

HISTORY 8/16 - 247

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Nov - Jul 1943
DIRECTOR TO: Director Research Studies Institute Attn: Archives Branch Maxwell AFB, Alabama

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ORGANIZATION HISTORY
SIXTY-SIXTH FIGHTER SQUADRON
1 March to 31, March, 1943

1. a. Strength, Commissioned and Enlisted, on 1, March, 1943:
 Commissioned: 40 Enlisted: 230
- b. Increase in strength for month of March, 1943:
 Commissioned: 0 Enlisted: 0
- c. Decrease in strength for month of March, 1943:
 Commissioned: 3 Enlisted: 0
- d. Strength, Commissioned and Enlisted, on 31, March, 1943:
 Commissioned: 37 Enlisted: 230

2. Stations of unit from 1, March, 1943, to 31, March, 1943, giving marches necessary to complete changes of station:

Zuara L.G., Tripolitania, Libya, 1, March, 1943—Special advance party left Zuara by motor transport on 2, March, 1943, travelled approximately 100 miles that date, and arrived at Hefatia South L.G., Tunisia, 5, March, 1943,—advance party moved 3 miles East across track and camped there. 6, March, 1943—advance party moved 4 miles North to a point on track North of Hefatia Main L.G., and camped there. 7, March, 1943—advance party moved to rear Ben Gardane East L.G., Tunisia, approximately 40 miles. 10, March, 1943—advance party set up camp at Ben Gardane East L.G., Tunisia. Remainder of squadron departed Zuara, L.G., travelled 65 miles by motor transport, and arrived at Ben Gardane East L.G., Tunisia, that date. Ben Gardane East L.G. from 10, March, 1943, to 20, March, 1943. 20, March, 1943—Departed this station by motor transport, travelled 35 miles, and arrived at Soltane L.G., Tunisia, that date.

3. The Squadron Commander during this period was:

Captain WILLIAM J. YATES, O-417244

4. The following named officers are missing in action as a result of aerial combat with the enemy on dates indicated:

First Lieutenant Thomas T. Williams, O-442317, on 26, March, 1943.
 First Lieutenant Harry J. Hayden, O-432194, on 31, March, 1943.

5. Following are members of this organization who have distinguished themselves in action against the enemy during the period, 1, March to 31, March, 1943.

a. Pilots having planes credited to them:

First Lieutenant Thomas T. Williams, O-442317,

1 ME 109F destroyed on 13, March, 1943.

First Lieutenant John T. Gilbertson, O-432190.

1 ME 109F destroyed on 13, March, 1943.

First Lieutenant John J. Stefanik, O-430864.

1 ME 109F probably destroyed on 13, March, 1943.

Second Lieutenant John E. Feichrow, O-441043.

1 ME 109F damaged on 13, March, 1943.

b. As a result of operations against the enemy in this theatre the following named pilots have been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross:

Captain George W. Long, O-420841.

First Lieutenant Ralph M. Baker, O-431371.

First Lieutenant Richard B. Paulsen, O-442227.

g. The following named officers have been awarded the Air Medal for completion of 100 hours of operational flight against the enemy in this theatre:

Second Lieutenant Robert E. Gibson, O-440854.

Second Lieutenant Guy O. Denton, O-727425.

d. The following officer and enlisted men were awarded the Purple Heart as a result of wounds from enemy action:

Second Lieutenant Arlie W. Claxton, O-440975.

Private First Class Robert D. Berkey, 33105982.

Private First Class Robert F. McClelland, 12034382.

Private First Class Robert G. Holland, 11017939.

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Captain James G. Curl, O-420832

2 Ju 52's destroyed.
1 Me 109 destroyed.
2 Ju 52's damaged.

2nd Lt. Charles C. Leaf, O-861143

2 Ju 52's destroyed.
1 Me 109 damaged.

1st Lt. William B. Campbell, O-440974

3 Ju 52's destroyed.
1 Me 109 destroyed.

2nd Lt. Robert Looney, O-793943

1 Ju 52 destroyed.

Captain George W. Long, O-420841

2 Ju 52's destroyed.
1 Me 110 damaged.

2nd Lt. John W. Santry, O-666997

2 Ju 52's destroyed.
2 Ju 52's damaged.
1 Me 109 damaged.

Flight Officer William F. Livesey, 10675026

3½ Ju 52's destroyed.
1 Ju 52 damaged.

1st Lt. John J. Stefanik, O-430864

3 Ju 52's destroyed.
1 Ju 52 probable.

2nd Lt. Arthur B. Cleaveland, O-864136

5 Ju 52's destroyed.

1st Lt. John T. Gilbertson, O-432190

1 Me 109 destroyed.
1 Me 109 damaged.

b. As a result of operations against the enemy in this theatre the following named pilots have been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross:

Major James G. Curl, O-420832

1st Lt. Dale R. Deniston, O-442330

1st Lt. Harry J. Hayden, O-432194, awarded posthumously.

ORGANIZATION HISTORY
SIXTY-SIXTH FIGHTER SQUADRON
1 May to 31 May, 1943

1. a. Strength, Commissioned and Enlisted, on 1 May, 1943:
Commissioned: 40 Enlisted: 229
- b. Increase in strength for month of May, 1943:
 Commissioned: 3 Enlisted: 1
- c. Decrease in strength for month of May, 1943:
 Commissioned: 0 Enlisted: 0
- d. Strength, Commissioned and Enlisted on 31 May, 1943:
 Commissioned: 43 Enlisted: 230

The following named pilots left the Squadron on 15 May, 1943 to return to the U.S.A.

Major William J. Yates, O-417244
 " George W. Long, O-420841
 Captain Ralph M. Baker, O-431371
 " Albert Zipser, O-342219
 " John T. Gilbertson, O-432190
 " Robert A. Hoke, O-432197
 1st Lieut. Richard B. Paulsen, O-442227
 " Thomas M. Boulware, O-432019
 " William B. Campbell, O-440974
 2nd Lieut. Arlie W. Claxton, O-440975
 " Robert E. Gibson, O-440854

Replacements for these pilots were received during the month of May, 1943.

2. Changes of station from 1 May, 1943 to 31 May, 1943, giving marches necessary to complete changes of station:

1 May, 1943, entire squadron was at Hani Main, Tunisia. On the 19 May, 1943 "A Party" (4 Commissioned and 113 Enlisted) departed from Hani Main, Tunisia and traveled from Hani Main, Tunisia, 170 miles that day. On the 20 May, 1943 "A Party" traveled 63 miles and arrived at Bou Erara L.G., Tunisia (near Djerba Island); there to be re-equipped.

"B Party" (39 Commissioned and 117 Enlisted) remained at Hani Main, Tunisia for training.

3. / A. The Squadron Commander during the period 1 May, 1943 to 14 May, 1943 was:

Major William J. Yates, O-417244

B. The Squadron Commander during the period 14 May, 1943 to 31 May, 1943 was:

Major James G. Curl, O-420632

4. There are no pilots missing in action as a result of aerial combat with the enemy during this period.

5. The following are members of this organization who have distinguished themselves in action against the enemy during the period, 1 May, 1943 to 31 May, 1943:

A. As a result of operations against the enemy in this theatre the following named pilots have been awarded the Air Medal:

1st Lieut. Adrian W. Stahl, O-727571
" John J. Stefanik, O-430864
2nd Lieut. William P. Benedict, O-884138
" Arlie W. Clexton, O-440975
" Arthur B. Cleveland, O-884136
" Charles C. Leaf, O-884143

ORGANIZATION HISTORY
SIXTY-SIXTH FIGHTER SQUADRON
1 June to 30 June, 1943

1. a. Strength, Commissioned and Enlisted on 1 June, 1943:
Commissioned: 43 Enlisted: 230
- b. Increase in strength for month of June, 1943:
 Commissioned: 0 Enlisted: 0
- c. Decrease in strength for month of June, 1943:
 Commissioned: 1 Enlisted: 0
- d. Strength, Commissioned and Enlisted on 30 June, 1943:
 Commissioned: 42 Enlisted: 230

2. Changes of station from 1 June, 1943 to 30 June, 1943 giving marches necessary to complete changes of station:

3 June, 1943, "B Party" departed from Hani Main, Tunisia and traveled 175 miles that day and arrived at new station, El Haouaria I.G., Tunisia (near village of El Haouaria on Cape Bon). "B Party" departed El Haouaria I.G. on 15 June, 1943 and traveled to Enfidaville that day where they camped for the night. 16 June, 1943 "B Party" traveled remaining distance to Bou Grara I.G., Tunisia (near Djerba Island) where "A Party" was stationed, and spent the night. 17 June, 1943, "B Party" departed from Bou Grara I.G., Tunisia and traveled to Gausway I.G., Tunisia, a distance of 40 miles, and arrived there same day. On 23 June, 1943, "A Party" departed from Bou Grara I.G., Tunisia and arrived at Gausway I.G., Tunisia same day to join "B Party"

3. The Squadron Commander during the period 1 June, 1943 to 30 June, 1943 was:

Major James G. Curl, O-420832

4. No pilots are missing as a result of aerial combat with the enemy during the period 1 June, 1943 to 30 June, 1943.

5. The following are members of this organization who have distinguished themselves in action against the enemy during period 1 June, 1943 to 30 June, 1943:

a. As a result of operations against the enemy in this theatre the following named pilot has been awarded the British Distinguished Service Order:

Major James G. Curl, O-420832

b. The following named pilots have been awarded the Air Medal for

completion of 100 hours of operational flight against the enemy in this theatre:

1st Lieut. William J. Herring O-727459
1st Lieut. John E. Teichrow, O-441043

c. The following named officer was awarded the Purple Heart as a result of wounds received in action against the enemy:

2nd Lieut. Arthur B. Cleveland, O-384136.

