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DECLASSIFIED  
DOD DIR 5200.9

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DECLASSIFIED  
DOD DIR 5200.9

RSI Contl No  
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**SECRET**

SQ-F1-65-41  
10 Oct 49

**RESTRICTED**

DESIGNATION SHEET  
HISTORICAL RECORDS

DECLASSIFIED  
DOD DIR 5200.9

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COMMAND : XXII Tactical Air Command

WING : \_\_\_\_\_

GROUP : 57th Fighter Group

SQUADRON: 65th Fighter Squadron

OTHER : \_\_\_\_\_

ONLINE HISTORY X

WAR DIARY X

**P.R.C.**

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65TH Ftr Sqdn.  
Outline History Oct 1944

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DECLASSIFIED  
DOD DIR 5200.9

By Auth CO  
65th Ftr Sqdn.  
November 1944.

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

4, November 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, Oct 1944 to 31, Oct 1944.

a. Present designation: Sixty-Fifth Fighter Squadron, Fifty-Seventh Fighter Gp, 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 Lieut Caruthers Ewing Jr., O-565313, is appointed Ground Safety Officer.
- 1st Lieut Roscoe E. Ford, O-568171, is appointed Air/Sea Rescue Officer.
- 1st Lieut James E. Bearden, O-682038, is appointed Ordnance Officer.

c. Strength, Commissioned and enlisted:

1, Oct 1944: Commissioned--57	Enlisted--263
Net increase: Commissioned--0	Enlisted--0
Net decrease: Commissioned--0	Enlisted--14
31, Oct 1944: Commissioned--57	Enlisted--249

d. Stations:

- 1. Grossetto L.G., Italy, Date of arrival 11, Sept 1944.

e. Movements: None

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

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RSI Cont No  
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G. Operations:

- a. Campaigns, Italy
- b. Nature of operations: Dive-bombing, bomber escort, Rocket firing, straffing.
- c. Number of missions—45      Number of sorties—208
- d. Most important mission: All missions were the usual run with nothing taking a highlight.

H. Losses in action: 1st Lieut Lovato, George C., 0815728.

I. Awards and decorations: None for month of October.

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

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War Diary, incl.  
October 1944.SECRET

DAY

EVENTS

- 1st thru 10th- No operations for various reasons. Back in Italy getting things organized again after our move from Corsica. Weather is very bad. Rain every day with field under construction. Pilots are flying most of our ships to Naples for Rockets for we are the first squadron in the Group to get them. Our G.O. Col. Wymond has found us a beautiful villa to live in so we hope our stay here will be a long one.
- 11th. Two Rover Joe shows today-Bombs and Rockets- The push is on at the front so we are helping out. Major Manda and Captain Hickok lead the four ship missions on the same target-railroad tunnel and buildings are hit with good results. Light ack ack from target which was near Pianora, Italy.
- 12th. Major Manda and Captain Herrenbruck on a Rover Joe target near front, buildings destroyed and damaged with bombs and rockets-was a hum strong point.
- 13th. A big day with five-four ship shows-all Rover Joes with bombs and rockets- targets against gun positions so little was observed. Pin point bombing with bombs and rockets in target area assigned. Two cuts in a road and three buildings destroyed.
- 14th. Support to the front again today. One mission bombed thru clouds near Bologna-no observations- other show bombed bridge with good results getting one cut and three near misses. Heavy and light ack ack encountered.
- 15th. Three Rover Joes today. Lt. Burgess bombed bridge on bomb-line resulting in two hits in center of bridge and one cut on road leading to north approach. Capt. M.B. Smith on second show got town and destroyed four buildings--rockets in tunnel near target. Light ack ack and ground fire which hit Col. Wymond and forced him to land at Florence L.G. He is safe back at the squadron. Capt. Grant on the third show bombed tunnel with no observations-heavy ack ack-light and inaccurate from target area.
- 16th. One mission forced to return (Weather)
- 17th. (Weather)
- 18th. Eight aircraft lead by Major Manda bombed town of Bodrio. All bombs and rockets in target area. Results-four large fires-some aircraft strafed.
- 19th. Four aircraft on M/Y at Lugo, Italy. Three direct hits in yards, one cut on tracks southwest of Lugo. Rockets destroyed two box-cars and hits on station house. Eight aircraft with fire-bombs on pin-point gun positions on front. All bombs hit in area but no observations. Lt. McGilvary lead last show on occupied town and wooded area. Left fires burning all through target area-received radio compliment from Rover Joe on good show.

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War Diary-sheet No.2.

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DAY	EVENTS
20th.	Big day with five-four ship missions with Rover Joe. 1st target houses hit by rockets-jerry strong-point. Col Wymond lead second show on occupied building. Near misses with bombs and several rockets in houses. Major Manda lead the third show with fire-bombs worked on troop concentrations-left buildings and wooded area afire. Five rockets hit church which was firing ack ack at our aircraft from steeple-believed to be enemy OP. Lt Wallin lead the fourth show with fire-bombs on a strong-point, left fires burning in buildings and woods nearby. Lt Wilson lead the fifth show of the day with bombs, hit gun positions, no observations as target was covered by our bomb blast.
21st.	Four missions on occupied buildings lead by Major Manda, Lt Spiers, Captain Grant and Herrenbruck. Results--ten buildings destroyed and others damaged by rockets and strafing.
22nd.	Stood down because of weather.
23rd.	Two shows returned because of weather.
24th.	First mission of four aircraft bombed and fired rockets at a town for Rover Joe, got four direct hits and fourteen rockets in town, left one fire burning. Second mission lead by Lt Atwood on enemy acc buildings. One house destroyed and others damaged by rockets. Major Manda lead eight aircraft to Medicina, Italy to Boldiro attacking railroad lines. Got two direct hits cutting tracks. Ack ack heavy, moderate from target. Last show returned to base because of weather.
25th.	Weathered in.
26th.	Weathered in.
27th thru 30th.	Bad weather-no operations.
31st.	Three missions for the last day-- ABOUT TIME. First show lead by Lt Wallin attacked gun positions, attacked pinpoint with good results--all bombs in target area. Second show lead by Lt Wilson to more gun positions. Bombs and rockets in target area--no guns observed. Third and last show for the month was handled by Lt Burgess. They ran into bad weather near bomblines and lost Lt Lovato leader of red section. Seven aircraft reached target which was R/R bridge in Po Valley. Two direct hits were scored, other near misses. No word as yet on Lt Lovato and we close this diary for the month.

S E C R E T

S E C R E THEADQUARTERS 57TH FIGHTER GROUP  
APO 650Hq Det 57th F.G.  
Outline History Feb 44  
Secret  
By Auth C.O. 57th F.G.

AG 314.7

11 April, 1944.

SUBJECT: Historical Records.

TO : Commanding General, XII Air Support Command, APO 374.

1. Outline History of Hq Detachment, 57th Fighter Group for the period 1 Feb, 1944 to 29 Feb, 1944.

- a. Present designation Hq Det. 57th Fighter Group, XII ASC.
- b. Changes in organization
  - 1. No change in designation
  - 2. No transfer of units
  - 3. No change in Commanding Officer
  - 4. Lt. Col. Archie Knight acting C.O. while Col. Salisbury is D.S.
  - 5. T/O 1-27 dated 22 December 1943 effective 21 Feb, 1944
- c. Strength commissioned and enlisted
  - 1. Month of February
    - a. 79
    - b. 3
    - c. 0
    - d. 82
- d. Stations
  - 1. Amendola L.G. Italy
    - a. 28 October, 1943
- e. N, 1
- f. Campaign
  - 1. Italy
  - 2. Sept 18, 1943 still in progress
- g. (1) Campaign Italy
  - (2) See squadron outline history
  - (3) 38 Group missions, 393 sorties
  - (4) See squadron outline histories
  - (5) N,1
- h. N,1
- i. N,1
- j. Lt. Col. ARCHIE J. KNIGHT
  - 1. Fighter sweep
  - 2. 1 MG-109 destroyed 2 damaged - shot down himself in enemy lines
  - 3. Silver Star - Purple Heart

2. Inclosed one War Diary Hq Det 57th Fighter Group for the period 1 Feb 1944 to 29 Feb 1944. No special comments.