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SQ-FI-64-HI
1 July - 31 July 1944

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64th Ftr. Sq.
Outline History July 1944

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By Auth. CO
64th Ftr. Sq.
5 August 1944

HEADQUARTERS SIXTY FOURTH FIGHTER SQUADRON
A.P.O. 650

EDL/K/K

5 August 1944

AG 413.7

SUBJECT : Historical Records

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

P.R.C.

THRU : Commanding Officer, 57th Fighter Group.

1. Outline history of the 64th Fighter Squadron for the period 1 July to 31 July 1944.

a. Present designation: 64th Fighter Squadron, 57th Fighter Group, 87th Fighter Wing, XII Tactical Air Command.

b. Changes in Organization: None

c. Strength, Commissioned and Enlisted.
(1) Month of July 1944.
(a) 1 July, Commissioned: 49, Enlisted: 255
(b) Net increase, Commissioned: 11, Enlisted: 3
(c) Net decrease, Commissioned: None, Enlisted: None
(d) 31 July, Commissioned 60, Enlisted: 258

d. Stations.
(1) Alto Landing Ground, Corsica.

e. Movements.
(1) None

f. Campaigns.
(1) Italian.
(2) Duration: 18 September 1943, still in progress.

g. Operations.
(1) Campaign: Italian.
(2) Nature of operations: Dive Bombing.
(3) Number of missions 1 July through 31 July: 43, sorties 404.
(4) Results of most important missions.
(a) No outstanding missions during the month.

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H. Commanding Officers in important missions.
(a) No outstanding missions.

i. Losses in action: None

j. Present members of this Squadron who have distinguished themselves in action the past month:
Capt. Charles P. Neese awarded the D.F.C. on G.O. #80, Headquarters XII Air Force.
Capt. Michael C. McCarthy awarded the D.F.C. on G.O. #80, Headquarters XII Air Force.
Capt. William F. Nuding, awarded the D.F.C. on G.O. #75, Headquarters XII Air Force.
1st Lt. Clyde W. Teefertiller, awarded the Air Medal on G.O. #81, Headquarters XII Air Force.

2. Inclosed is War Diary, 64th Fighter Squadron, for the period 1 July 1944, to 31 July 1944.

For the Squadron COMMANDER:

Earl D. Lovick
EARL D. LOVICK,
Captain, Air Corps
Intelligence Officer

Incl:
War Diary

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Sheet No. - 1 - War Diary — 64th Fighter Squadron, 57th Group

Month of July 1944 — Prepared by EARL D. LOVICK, Capt. A.C.

DAY	EVENTS
1.	On this date the 57th Fighter Group has been overseas for two years. To celebrate the occasion a large party was held. All members of the Group attended as well as many guests including General Cannon, General Saville and Colonel Darcy. All present had a big time with a picnic lunch being served in the evening with beer to wash it down.
2.	The 108th R.S.U., R.A.F. put on a stage show today. It was enjoyed by all.
3.	Operations contine as per schedule, routine missions go out.
4.	A good show was shown tonight.
5.	Major Robert Brown qualified for the Caterpillar and Goldfish clubs today. When on a dive bombing mission over Italy his plane was badly hit by flak, and it stopped running before reaching base so he was forced to bail out. After spending a couple of hours in the water he was picked up by a high speed launch.
6.	Another movie this evening.
7.	The B-25 left for Alexandria today with several officers and on M/Sgt. on board. All will have furloughs there. Or rather the sergeant will have a furlough. Officers don't have furloughs. They have leaves of absence - to be technical... Captain Mack was seen to take up the squadron roster and look it over, supposedly in search of eligibles for the rotation list. We're all eligible for that matter, so why doesn't he spin a coin or have us draw straws. The rotation system is not very systimatic and is getting to be a great big joke. The "roulette" system would be a better name for it.. The film for this evening's movie was a little better than the usual run of grade "X" pictures we've been getting. In competition with the show a battery of searchlights worked out on a lone Spitfire upstairs. Just like old times.
8.	The boys bagged a locomotive in Italy today, feeding slugs into it until it blew up with a hell of a roar. The trains never did run on time in that country anyhow, and now they run even more infrequently than they did in El Duce's day.. There ought to be a law against people coming into the mess hall to eat half naked. Ashirt on a man makes him look more like a soldier and less like a Zulu savage. Today one half-naked customer seated at a table got hot coffee spilled down his back. It almost caused a fight.
9.	Heavy rains in the afternoon. All the ships were grounded. Rumor has it the American M.P.'s are going to be taken out of Bastia, which might be a good thing as far as all of us are concerned.
10.	A French pilot came in to land early this morning and just as he was nosing down for the approach his guns ripped off a blast straight down the runnway. Probably his hand pressed the trigger accidentally - nobody could get his story straight, possibly because he can't talk English - at any rate there

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DAY EVENTS

was a lot of hop, skip, and jumping around operations. Luckily nobody got hurt. But that's an awfully bad location anyhow there by the runway. Sixty-fifth Squadron's planes started night flying tonight. Few of us got any sleep.

11. We went up to the show and it turned out to be very good in comparisom with the usual fare we've been getting. But not half so interesting as the show that went on upstairs during the night, flying practice. One ship from the 79th crashed up north of the runnway, and then one from the 65th banked sharply over the water just offshore and went in full throttle. Later in the evening a French pilot smashed into the side of a mountain. Three casualties.

12. One of 65th Squadron hot pilots was sore at the world because he had to fly. Most of all he was sore at enlisted men who didn't have to fly. He gave the ground crews a buzz-job one day with guns spitting something terrific and everybody diving in to holes. Just to let 'em know they're in the war, he remarked.

13. A plane which was parked at the end of the runway caught fire early this morning and despite all efforts of the ground crew to put out the blaze it ate away at the tanks. One bunch of machine guns ran away and amid the whizzing of bullets everyone ran for cover. A few seconds later the bombs exploded and completely demolished the ship. Nobody got hurt.

14. Night flying again tonight. Pilots have a lot of trouble landing their ships at night because the prop haze does funny things when they turn on their landing lights. The ground looks very blurred and makes it difficult to estimate distance.

15. A Lieutenant named Hale, new to this outfit, qualified for membership in both the Caterpillar club and the Goldfish club when he bailed out today and landed in the water midway to Italy.. A plane up in the French area caught fire and all its guns ran away with a deafening clatter. Then one of its bombs exploded, closely followed by the other. Bomb splinters and parts of wreckage were blown clear down to the 64th area. No casualties. Lt. Saux shot Zeis-a-tone's raven for eating up his candy ration and doing business on his blankets. He took four shots at spitting range before hitting the ominous black bird, and at the same time damned his poor marksmanship.

16. At the first peep of dawn a French plane comes barreling down the runway and crashes right outside Ops. The pilot jumped out just before it blew up. He had already dropped both bombs on the runway, so there was no explosion. Another Thunderbolt goes up in flames. It's getting to be monotonous. About midnight a house burned down across the way and destroyed a lot of the Frenchmans signal equipment, including a teletype.. Later in the morning after the crash of the French plane, a 64th plane came sliding in also beside Ops. One day, we are are confident, Ops is going to get it. The stage show by an "R.A.F." troupe was very good indeed.

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DAY EVENTS

17. This is the first month since August of last year that Sgt. Zeisloft gets any pay. He claims the army's all-time redline record.

18. Missions are going out every day to pound at the important road arteries around Leghorn. The bombline in some places extend as far as five miles north of the town. Florence has been declared an open city.. The men want a club complete with a stock of liquor, but it appears same will not be establish unless they kick in with some money to finance it. Why the squadron fund, which is rumored to have reached an astronomical figure, has not been utilized for this purpose has not been disclosed.

19. Captains Novy and McCarthy returned to the Squadron after a leave spent in the U.S.A. A second showing of "Memphis Belle" up at the group theatre. The earthbound enlisted men of this outfit found the flicker very exciting.

20. A B-26 piled up on the beach as it was coming back from a mission over northern Italy. Other ships of the flight landed at our field to gas up and continue to their home base. This outfit has the highest malaria rate inthe group.

21. All flights canceled. The engineers are working on the runway and it will be closed to traffic for several days. Taking advantage of the vacation period a large percentage of the men immediately put in passes for Rome, Naples, Catania and points south. Let 'em go; that will make fewer candidates for passes around the first of the month when everybody is flush with lire.

22. Photographer Joe went over about eleven o'clock tonight, high and fast.

23. Some of the men have gegun to straggle back from the various places where they have beguiled their time. A few of the mechanics are still working on the three planes that are in the boneyard. Work on the field goes on every night, and it will soon be ready for the bombers, thus maybe wercan get out of this place; we've had it.

24. Major Brown was transferred to the 27th Fighte Group and Lt. Mitchell was promoted to captain. The men who had not had their shots for smallpox were instructed to take same.

25. A fair movie this evening. All but a few unfortunate crew chiefs are taking it easy now that there is no operations.

26. It's a damn strange thing how the toothpaste and cigarettes disapperar from our weekly ration. We get eight packs of the butts per week while other squadron get a carton - all except group and they get two cartons. It's also very strange about the candy. A very fantastic rumor came off today; men

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DAY EVENTS

ARE URGENTLY NEEDED TO FORM B-29 outfis and volunteers are in order. Men who have been in the army long enough to know better went dashing over to the orderly room to offer their service; and as usual, no soap. The incident proved you can't trust a rumor. It also proved the man in this outfit have "had it", which might should prove embarrassing to the powers that be.

27. The engineers have completed the job on the landing strip. The strip has been lengthened and steel matting laid down the entire length. Our ships were scheduled to go on a late mission but failed to get off. Capt. Gerry Brandon, an old timer to this outfit from the Desert Air Force, has returned to this outfit from a leave in the states.

28. The ships went out today after targets behind the Gothic line. Someone gave out with a rumor that all passes had been cancelled; but that of course is not so, because some of us can always get passes, in fact they are glad to see us go.

29. Flash some local character, either G.I. or civilian - and probably dago, broke into the mess hall where the guard was either sleeping or not around at all and kiftied 52 pounds of bacon. His therefore to pay.

30. All men are confined to post until the bacon-burglar is captured. Our local Perry Masons and Ellery Queens are sleuthing for all they're worth.

31. Still no light on the "case of the missing meat or who broke the lock on the mess hall door", and so comes to a close the second July overseas. We may yet see a third.

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