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DECLASSIFIED
DOD DIR 5200.9

65th Fighter Squadron

SECRET
July 1944
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July 1944

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DECLASSIFIED
DOD DIR 5200.9

RSI Contl No
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SQ-FI-65-H1

July 44

65th Ftr Sqdn.
Outline History July 1944~~SECRET~~DECLASSIFIED
DOD DIR 5200.9By Auth CO
65th Ftr Sqdn.
6, August 1944.SIXTY-FIFTH FIGHTER SQUADRON A.A.F.
A.P.O. 650

6, August 1944

AG 514.7

SUBJECT: Historical Records.

TO : Commanding General, XII Air Support Command, A.P.O. 374.

1. Outline History of the Sixty-Fifth Fighter Squadron for the period 1, July 1944 to 31, July 1944.

a. Present designation: Sixty-Fifth Fighter Squadron, Fifth-Seventh Fighter Group, 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:

Major James (M1) Boyhan, 01703789, is appointed Security Officer.

1st Lieutenant Roscoe E. Ford, 0568171, is appointed Transportation Officer.

Captain Lawrence A. Buttacavoli, 01287660 is appointed Orientation Officer.

1st Lieutenant Harry E. Cier, 0311867 is appointed Unit Gas Officer, vice

1st Lieutenant Roscoe E. Ford, 0568171, relieved.

1st Lieutenant James M. Eubanks, 0811872, is appointed Athletic and

Special Service Officer vice Captain James A. Eaglen, 0675682, relieved.

1st Lieutenant Caruthers Ewing, Jr., 0565313, is appointed Legal

Assistance Officer.

1st Lieutenant James W. Smith, 06575878, is appointed Flight Commander "A" Flight.

Captain James C. Hare, 00675927 is appointed Flight Commander "B" Flight.

Captain Ivan I. Andrus, 0798143, is appointed Flight Commander "C" Flight.

1st Lieutenant William O. Moreau, 0799228, is appointed Flight Commander "D" Flight.

1st Lieutenant Edward J. Silks, 0434839, is appointed Air/Sea Rescue Officer.

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DOD DIR 5200.9RSI Comd No
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C. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| a. 1, July 1944: Commissioned—44 | Enlisted—258 |
| b. Net Increase: Commissioned—12 | Enlisted—2 |
| c. Net Decrease: Commissioned—2 | Enlisted—3 |
| d. 31, July 1944: Commissioned—54 | Enlisted—257 |

D. Stations:

- a. Alto L.G., Corsica, Date of arrival—28, March 1944.

E. Movements: None.

F. Campaigns: Italy, duration September 18, 1943, still in progress.

G. Operations:

- a. Campaign Italy.
- b. Nature of operations: Dive-Bombing, Bomber Escort, Delousing, Strafing, carrying Rockets.
- c. Number of missions: 31 Number of sorties: 387.
- d. Most important mission: On 31, July 1944 Rockets were used for the first time by this Group on an operational mission. Plane was flown by Lt. Colonel Gilbert O. Wymond, Jr., commander of the Sixty-Fifth Fighter Squadron. He attacked a steam engine with 20 cars causing some damage.

H. Losses in action: None.

1. Awards and Decorations: 2nd Oak leaf Cluster to Air Medal awarded to Captain Ivan I. Andrus, 0798143.
2nd Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal awarded to Captain Stanley P. Lancaster, 067400Q.
2. Inclosed are War Diary, Sixty-Fifth Fighter Squadron for the month of ~~XXXX~~ July, 44.

For the Commanding Officer:

1 Incl:
War Diary

Marvin D. Parkhurst
MARVIN D. PARKHURST,
Captain, A.A.F.,
Squadron Historical Officer.

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Sheet No. 1-War Diary

65th Fighter Squadron., 57th Ftr Gp.
Prepared by Marvin D. Parkhurst, Capt. AG.

Month of July 1944

- | DAY | EVENTS |
|-----|--|
| 1. | First day of the month and the first mission is off at 0600, knocked out bridge at M-317563 with a hit on center span and one on each approach. Strafed and damaged 20 car train with engine moving south on target bridge. Weather was bad but target clear. Encountered some flak.
Next mission off at 0950 to bomb railroad bridge at L-6168 damaging it with 5 cuts on tracks nearby. Flight strafed MT in target area getting four flamers. Lt Wright bailed out near Bastia -landing gear wouldn't operate, was picked up by ASR Walrus. Lt. Colonel Wymond led both shows through very intense flak, two aircraft landed at Orbetello-low on gas.
Today is second anniversary party, 66th destroyed 6 ME 109s--2 probables. |
| 2. | One show off today at 1730 to dive-bomb bridge at San Biagio, Italy. Flight flew too close to Bologna and received flak but no damage. There were 10 plus cars and 2 Diesel engines parked on target bridge. Got one direct hit 50' from north end of bridge and tracks cut on south approach, also observed one large explosion. Strafed engines and cars causing damage. |
| 3. | First show off at 0600 to dive-bomb railroad bridge at L-741815, got no hits but cut tracks 50' to the north, weather was very poor. Scant inaccurate light ack ack from L-5056.
Second show off at 1100, cut railroad line at L-2083, bombed bridge at L-1882 getting one near miss and 3 cuts on tracks. Scant flak from L-2083. |
| 4. | Weather bad-no mission. Three aircraft flew in exhibition over Bastia--today is Independence Day. |
| 5. | Weather bad, no missions. |
| 6. | First mission off at 0700 to dive-bomb railroad bridge at L-141998. Only 9 ships on this mission. Scored hits on both approaches, one on north approach and two on south approach cutting tracks. Weather was 9/10 over mountains.
Second show off at 1830 to dive-bomb railroad bridge at L-141998. Hit 50' railroad bridge at L-140986-out completely. Tracks cut on north and south approach of bridge. Strafed 20 plus cars at L-145990 leaving ten smoking. Original target had big hole in center. Two columns of black smoke seen at Q-0450. Cruiser in La Spezia harbor moved to different dock. Light ack ack moderate and accurate from Parma airdrome. |
| 7. | First show off at 0930, clobbered fuel dump at L-1499 north of Parma setting tremendous fires and smoke to 6000'. Think jerry jamming our R/T with fake calls of enemy aircraft approaching. No enemy aircraft or flak encountered.
Second show off at 1530 to divebomb railroad from P-8899-K-8820. Got 3 cuts and 2 very near misses. Lt Haze destroyed a Caproni 133 at K-8817 flying north at 150' set right engine on fire then ship exploded and fell into water. Got 2 MT flamers and one damaged at K-8614. Six scattered parked MT at K-9004. |

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War Diary-Sheet No.2

DAY

EVENTS

8. Take-off at 1100 to bomb highway bridge between Piacenza-Pidenza. Most of area had been hit before. Flight bombed bridge getting two cuts on southeast approach, two direct hits on bridge leaving a large hole. One section bombed 5 miles south of bridge cutting tracks. Heard B25s on radio, sounded as if they were in trouble from flak. Saw shipping in La Spezia harbor.
Second show off at 1800 to dive-bomb railroad line from Parma to Bresciello. Effected two cuts in line. Strafed 20 plus cars damaging some. Weather bad all the way. One motorcycly destroyed by strafing.
9. First and only show off at 0830 to dive-bomb railroad from M-1292 to M-1187. Weather very bad, 10/10 from 2000' to 15000'. Eight aircraft jettisoned bombs at Q-0586. Four aircraft bombed railroad at U-9694. Flak moderate and accurate from Q-0684.
10. Four aircraft ordered up at 1030 on a search mission for Lt Lancaster. Flight covered area along coast, La Spezia and Leghorn landing at Grosseto. Took off from Grosseto and searched area for the second time but without result.
11. One mission off at 1700 to bomb railroad line from San Giovanni to Cento. Received heavy flak from Pisa and Lucca. Weather was very bad over sea and mountains, target clear. Got five cuts in tracks. All back safe.
12. First show off at 0850 to escort bombers over road and railroad bridge at F-445115. Contact made OK. Smoke screen over target results not observed. Bombers got flak from La Spezia.
Second show off at 1830, got three cuts in tracks at F-4408, one cut at F-4516 and at F-4412. Strafed and damaged a SM-79 on airdrome at L-3573.
13. First show off at 0900, escorted 36 B25s of 310th Bomb Group—everything OK, no enemy aircraft or flak.
Second show off at 1300 to dive-bomb railroad line northeast of Parma. Got 8 cuts on tracks—4 in marshalling yard at Uzara. Attacked 30 plus railroad cars at F-3903 destroying 3. Railroad bridge at L-3374 is unserviceable. Airdrome at Reggio not in use.
14. First show off at 0800 to dive-bomb railroad line from L-7765 to L-8355. Four aircraft bombed at L-8256 getting two cuts. Eight aircraft bombed marshalling yard at L-8157 destroying 5 cars and cutting ~~XXXX~~ tracks. Flak intense and accurate from L-4051. Numerous observations made.
Second show off at 1500 to dive-bomb railroad line from Piacenza to Cremona. Got four cuts between P-7908 and P-8503. One direct hit on highway at P-8206. Heavy ack ack scant inaccurate from P-7616. Light ack ack scant inaccurate from P-8703.
15. Off at 0830 to dive-bomb railroad between Prato and Florence. Got five direct hits in Prato marshalling yard. Heavy and light ack ack scant inaccurate from target. Three railroad cars destroyed, others damaged in marshalling yard. Many near misses on tracks.

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War Diary-Sheet No.3.

DAY	EVENTS
15.	First show off at 0900 to escort 36 B25s of 310th Bomb Group to railroad target at Mantua without incident. Second show off to dive-bomb railroad line between Porto Maggiore and Argenta. We hit marshalling yard at M-3059 with excellent results. All bombs in target area. Some flak, weather poor.
17.	Just one show. Original target unserviceable so we bombed highway bridge south of Pavia with good results. Two direct hits on bridge, others damaging girders. Strafed two 60' barges and some MT in target area. No flak.
18.	One mission off at 0610 to attack any Pontoon bridges from Zebello to San Benedello. Could not reach the Po due to weather. Jettisoned bombs and returned.
19.	Our aircraft started patrols over Corsica at 1115, operating in pairs from 20000' to 25000' to prevent enemy photo recce. Patrols were uneventful. One bomber escort off at 1705, contact OK, escort uneventful.
20.	Off at 0930 to bomb railroad line from Ostiglia to Mogara. Heavy flak from Ostiglia--saw five batteries of 88mm guns. One section bombed 30 plus cars scoring two direct hits on train and troops. Second section scored one direct hit on 20 plus cars. Third section scored hits on 15 plus cars. 15 plus cars destroyed. Smoke pots seen on Ostiglia bridge. All back safe.
21-27.	Airdrome was undergoing repair, steel mats were laid. Much time was spent at the Squadron beach club.
28.	One mission off at 1150 to dive-bomb road bridge at K-342232. Weather very bad. Aircraft bombed a 100' bridge at K-7702, hit each approach, one probable hit on bridge. Four cargo vessels at U-6633-OK. Light ack ack scant inaccurate from P-3332.
29.	Took-off at 1530 to dive-bomb railroad bridge at K-012100. Two aircraft bombed railroad bridge at P-3632 results not observed. Ten aircraft bombed railroad bridge at P-4028 scoring three direct hits, one on northwest span, others on center. Tracks cut and both approaches cut. Light ack ack scant inaccurate from Chiavari and P-3632.
30.	Took-off at 1635, area cover for 36 B25s of 340th Bomb group over Ferrara. Contact made OK. Bombers knocked out highway bridge at M-1192, weather bad-10/10 from 5000' to 18000' north of target. Heavy ack ack moderate, accurate from Q-8369, L-9106, L-9252.

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War Diary-Sheet No.4.

DAYEVENTS

31. First mission off at 0720 to dive-bomb bridge at K-342232. Weather bad, bombed Pontoon bridge but some pin-point it at K-0020, others at K-342232. Results one definite hit with all bombs close, results obscured by dust. Heavy flak from Gheoa. Three large ships in Genova harbor, 8-10,000 tonners. Second mission is a Group show with four aircraft from each squadron with Captain Hare leading from 65th. Target was bridge at K-5068. One hit in marshalling yard among cars destroying three cars. One hit on bridge, two hits on west approach. Bridge had hole in it from previous bombing. Third mission off at 1630 to dive-bomb railroad line between Paggio Rusco and San Felice. Heavy flak accurate from Reggio, weather bad. Effected four cuts in tracks, one was in San Felice marshalling yard. Two aircraft strafed on way down. One aircraft with rockets flown by Lt. Colonel Wymond hit steam engine and 20 cars five miles south of target-no steam up but left engine smoking as he left. First rockets we have used but hope we get more. One more month comes to an end, see you next month.

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