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HEADQUARTERS SIXTY-SIXTH F. S.

A.P.O. 650, U.S.Army,
30 June, 1944.

A.G. 314.7

SUBJECT: Historical Records.

TO : Commanding General, XII Tactical Air Command,
A.P.O. 650, U.S.Army.

1. Outline History of the 66th Fighter Squadron for
the period 1 June, 1944 thru 30 June, 1944:

a. Present designation: 66th F.S., 57th F.G.,
87th F.W., XII T.A.C., XII A.F.

b. Changes in organization:

(1) Change of commanding officers:

(a) Major William P. Benedict commanded
this squadron from 12 December, 1943 to 5 June, 1944.

(b) 1st Lieut. Cortlandt McCoy, Jr. was
made commanding officer of this squadron on 5 June, 1944.

(2) Changes of staff officers:

(a) 2nd Lieut. Herman R. Williams was
made Ass't. Operations Officer on 5 June, 1944, replacing
1st Lieut. Cortlandt McCoy, Jr. who was made CO on that
date (Operations Officer, Charles C. Leaf D.S. to U. S. A.).

c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:

(1) Month of June, 1944:

(a) 1 June:

1. Commissioned: 41.

2. Enlisted: 246.

(b) Net increase:

1. Commissioned: 13.

2. Enlisted: 6.

(c) Net decrease:

1. Commissioned: 14.

2. Enlisted: 3.

(d) 30 June:

1. Commissioned: 40.

2. Enlisted: 249.

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Page 2., Outline History of 66th F.S., June, 1944.

d. Stations:

(1) Name of station:

(a) Alto Air Base, Corsica.

i. Date of arrival:a. "A" Party: 28 March, 1944.b. "B" Party: 6 April, 1944.

e. Movements: None.

f. Campaigns:

(1) Name: Italian.

(2) Duration: Still in progress.

g. Operations:

(1) Campaign: Italian.

(2) Nature of operations: Dive-bombing and strafing of enemy lines of communications.

(3) Number of missions and sorties for the period 1 June thru 30 June, 1944:

(a) Missions: 61.

(b) Sorties: 690.

(4) Results of most important mission:

(a) Mission No. 706 of 30 June, 1944:

1. Destruction of bridge and approaches there-to, by many direct bomb strikes in target area.

h. Commanding officers on important missions:

(1) Mission: No. 706 of 30 June, 1944.

(a) Commanding Officer: 1st Lieut. James

B. Wise, Jr., O-751515.

i. Losses in action:

(1) The following named pilots who were reported in Outline History for month of May, 1944, as missing in action, have returned to this organization:

(a) Name: 1st Lieut. Robert J. Hunter,
O-1633997.1. Missing in action: 16 May, 1944.2. Returned to unit: 17 June, 1944.

(b) Name: 2nd Lieut. Robert H. Gains,

O-812797.

1. Missing in action: 16 May, 1944.2. Returned to unit: 12 June, 1944.CONFIDENTIAL

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Page 3., Outline History of 66th F.S., June, 1944.

- 0-814721. (c) Name: 2nd Lieut. Thomas R. May,
 1. Missing in action: 19 May, 1944.
 2. Returned to unit: 23 June, 1944.
- (2) The following named pilots of this organization, who were missing in action during the month of June, 1944, have returned to this organization:
- 0-751994. (a) Name: 2nd Lieut. Charlie W. Turner,
 1. Missing in action: 7 June, 1944.
 2. Returned to unit: 12 June, 1944.
- 0-698982. (b) Name: 2nd Lieut. George F. Deckert,
 (3) Killed in action:
 (a) Name: F/O Julius H. Coburn, Jr.,
 T-62096. 1. Date: 24 June, 1944.
- (4) Missing in action:
 (a) Name: 2nd Lieut. William C. Burt,
 0-706350. 1. Date: 26 June, 1944.
- j. The following named pilots of this organization have been decorated during the period covered:
1943. (1) Name: 1st Lieut. William C. Ballew, 0-802228.
 (a) Engagement: Mission No. 409, 14 Nov.,
 1943. (b) Act: One of three pilots who destroyed 160,000 gallons of enemy gasoline.
 (c) Reward: Distinguished Flying Cross.
- (2) Name: Donald A. Smith, 2nd Lieut., 0-507633.
 (a) Engagement: Mission No. 530 of 24
 March, 1944. (b) Act: Destruction of one e/a.
 (c) Reward: Air Medal.
- 0-751515. (3) Name: 1st Lieut. James B. Wise, Jr.,
 (a) Engagement: Mission No. 621, of
 21 May, 1944. (b) Basis: Wounds received in action.
 (c) Reward: Purple Heart.

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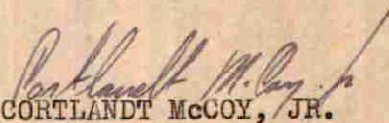
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Page 4., Outline History of 66th F.S., June, 1944.

(4) Name: 2nd Lieut. Herman R. Williams,
O-1702933.
February, 1944.

- (a) Engagement: Mission No. 505 of 22
- (b) Basis: Wounds received in action.
- (c) Reward: Purple Heart.

2. Inclosed are the War Diary of the 66th Fighter Squadron for the period 1 June, 1944 thru 30 June, 1944, and Special Account of Mission No. 706 of 30 June, 1944.


CORTLANDT McCOY, JR.
Captain, Air Corps,
Commanding.

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Capt. Martin
CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS SIXTY-SIXTH F. S.

APO 650, U S Army,
31 August 1944.

A.G. 314.7

SUBJECT: Historical Records.

TO : Commanding General, XII Tactical Air Command,
A.P.O. 650, U S Army.1. Outline History of the 66th Fighter Squadron for
the period 1 August 1944 thru 31 August 1944:a. Present designation: 66th F.S., 57th F.G.,
87th F.W., XII T.A.C. XII A.F.

b. Changes in organization:

(1) Change of commanding officers:

(a) Major Charles C. Leaf remains as
Commanding Officer:

(2) Changes of staff officers:

(a) 1st Lieut. Paul S. Sexauer, Comm-
unications Officer, was made Adjutant replacing Capt.
Kenneth B. Skoropowski who became Engineering Officer,
Capt. Benjamin H. King, Engineering Officer, is SD to
57th F.G.

c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:

(1) Month of August, 1944:

(a) 1 August:

1. Commissioned: 55
2. Enlisted: 249

(b) Net increase:

1. Commissioned: 14
2. Enlisted: 5

(c) Net decrease:

1. Commissioned: 13
2. Enlisted: 24

(d) 31 August:

1. Commissioned: 56
2. Enlisted: 230

d. Stations:

(1) Alto Air Base, Corsica.

(a) Date of arrival: "A" party, 28 March,
1944; "B" party, 6 April, 1944.(b) Squadron remained on Alto L. G. from
1 August to 31 August 1944.CONFIDENTIAL

Page 2., Outline History of 66th F. S. August, 1944.

- e. Movements: None
- f. Campaigns:
 - (1) Italian and French.
 - (2) Duration: Still in progress.
- g. Operations:
 - (1) Campaign: Italian and French.
 - (2) Nature of operations: Dive bombing, armed recon, bomber escort, and patrol.
 - (3) Number of missions and sorties for the period 1 August thru 31 August, 1944.
 - (a) Missions: 72
 - (b) Sorties: 602
 - (4) Results of most important mission:
 - (a) Mission No. 795 of 20 August 1944.
 - 1. Destruction 4 R.R. engines, numerous cars and planes destroyed (See special account)
- h. Commanding Officers on important missions:
 - (1) Mission: No. 795 of 20 August 1944.
 - (a) Commanding Officer: 2nd Lieut. Grady F. Davenport.
- i. Losses in action:
 - (1) Killed in action:
 - (a) Name: 2nd Lieut. James R. Lord.
 - 1. Date: 10 August 1944.
 - (b) Name: 2nd Lieut. Howard W. Cleveland.
 - 1. Date: 18 August 1944.
 - (2) Missing in action:
 - (a) Name: 2nd Lieut. Gordon H. Jones.
 - 1. Date: 2 August 1944.
 - (b) Name: Capt. Roy C. Emerson.
 - 1. Date: 17 August 1944.
 - (3) Duty to death:
 - (a) Name: 2nd Lieut. Robert F. Bittner,
 - 1. Date: 5 August 1944.
 - (4) The following named pilot, who was reported in Outline History for month of May 1944 as missing in action is now a Prisoner of War.
 - (a) Name: 2nd Lieut. Mervin J. Hitchcock.
 - 1. Missing in action: 25 May 1944.
- j. Presentations of awards to past and present members of this organization.
 - (1) Name: Major William P. Benedict.
 - (a) Basis: Gallantry in Action.
 - (b) Reward: Silver Star.

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Page 3., Outline History of 66th F. S., August, 1944.

- (2) Name: Capt. George (NMI) Kriss.
 (a) Basis: Extraordinary Achievement.
 (b) Reward: Distinguished Flying Cross.
- (3) Name: 2nd Lieut. Paul (NMI) Bangiola.
 (a) Basis: Extraordinary Achievement.
 (b) Reward: Distinguished Flying Cross.
- (4) Name: 2nd Lieut. Herman R. Williams.
 (a) Basis: Extraordinary Achievement.
 (b) Reward: Distinguished Flying Cross.
- (5) Name: 1st Lieut. Wilbur P. Bailey.
 (a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
 (b) Reward: Air Medal.
- (6) Name: 1st Lieut. Wilbur P. Bailey.
 (a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
 (b) Reward: 1st Oak Leaf Cluster.
- (7) Name: 2nd Lieut. Paul (NMI) Bangiola.
 (a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
 (b) Reward: Air Medal.
- (8) Name: 1st Lieut. Stephen L. Bettinger.
 (a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
 (b) Reward: Air Medal.
- (9) Name: 1st Lieut. Vincent J. Bracha.
 (a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
 (b) Reward: Air Medal.
- (10) Name: 1st Lieut. Darrell F. Casida.
 (a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
 (b) Reward: Air Medal.
- (11) Name: 2nd Lieut. George F. Deckert Jr.
 (a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
 (b) Reward: Air Medal.
- (12) Name: 2nd Lieut. William H. Dickinson.
 (a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
 (b) Reward: Air Medal.
- (13) Name: 1st Lieut. William H. Ehney.
 (a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
 (b) Reward: Air Medal.
- (14) Name: 2nd Lieut. Raymond A. Farrell.
 (a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
 (b) Reward: Air Medal.
- (15) Name: 2nd Lieut. Edwin O. Flood.
 (a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
 (b) Reward: Air Medal.
- (16) Name: 2nd Lieut. Robert H. Gains.
 (a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
 (b) Reward: Air Medal.
- (17) Name: 1st Lieut. William R. Hill.
 (a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
 (b) Reward: Air Medal.

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Sheet No. 4., Outline History of 66th F.S. August, 1944.

- (18) Name: 1st Lieut. George S. Irby Jr.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
(b) Reward: Air Medal.
- (19) Name: 1st Lieut. Leon E. Jansen.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
(b) Reward: Air Medal.
- (20) Name: 1st Lieut. Richard L. Johnson.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
(b) Reward: Air Medal.
- (21) Name: 1st Lieut. Robert E. Kaiser.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
(b) Reward: Air Medal.
- (22) Name: 2nd Lieut. Alden L. Moore.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
(b) Reward: Air Medal.
- (23) Name: 1st Lieut. Bobby J. Pridgeon.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
(b) Reward: Air Medal.
- (24) Name: 2nd Lieut. Claude G. Rahn.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
(b) Reward: Air Medal.
- (25) Name: 2nd Lieut. John J. Ridley.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
(b) Reward: Air Medal.
- (26) Name: 2nd Lieut. Charles W. Turner.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
(b) Reward: Air Medal.
- (27) Name: 1st Lieut. James B. Wise.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
(b) Reward: Air Medal.
- (28) Name: 1st Lieut. Carrol J. Yoder.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
(b) Reward: Air Medal.
- (29) Name: 2nd Lieut. Carl B. Carlson.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
(b) Reward: Air Medal.
- (30) Name: 2nd Lieut. Grady F. Davenport Jr.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
(b) Reward: Air Medal.
- (31) Name: 2nd Lieut. Thomas A. Davis Jr.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
(b) Reward: Air Medal.
- (32) Name: 1st Lieut. James B. Wise.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
(b) Reward: 1st Oak Leaf Cluster.
- (33) Name: 1st Lieut. William H. Ehney.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
(b) Reward: 1st Oak Leaf Cluster.

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Sheet No. 5., Outline History of the 66th F.S. August, 1944.

- (34) Name: 1st Lieut. Robert E. Kaiser.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
(b) Reward: 1st Oak Leaf Cluster.
- (35) Name: 2nd Lieut. Alden L. Moore.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
(b) Reward: 1st Oak Leaf Cluster.
- (36) Name: 1st Lieut. Donald A. Smith.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
(b) Reward: 1st Oak Leaf Cluster.
- (37) Name: 2nd Lieut. Charles W. Turner.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
(b) Reward: 1st Oak Leaf Cluster.
- (38) Name: 1st Lieut. Carrol J. Yoder.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
(b) Reward: 1st Oak Leaf Cluster.
- (39) Name: 2nd Lieut. Carl B. Carlson.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
(b) Reward: 1st Oak Leaf Cluster.
- (40) Name: 2nd Lieut. Grady F. Davenport.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
(b) Reward: 1st Oak Leaf Cluster.
- (41) Name: 1st Lieut. Stephen L. Bettinger.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
(b) Reward: 1st Oak Leaf Cluster.
- (42) Name: 1st Lieut. Vincent J. Bracha.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
(b) Reward: 1st Oak Leaf Cluster.
- (43) Name: 1st Lieut. Darrell F. Casida.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
(b) Reward: 1st Oak Leaf Cluster.
- (44) Name: 1st Lieut. Howard W. Danks.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
(b) Reward: 1st Oak Leaf Cluster.
- (45) Name: 1st Lieut. Raymond A. Farrell.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
(b) Reward: 1st Oak Leaf Cluster.
- (46) Name: 2nd Lieut. Edwin O. Flood.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
(b) Reward: 1st Oak Leaf Cluster.
- (47) Name: 1st Lieut. William R. Hill.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
(b) Reward: 1st Oak Leaf Cluster.
- (48) Name: 1st Lieut. George S. Irby Jr.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
(b) Reward: 1st Oak Leaf Cluster.
- (49) Name: 1st Lieut. Leon E. Jansen.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
(b) Reward: 1st Oak Leaf Cluster.
- (50) Name: 1st Lieut. Richard L. Johnson.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
(b) Reward: 1st Oak Leaf Cluster.

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Sheet No. 6., Outline History of the 66th F.S. August, 1944.

- (51) Name: 1st Lieut. Bobby J. Pridgeon.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
(b) Reward: 1st Oak Leaf Cluster.
- (52) Name: 2nd Lieut. Claude G. Rahn.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
(b) Reward: 1st Oak Leaf Cluster.
- (53) Name: 2nd Lieut. John J. Ridley.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
(b) Reward: 1st Oak Leaf Cluster.
- (54) Name: 1st Lieut. Donald A. Smith.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
(b) Reward: 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster.
- (55) Name: 1st Lieut. Wilbur P. Bailey.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
(b) Reward: 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster.
- (56) Name: 1st Lieut. James B. Wise.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
(b) Reward: 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster.
- (57) Name: 1st Lieut. Stephen L. Bettinger.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
(b) Reward: 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster.
- (58) Name: 2nd Lieut. Grady F. Davenport.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
(b) Reward: 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster.
- (59) Name: 1st Lieut. Raymond A. Farrell.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
(b) Reward: 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster.
- (60) Name: 1st Lieut. James B. Wise Jr.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement.
(b) Reward: 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster.
- (61) Name: Capt. Sidney Auberach.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Service.
(b) Reward: Bronze Star.
- (62) Name: First Sergeant Leland W. Pettis.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Service.
(b) Reward: Bronze Star.
- (63) Name: Master Sergeant Pete P. Podraza
(a) Basis: Meritorious Service.
(b) Reward: Bronze Star.
- (64) Name: Master Sergeant Theodore J. Przybyleck.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Service.
(b) Reward: Bronze Star.
- (65) Name: Master Sergeant William R. Solenne.
(a) Basis: Meritorious Service.
(b) Reward: Bronze Star.

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Sheet No. 7., Outline History of the 66th F.S. August, 1944;

- (66) Name: Tech. Sergeant Gerald E. Smith.
 - (a) Basis: Meritorious Service.
 - (b) Reward: Bronze Star.
- (67) Name: Tech. Sergeant John S. Manor.
 - (a) Basis: Meritorious Service.
 - (b) Reward: Bronze Star.
- (68) Name: Tech. Sergeant. Mitchael C. Boyda.
 - (a) Basis: Meritorious Service.
 - (b) Reward: Bronze Star.
- (69) Name: P.F.C. Armand L. St. Jean.
 - (a) Basis: Meritorious Service.
 - (b) Reward: Bronze Star.

2. Inclosed are the War Diary of the 66th Fighter Squadron for the period 1 August thru 31 August 1944 and Special Account of Mission No. 795 of 20 August 1944.

Charles C Leaf
CHARLES C. LEAF
Major, Air Corps,
Commanding.

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Sheet No. 1, War Diary of the Sixty-Sixth Fighter Sqdn., APO 650.

Month of June, 1944. Prepared by Eigil G. Olsen, Capt., A. C.

DAYEVENTS

-
- 1 Two missions were flown today, one to dive-bomb RRs and the other was an anti-shipping mission to the port of Civitavecchia. On the first show a RR bridge was badly damaged by two direct hits. The second mission went to Civitavecchia but no targets could be found and the flight went inland to bomb a RR. In the evening the enlisted men's day room was opened officially. It was a lively affair indeed. Today one of the men of the squadron, S/Sgt. Percy Geuin, was badly injured when he dove into the stream and struck his head on the bottom. T/Sgt. Herbert Gluckman dove into the stream and rescued Geuin who had been paralyzed by his injury. Geuin was taken to a field hospital.
-
- 2 Four mission went out today; two to dive-bomb and two armed-recces, all to Italy. Direct hits were scored on a MT bridge and one span was knocked out. An engineless train was strafed and three cars were set on fire. 40 sorties were flown today.
-
- 3 One mission today and on this show eight RR cars were destroyed, 4 MT flamers were scored and one SM-79 was destroyed on the ground by a direct bomb strike. We were released for the day at 1630 hrs.
-
- 4 One MT bridge was damaged by a direct bomb strike on one of our two missions of the day. There was a U.S.O. Show at the 26th Service Squadron tonight and before the show coffee and doughnuts were served by the Red Cross.
-
- 5 It is reported that Rome has been taken. Our troops are said to have entered the city this morning and the enemy's ^{resistance} is reported to be slight. The Group ALO gave a gen talk this afternoon at operations. The bomb line has been put well N of the city of Rome.

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Sheet No. 2, War Diary of the Sixty-Sixth Fighter Sqdn., APO 650.

Month of June, 1944. Prepared by Eigil G. Olsen, Capt., A. C.

DAYEVENTS

The B-25 returned from Alexandria, Egypt today and some supplies were brought back for both the officers' mess and the enlisted men's day room. Lieut. Cortlandt McCoy has been made CO of the squadron. Major William P. Benedict is with the 87th F.W. More men left this morning by truck for the town of Corte where they will spend three days. The truck returned in the afternoon bringing the last group back from their passes there. A little mail came in today. Several MTs were destroyed on our two missions of the day to Italy.

- 6 Early mission today; take off at 0545 hrs. which meant that crew chiefs, pilots, service truck operators and operations personnel were up at 0430 hrs. We heard the news of landings in France this morning. It first came as a rumor and few believed it, but at about 0800 hrs. we heard it confirmed by news reports over the radio. The generator in the camp area was kept going most of the day so that there would be power for the radios for no one wants to miss any of the news today. The enlisted men enjoyed chocolate ice cream for lunch this noon. The movie "The Song of Bernadette" was shown tonight.

- 7 Two missions today. On the first mission two of our pilots were shot down by AA fire. Lieut. Charlie W. Turner was seen to bail out of his a/c and his parachute opened at about 1,000 ft. He landed not far from Lake Bolsena. Lieut. George F. Deckert dropped his belly tank and called in over the RT that his engine was cutting out and that he was going to belly land. He was seen to make a good landing in a field E of the town of Pereta and near the Albegna River. On the second show of the day, which took off at 1905 hrs., several MTs were shot up. It was a long day.

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Sheet No. 3, War Diary of the Sixty-Sixth Fighter Sqdn., APO 650.

Month of June, 1944. Prepared by Eigil G. Olsen, Capt., A. C.

DAYEVENTS

-
- 8 Early take off this morning at 0530 hrs. and the other show of the day went off at 1800 hrs. On the last show Lieut. Ridley scored a direct hit on a 100 ft. bridge which destroyed one span. No mail today.
-
- 9 Two missions today and a little mail came in and was distributed in the evening. No extraordinary events today. In the evening the movie "The Iron Major" was shown at the 65th Sqdn.
-
- 10 Passes to the town of Corte have been discontinued. Some other place for leave is going to be set up for the men. Two missions were flown today; one at 1200 hrs. and the other 2000. It was nearly dark when the last mission got back to base so it was a long day. Two new enlisted men came to join the squadron today.
-
- 11 Notice on the enlisted men's board this morning for them to be dressed in class "As" for a formation at Group HQ. this evening. One mission went off at 1000 hrs. and there was to be a second show at 1715 hrs. but because of rain here and bad weather reports from the target area the take off was moved to 1800 hrs. Since there was no improvement in the weather by that time the mission was called off and we were released for the day. The formation was called off as well as a U.S.O. Show, which was to be given this afternoon, because of the rain.
-
- 12 Three missions today; two to Italy and the third, which took off at 1900 hrs., went out to bomb gun positions on Elba. The rain of yesterday has caused the river to rise and the water has become swift and too muddy, so we can not take our baths as we like to do after the day's work. A little mail came in today and this was distributed in the evening. The weather

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Sheet No. 4, War Diary of the Sixty-Sixth Fighter Sqdn., APO 650.

Month of June, 1944. Prepared by Eigil G. Olsen, Capt., A. C.

DAY

EVENTS

was warm and pleasant all day with a clear sky. Two pilots who were shot down have returned to the squadron. 2nd Lieut. Robert H. Gains, O-812797, who was shot down by enemy AA fire on 16 May near Viterbo and 2nd Lieut. Charlie W. Turner, O-751994 who was seen to bail out of his a/c on the 7th day of this month near Lake Bolsena. Lieut. George F. Deckert who was shot down on the 7th day of this month on the same mission with Lieut. Turner is reported to be safe in Naples.

- 13 The 79th Fighter Group has come to this island and they are based just a short distance from us. As is usual when we find that we are neighbours once again, the enlisted men of this squadron go to the 79th to see old acquaintances. One a/c of the 79th Group landed here this morning with one bomb hung-up on it's wing. This bomb came off when the a/c made it's landing and it exploded. The a/c was caught in the blast and was set on fire. The pilot got out of the a/c though he was badly burned. There was a formation of the personnel of this group near Group Ops this evening. Colonel Darcy awarded the Purple Heart to Lieut. James B. Wise, Jr. and Lieut. Herman R. Williams, the Distinguished Flying Cross to Lieut. William C. Ballew and the Air Medal to Lieut. Donald A. Smith; all of this squadron. Some pilots of the other squadrons in the Group were decorated. One new enlisted man came in to join the squadron today.
-

- 14 Our stream has cleared up and we can now take a bath in it after a couple of days of washing from helmets. We appreciate the stream more after being deprived of the use of it for a day or two. We had two missions today and all a/c returned safely but one, which was wrecked in landing. One landing wheel folded up and the ship is in Cat. 3. The pilot, Lieut. Pridgeon, was not injured. The second mission of the day took

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Sheet No. 5, War Diary of the Sixty-Sixth Fighter Sqdn., APO 650.

Month of June, 1944. Prepared by Eigil G. Olsen, Capt., A. C.

DAYEVENTS

off at 1935 hrs. and landed at 2130 hrs. so many of the officers and men had a long day. S/Sgt. Percy Geuin, who was injured on the first day of this month, died this evening at about 1900 hrs. One enlisted man came in to join the squadron today.

15 Word has been received that 1st Lieut. Robert J. Hunter is safe in Naples. He was lost on the 16th of May, 1944. Lieut. Hunter is in a Naples hospital recovering from 1st degree burns but it is reported that he should be released in about one week. On the first of our two missions of the day Lieut. Richard Johnson made a forced landing in the sea N of the island. The engine of his a/c failed. He landed and walked out onto the wing of the a/c before it sank. He had a little trouble when his "Mae West" broke but he was able to inflate the rubber life raft, which is attached to the parachute, and it supported him until the air-sea-rescue "Walrus" came out to pick him up. Lieut. Johnson was back in our operations tent before mid-morning. Canteen supplies were sold to the men this afternoon and a movie was shown in the evening; "Madame Currie". Eight new pilots came in to join the squadron today.

16 Two missions today, the first of which landed here at 1250 and the squadron had one more and was released for the day. At 1700 hrs. trucks left the orderly room to take men to the funeral services for S/Sgt. Percy Geuin. The services were held at a military cemetery near Bastia. Geuin was injured on the first day of this month.

17 Landings were made on the island of Elba last night and so, today all of our shows were to dive-bomb and strafe targets on the island. Our squadron ran four missions today.

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Sheet No. 6, War Diary of the Sixty-Sixth Fighter Sqdn., APO, 650.

Month of June, 1944. Prepared by Eigil G. Olsen, Capt., A. C.

DAY	EVENTS
18	Last night we were given a tentative take off time for this morning: 0500 hrs. Pilots, crew chiefs etc. were all up out of bed and down on the line before 0400 hrs. The weather was not at all good and so we waited around operations for further word from Group Operations. Finally we were released until 0800 hrs. The first show got off at 1115 hrs. and it was a good one. This morning an a/c of one of the other squadrons was forced to land in the sea just off-shore to the E of this landing ground.
19	The sky was cloudy today and because of the bad flying weather we were released for the morning. We were put on one hour's readiness and the mission took off at about 1530 hrs. to recce the Italian coast in search of shipping targets. After this show had returned we were released for the day. Two flights of four a/c each went up locally as a training mission for the new pilots who came in on the 15th of this month.
20	Only two missions today and we were released at 1400 hrs. In the afternoon one training flight went up. Canteen supplies were sold to the men in their camp area this noon - Coca Cola included. In the evening the movie "Sahara" was shown at the 65th Sqdn.
21	Two missions today, both of which went up the Italian coast to Genoa. In the evening a practice gas alert was sounded and everyone put on gas masks until the all-clear was sounded. Lieut. William C. Ballew and Lieut. George Kriss left the squadron; they are to return to the U.S.A.
22	The first mission got off at 1010 hrs and the two others took off at 1350 and 1735 hrs. During the afternoon the sky was cloudy over the field and there was a light shower. A small amount of mail came in today. One new enlisted man came in to join the squadron today.

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Sheet No. 7, War Diary of the Sixty-Sixth Fighter Sqdn., APO 650.

Month of June, 1944. Prepared by Eigil G. Olsen, Capt., A. C.

DAY	EVENTS
23	The first show of the day got off at 0630 hrs. and when it returned the pilots reported bad weather over Italy. The bomber-escort, which was to take off at 1000 hrs. was called off and we were released until 1400 hrs. but no missions were flown for the rest of the day.
24	Two missions today against lines of communication in Italy. The first show of the day took off at 0545 hrs. and some very good bombing was done. The second mission took off at 1430 hrs. F/O Julius H. Coburn, Jr., T-62096, returned early from this mission because of engine trouble. We could hear the engine in his a/c cutting out as he circled to land. As he made his approach the engine cut and the ship spun into the ground. F/O Coburn died in the a/c which burned after hitting the ground. He came to the squadron on the 15th of this month and had flown only a few hours with us. Lieut. Thomas R. May, who was shot down on the 25th of May, 1944 has returned to the squadron. Two enlisted men left the squadron today to return to the U.S.A. on rotation. They are S/Sgt. Louis J. Cooper and Cpl. Douglas I. Plantz. Both men have been with the squadron at least 2½ years and they leave many friends behind.
25	Another early morning mission today; take off at 0550 hrs. The second and last mission of the day took off at 1900 hrs. and returned at about 2100 hrs. so it was a long day for all thoes who work on the line. There was a small amount of mail in the evening. Movie to-night in the 65th Sqdn. area tonight.
26	Two missions today; one around noon and the last had landed by 1840 hrs. 2nd Lieut. William C. Burt, O-706350, did not return from the last mission of the day. The flight went down in a strafing run and Lieut. Burt's a/c struck a telegraph pole and crashed in the town of Fianza, Italy. Lieut. Burt joined the squadron on the 15th of this month. A U.S.O. Show was given at the 26th Service Sqdn. this afternoon.

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Sheet No. 8, War Diary of the Sixty-Sixth Fighter Sqdn., APO 650.

Month of June, 1944. Prepared by Eigil G. Olsen, Capt., A. C.

DAY	EVENTS
27	Only one mission today which returned at 1255 hrs. and we were released for the day at 1500 hrs. The weather was bad over Italy and this was the reason for our early release. Canteen supplies were sold to the men in their camp area this noon and there was mail in the evening as well as a movie.
28	We were to have a mission this morning but this was called off because of poor weather and we were released until 1200 hrs. After 1200 hrs we were told by Group Operations that we were released until 1500 hrs. and finally at 1600 hrs. we were released for the day. Some mail was distributed in the evening.
29	Three missions today. The sky was clear all day and fine for flying in contrast to the weather of yesterday. Passes to Rome begin tomorrow for the men. Three men leave in the morning to spend 5 days there. Many of the officers have been to visit the city thus far.
30	A splendid mission was flown today (See Special Account). On this mission some excellent bombing was done. Two other shows were flown today but both of these were more or less routine. Tomorrow the 57th Fighter Group celebrates the end of the second year overseas. We are to fly in the morning but in the afternoon everyone is to be free to attend a gathering of the group personnel where there is to be beer and entertainment.

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Sheet No. 9, War Diary of the Sixty-Sixth Fighter Sqdn., APO 650.

Month of June, 1944. Prepared by Eigil G. Olsen, Capt., A. C.

Special Account of Mission No. 706 of 30 June, 1944 from
Alto L. G., Corsica.

A/C	PILOT	A/C	PILOT
77	Wise	85	Ridley
74	Matula	71	Hain
93	Davenport	02	Yates
88	Ehney	72	Cleveland
84	Jansen	70	Irby
89	Bracha	87	Davis

Duty: To dive-bomb RR bridge near the town of Molinella, Italy. 12 a/c with 24 X 500 lb. G. P., 1/10 sec. delay bombs and longe range tanks.

Narrative: 12 a/c climbed to 12,000 ft. N of Massa and headed NE over the Appenines to the Po River Valley, to Modena and on to the target, N of Molinella, Italy. The target, a double track RR bridge of heavy steel construction, 5 or 6 spans and supported by concrete pilings. There was a crater on the S approach but previous damage had been repaired. In an excellent bomb run 22 X 500 lb. G. P. bombs were dropped from less than 1,000 ft., and four direct hits were scored on the bridge, leaving very large holes and a mass of twisted steel. The bridge is beyond repair. In addition, 7 direct hits were scored on the approaches; three on the N and 4 on the S, effecting a total of 11 cuts in the tracks. MT attacked and damaged as follows: 1 large truck damaged, 1 MT left smoking, 3 self-propelled howitzers on traction trucks and 5 MT damaged; all in the vicinity of the town of Molinella. A strafing pass was made at 10 RR cars but with no results. Heavy AA was encountered from Modena and Ferrara. 1 Me-109 was seen taking off at Bologna but no contact was made with this e/a. Weather was 4 to 6/10 cloud over mountains and 1/10 over the target area at 5 to 9,000 ft., visibility 5 to 10 miles.

All a/c returned safely.

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