

~~RESTRICTED~~

DECLASSIFIED
DOD DIR 5200

59-1-165-11
Feb. 1945

65th Fighter Squadron

P.R.C.

February 1945

DECLASSIFIED
DOD DIR 5200.9

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RSI Cont No
S07261

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S E C R E T

50-F1-65-48
Feb 45

DESIGNATION SHEET
HISTORICAL RECORDS

(78)

COMMAND : XXII Tactical Air Command

WING : _____

GROUP : 57th Fighter Group

SQUADRON: 65th Fighter Squadron

OTHER : _____

OUTLINE HISTORY X

WAR DIARY X

SECRET

SECRET65th Ftr Sqdn.
Outline History February 1945.DECLASSIFIED
DOD DIR 5200.9By Auth CO
65th Ftr Sqdn.
10, March 1945.**SIXTY-FIFTH FIGHTER SQUADRON A.A.F.**
A.P.O. 650

10, March 1945

AR 345-105

SUBJECT : Historical Data.

TO : Commanding General, XXII T.A.C.

1. Outline History of the Sixty-Fifth Fighter Squadron for the period 1, February 1945 to 28, February 1945.
- a. Present designation: Sixty-Fifth Fighter Squadron, Fifty-Seventh Fighter Group, XXII T.A.C.
- b. Changes in organizations:
 1. No change in designation.
 2. No change in assignment.
 3. No change in attachment.

Subordinate units: None.

Commanding Officer: Lt. Colonel Gilbert O. Wymond Jr., -0431591.
 Changes in staff officers: Captain James M. Eubanks is appointed Squadron Tactical Inspector, Captain Joe E. Keith is appointed Ass't Engineering Officer, 1st Lt. John F. Murphy is appointed Squadron Athletic Officer, 1st Lt. Melvin L. Fiedler is appointed Squadron Photography Officer, 2nd Lt. David P. Black is appointed Ass't Armament Officer, 1st Lt. Sylvester H. Hendricks is appointed Ass't Squadron Tactical Inspector Officer, 2nd Lt. Carl L. Greener is appointed Ass't Quartermaster and Tech Supply Officer, 2nd Lt. Angelo J. Alessandrini is appointed Ass't Transportation Officer. Captain Joseph R. Hrusa is appointed Squadron Intelligence Officer vice Captain Marvin D. Parkhurst-relieved, Captain Joseph R. Hrusa is appointed Historical Officer vice Captain Marvin D. Parkhurst-relieved, 1st Lt. James E. Bearden II is appointed Summary Court Officer and Graves Registration Officer vice Captain Marvin D. Parkhurst-relieved, Capt James M Eubanks is appointed Ass't Operations Officer, Capt Joseph R. Donahue Jr. is appointed Flight Comdr "A" flight, Lt Homer R. Wilson is appointed Fl't Comdr "B" flight, Lt Alvar B. Wallin is appointed Fl't Comdr "C" flight, Capt Alvin M Welbes is appointed Fl't Comdr "D" flight, Lt Richard L. Coleman is appointed Fl't Comdr "E" flight, Lt Clarence L. Hewatt III is appointed Comdr "G" flight.

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c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:

1, February 1945	commissioned--57	enlisted--249
Net increase:	commissioned---4	enlisted---1
Net decrease:	commissioned---0	enlisted---0
28, February 1945:	commissioned--61	enlisted--250

d. Stations:

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

e. Movements: None.

f. Campaigns: Italy, duration September 16, 1943, still in progress.
Southern France--August 15, 1944--finished.

g. Operations:

1. Campaign--Italian.
2. Nature of Operations: Dive-bombing, bomber escort, area cover, anti-flak diversion, rocket firing, strafing, armed recce, Auntie, Rover Joe.
3. Number of missions--101 sorties--594
4. Most important missions of the month were no doubt the "Rover Joe" shows giving close support to our front line troops.

h. Losses in action: 11, February 1945--Lt. L.R. Douglas.

27, February 1945--Lt. William Anderson.

27, February 1945--Lt. Paul Hughes.

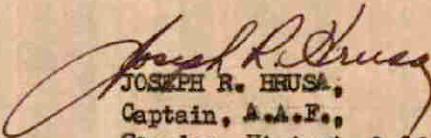
28, February 1945--Lt. Joseph Beesley.

i. Awards and decorations: The following awards have been made during the month of February: The following have received the DFC-- Capts M.B. Smith, Alvin M. Welbes. The following have been awarded the Air Medal-- Lts Davis P. Black, Charles D. Basley, Jack J. Glesener, Carl L. Greener, Angelo J. Alessandrini, Harry J. Cavanagh, Jack I. Gross, William L. Sheftall, Daniel Salinas, Loye M. Copeland, Lindsey Douglas, Harold Bonnici, Clyde J. Casterline. The following have been awarded OLC to the Air Medal-- Lts Wilbur R. Holmes--2nd OLC, Dwight V. Orman--1st OLC, Wilbur C. Crowe--2nd OLC, Earl H. Evans--2nd OLC, Clarence L. Hewitt--3rd OLC, Fergus Mayer--2nd OLC, Melvin L. Fiedler--2nd OLC, Max M. Floerke--2nd OLC, Francis J. Middleton--2nd OLC, Jack W. Collins--2nd OLC, Capts Alvin M. Welbes--4th OLC, Kenneth J. Gustafson--5th OLC, Martin C. McGilvary--6th OLC.

The following have been awarded the Bronze Star: Major James Boyhan, Capt. Marvin D. Parkhurst, M/Sgts Billie W. Bahr, Charles H. Whiteoff, T/Sgts John H. Savage, Charles M. Johnston, S/Sgts Aldo R. Giovannini, Edward T. Rescorl, Charles J. Appel, Luther C. Spencer, Kenneth B. Taylor, Cpl Frank Cardoza.

For the Commanding Officer:

1 INCL War Diary.


JOSEPH R. HRUSA,
Captain, A.A.F.,
Squadron Historical Officer.

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Sheet No. 1 - War Diary

Month of February 1945.

65th Fighter Sq., 57th Ftr Gp.
 Prepared by
 Joseph R. Hrusa
 Captain, Air Corps.

- | DAY | EVENTS |
|-----|--|
| 1. | Weather bad. 8 aircraft took-off for Ala but didn't bomb the bridge due to bad weather. All returned safe. |
| 2. | Weather bad-no shows. |
| 3. | Weather bad-no shows. |
| 4. | <p>First of 8 aircraft led by Lt Hewitt to Ala R/R bridge in the Brenner Pass. One direct hit on center of bridge. All returned safe.</p> <p>2nd show of 4 aircraft led by Lt Coleman was an armed recce in area II. Dropped bombs on railroad line at F-1867 making two cuts and damaging three boxcars.</p> <p>Capt Smith led the first afternoon show of eight aircraft to an ammo dump at G-497651 leaving the buildings in the area smoking and several demolished. There were no explosions. All returned safe.</p> <p>Lt Hewitt led an armed recce of four ships to Milano and the area east and south of Milano. Attacked a railroad line at F-1867 damaging the track and making one cut. One aircraft was damaged by flak-all returned safe.</p> |
| 5. | <p>A weather recce by four aircraft took off this morning led by Capt Ellington. Bombed Ala RR/bridge-no hits observed. Strafing passes were made at A-5803 where three MT were damaged and at A-5801 where four MT were destroyed. This afternoon eight aircraft went back to bomb Ala again. Four possible hits were scored on the bridge. All returned safe.</p> <p>Last show of four aircraft was an armed recce. Dive-bombed a RR/Bridge at F-6993 claiming one cut in tracks and other near misses. That's all for today.</p> |
| 6. | <p>Three shows today all in the afternoon. All were four aircraft armed recce of area 8. R/R lines were attacked with no claims being made.</p> <p>The enlisted mens basketball team played 97th Bomb Group defeating them 24-18 for their 5th straight victory.</p> |
| 7. | <p>Three missions totalling 27 sorties. First one of eight aircraft led by Lt Hewitt to dive-bomb rail bridge at Castelnuovo. A hit on the east approach was scored knocking away a section of the bridge.</p> <p>The 2nd show of seven aircraft led by Capt Smith dive-bombed a rail bridge at G-399678-results not observed.</p> <p>The 3rd show went to Bassano rail-road bridge, was led by Lt Hendricks scoring one hit on SE approach.</p> |
| 8. | <p>Nine missions-31 sorties attacking rail bridges in Serchio Valley and carrying out armed recces. All aircraft returned safely.</p> <p>Captain Ellington was promoted to Major today. This was cause for a terrific party at the Officers Club. The club liquor supply took quite a beating. We hope there are more promotions soon!</p> |

[SECRET]

War Diary Sheet No.-2-cont'd.

SECRET

- | DAY | EVENTS |
|-----|---|
| 9. | Weather bad-no missions. |
| 10. | Four missions totaling 30 sorties today. The enlisted mens basketball team played the 316th Service Group beating them by a score of 32-21 making it the 6th straight victory in league play. The team boasts no individual star but is a well rounded aggregation. |
| 11. | Four missions totaling 14 sorties. On our first afternoon mission four aircraft on an armed recce of the territory north of Venice. We suffered our first loss of the month. Lt Douglas while strafing gun positions at Bassano was hit by light flak. He was forced to bail out at G-3355, map reference Italy 1:250,000. His chute was seen to open and he landed safely in an open field. Nothing much doing today. |
| 12. | Two missions making 14 sorties flown today. The weather was bad this morning and no shows got off. The enlisted mens basketball team played Hq 47th Bomb Gp and won 28-16. This makes seven straight victories and the boys are quite jubilant over their prospects of winning the league title. They are quite eager to get the trip to Florence for the district play-off. |
| 13. | Four missions today totaling 26 sorties. The targets were Bassano HW/B at G-235884, RR/B at G-143683 and armed recce-results were good scoring hits on several rail lines. Nothing of much interest happened today. The meals are good and the morale of the Squadron is good. We still enjoy movies every night as provided by the local service group. |
| 14. | Love is in the air-St Valentines Day! The enlisted men had a dance at their club inviting local talent to be their dancing partners. A good time was had by all in attendance. Three shows today totaling 27 sorties were flown today. Targets were Cittadella rail diversion and Bassano HW/B. Bridges weren't hit but approaches were cut and cuts in railroad lines were affected. All aircraft down safely. |
| 15. | Two missions totaling 16 sorties today. The targets were Cittadella rail diversion and Calliano railroad bridge. The target at Cittadella was weathered in so the formation attacked Ala railroad bridge at F-668900. Several good hits were scored by the 2nd section of four aircraft and two spans were destroyed. At Calliano two direct hits were believed to have been scored on the bridge. The enlisted mens basketball team played the 84th Bomb Squadron and defeated them 34-26. Our team is on top. |

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War Diary Sheet No.3-cont'd.

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DAYEVENTS

16. Three missions totaling 20 sorties were flown today. Two shows bombed with Auntie and dropped their bombs as directed. No results were observed. The month is moving by fast and many of us will welcome pay-day.
17. Five missions today for a total of 32 sorties. Targets were railroad lines, railroad bridges and a sugar refinery. The sugar refinery was hit hard with all buildings in target area believed to be damaged. Buildings in northern section were set on fire. The enlisted men finally got a little revenge on the 136 MP Co by beating their basketball team 33-25. Eight straight and still on top!
18. Three missions-24 sorties. Things were quiet today. Our movies continue and although we see a majority of class B "quickies", they are all appreciated. Hope they continue during our stay here.
19. Two missions flown today totaling 11 sorties. Both were conducted by Auntie and bombs were dropped as directed. We had another movie tonight which was very good. We would like to see more like it.
20. Six missions for a total of 27 sorties today. Most of the missions were with Rover Joe, dive-bombing and strafing with machine-guns and rockets gun positions a short distance from the bomb-line. Many hits were scored in gun positions and several guns silenced. The basketball team won a victory without playing the game. The 85th Bomb Sq forfeited the game to us. Only three more victories and we are the champs of the league.
21. Five missions for 28 sorties. Most of the attacks were centered around the village of Villa D'Aiano with gun positions the primary target. The guns were hard to find in the mountainous regions and results were not known. One highway bridge was attacked but no direct hits were scored although the approaches were cratered. The morale is running high and we are hoping the war will be over soon.
22. Six missions for a total of 27 sorties. The majority of the missions were close support under the direction of Rover Joe. Good results on all shows! A movie again tonight but it wasn't too good. The food situation is pretty good. We get fresh eggs almost every other morning.
23. We got 30 sorties today out of our 5 missions. The 1st show of the day was particularly good! 3 P-47s attacked a 12 track M/Y at J-8843 scoring with all bombs in the S end of M/Y. Destroyed 1 steam loco and damaged 12 box-cars, other results were undetermined. 2 more locos strafed and destroyed and 5 others damaged. The basketball team defeated the 86th Bomb Sq by a score of 36-28 for their 11th straight victory. That championship is knocking at our door. FLORENCE here we come!

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War Diary Sheet No. 4-cont'd.

SECRET

- | DAY | EVENTS |
|-----|---|
| 24. | Five missions today making a total of 35 sorties. Today was a banner day for 10 of our pilots. 1st Lt Welbes was promoted to Captain and the following 2nd Lts' to 1st Lt: Lt Allen, Lt Black, Lt Brothers, Lt Cavanaugh, Lt Cowart, Lt Easley, Lt Glesener, Lt Greener and Lt Gross. The party tonight was really terrific! It wasn't safe for a Teetotler to enter the bar-room. The party carried on into the wee hours of the morning and the clubs liquor supply was severely damaged. What a night! The promoted officers went over to the enlisted mens club to drink with their crew chiefs and they were really in fine condition when they returned to the officers club??. |
| 25. | Two shows today for 14 sorties. Targets attacked were rail bridges in the M Brenner. In the evening the pilots all attended a lecture by Wing Commander Day of British Intelligence. The lecture dealt with the interrogation of prisoners of war. It was a very interesting lecture and quite amusing in places. The pilots seemed to show a great deal of interest. |
| 26. | Four missions for 29 sorties. All targets were in the Brenner Pass. Tonight we had a USO show titled "Farden Me". It was a one act musical comedy and very entertaining. It was very funny and the sight of good American Girls dancing was a sight for sore eyes. Hope we have more like them! |
| 27. | Four missions totaling 31 sorties today. On a mission to Calliano railroad bridge in Brenner Pass. 2nd Lt William H. Anderson failed to return from the mission. It is believed that he was hit by flak during his bomb run. While in the run his plane was seen to turn to the left, go into a spin and crash into a mountain at A-7309. Later in the day in an attack on Lisiera railroad bridge a plane piloted by 2nd Lt Paul W. Hughes was caught in his own bomb blast at 200' which set his belly tank on fire. He was observed to leave plane but too low for chute to open. Accident occurred at G-2371. Despite our two losses today, the morale of the pilots and men is still good. Yesterdays USO show was on again tonight. |
| 28. | Four missions today for a total of 31 sorties. In the first mission this morning the flight attacked AAA a partially burned out ammo dump at G-1808. While strafing huts in the dump several of the huts blew up resulting in huge explosions which were felt at 10,000'. While in the strafing run the plane piloted by Lt Joseph G. Beesley was caught in one of the explosions. He pulled up to 5,000' and reported that his oil pressure was zero and he was going to bail out. He cleared his plane but he was bracketed by ack ack fire. He went down through an overcast and it is possible that his chute opened after he was out of sight. Today was pay-day-the day we all wait for. The card games and crap games will go on well into the night. |

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