether. However Red section, Its Wittenberger and Gustafson, Mitchel and Mayer clobbered hell out of the target area with six bombs. all down O.K. at 2000'.
26. One mission today--12 aircraft took off at 1010 to create a road block in Italy, encountered 40mm ack ack from target but dropped 24x500 GP 8-11 second fusing scoring eight hits and many near misses on highway between Q-9188 and Q-9898. Cpl. Wymond got two hits on highway with rockets. If we have not previously mentioned it, we now state that a picture is being made entitled "THUNDERBOMBER". We understand it is similar to "MEMPHIS BELLE" of B-17 fame, and that it is largely to be centered around 65 Squadron. It involves the use of the Thunderbolt as a dive-bomber and its evolution into such. This afternoon some pictures were taken of formation flying, etc. The Movie Stars participating were Col. Wymond and the following officers: Smith, Wittenberger, Manda, Carnahan, Hare, Morrow, Hickok, Richardson, Herrenbruck and McGilvary.
27. Three shows today. First mission, 8 aircraft dropped 16x500 (8-11 sec) bombs and secured 3 hits on highway between Turin and Susa. The power line along the road was wrecked. Two M/T were flamers from strafing and one gun carrier was damaged. Lt Mitchell got one, a big van, with personnel in it. Lt Mayer got the other, a Jerry Jeep. The second show was over the target at 1300 hrs, a reported motor park in Italy. It appeared Jerry had pulled out but if not the 8 aircraft were to destroy by bombing and strafing anything in the area. Accurate and heavy flak was encountered at Cuneo. The last mission was over the Bologna-Pistoia highway at 1915 hrs and the 12 aircraft secured some 6 or 7 hits with 24x500 (8-11) bombs. Heavy and light flak was encountered.

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Sheet No 7 - War Diary Cont'd.

- | Day | EVENT   |
|-----|---|
| 28. | <p>First mission of eight aircraft at 0800 hrs cut the road several times south of <del>xxx</del> Bologna. Heavy and light flak was encountered and pranged the aircraft of both Capt J.W. Smith and Lt Fiedler.</p> <p>The second mission was an exact repetition of the first, -same area, same results, same flak but no one was hit.</p> <p>The third mission flown today was an eight ship show, over Imperia Harbor at 1855 hrs to attack shipping with 16x500 -1/10 second GP bombs. Light ack ack was encountered over the target. One 150' ship was possibly sunk by a hit, one bomb hit among four barges, one hit on the dock side in the town, one hit a building, one cut on east quay. The other 11 bombs hit in the area and scored near misses on another 150' boat, possibly hitting it and smaller craft including fishing vessels. Seven aircraft strafed on the bomb run.</p> |
| 29. | <p>Three dive-bombing attacks against Italian roads. The first of seven aircraft was over its target at 1035 hrs and dove through clouds and haze to drop 14x500 GP 8-11 second fused bombs on the highway NW of Borgo San Lorenzo. Light ack ack came from target area. Five very near misses threw debris all over the road and it was cut once.</p> <p>The second show of seven aircraft dropped 14x500 GP 1/10 second fused bombs on the Ferrara-Rouigo highway hitting it three times and the rest near misses. Light ack ack from target area.</p> <p>The last show of eight aircraft at 1710 hrs dropped 16x500 GP 1/10 second fused bombs in spite of heavy ack ack and got two hits on highway and damage to a bridge on the Galenzano-Barberino highway. Two aircraft strafed in bomb run and five rockets were fired into a building in target area.</p>                               |
| 30. | <p>Only one mission back at that Borgo San Lorenzo highway. Eight aircraft up at 0830 hrs, light flak and 7/10 clouds at 4,000' over target, and yet five of the 16x500 GP 1/10 second fused bombs hit the highway, two near misses, Lt Hewitt clobbered a rail bridge.</p>   |
| 31. | <p>Two missions, the first of eleven aircraft (one returned early) to escort 24 B25s of the 340th Bomb Group to bomb a bridge in Italy. The bombers were late so we escorted them back only to Lake Trasimeno. We got heavy flak from Massa and Ostiglia and one P47 got pranged, -catl.</p> <p>The second show up at 1700 hrs, seven aircraft, 14x 500 GP 8-11 second fused bombs, armed recce east of the French-Italian border. No movement was noted and bombs were dropped on a concrete highway bridge. Clouds prevented any observations.</p>  |

Heres looking forward to another good month in September.

SECRET

SPECIAL ACCOUNT FOR MONTH OF AUGUST

On 17 August 1944 four of our veterans and most consistently reliable pilots left the squadron to return to the United States. All four had received awards of the Air Medal with clusters with other clusters recommended for the D.F.C. Their names, number of sorties and combat hours; Capt Lyle H. Duba-129 sorties, 219.6 hours; Capt Stanley P. Lancaster, 130 sorties, 235.7 hours; Capt James A. Eaglen-112 sorties, 198.2 hours; Capt Ivan I. Andrus-129 sorties, 237.9 hours. No attempt will be made here to record their exploits in combat as these appears elsewhere. Neither will an attempt be made to record more than the fact of their going, how much we shall miss them, and to wish them the best of luck after a job well done.