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DESIGNATION SHEET
HISTORICAL RECORDS

RESTRICTED

COMMAND : XXII Tactical Air Command

WING : _____

GROUP : 57th Fighter Group

SQUADRON: 66th Fighter Squadron

OTHER : _____

OUTLINE HISTORY X

WAR DIARY X

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66th Fighter Sq.

OUTLINE HISTORY

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By Auth CO

66th Fighter Sq.

31 Jan 1945

C.C.L. Initials

1 February 1945

HEADQUARTERS 66TH FIGHTER
APO 650

SUBJECT: Historical Records.

TO : Commanding General, Twelfth Air Force, APO 650,
U. S. Army. Attention: A-2 Historian.THRU : Commanding Officer, 57th Fighter Group, APO 650,
U. S. Army.1. Outline History of the 66th Fighter Squadron for
the period 1 January thru 31 January 1945.a. Present designation: 66th Fighter Squadron,
57th Fighter Group, XXII Tactical Air Command, Twelfth Air
Force.

b. Changes in organization:

(1) Changes in designation: None

(2) Change in Commanding Officer: None

(3) Changes of Staff Officers:

a. 1st Lieutenant David S. Ketchum
assumed the duties of Adjutant, vice 1st Lieutenant Paul
S. Sexauer relieved.

(4) Changes in T/O:

a. Change No. 5, AR615-5, 9 December 1944,

" At the discretion of the Squadron Commander, an unlimited
number of Private First Class ratings may be given."

c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:

(1) Month of January 1945

a. Commissioned: 61

b. Enlisted : 248

(2) Net Increase

a. Commissioned: 5

b. Enlisted : 4

(3) Net Decrease

a. Commissioned: 3

b. Enlisted : 5

(4) 31 January 1945

a. Commissioned: 63

b. Enlisted : 247

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APO 650

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d. Stations:

- (1) Name of station: Grosseto L. G., Italy
- (a) Date of arrival: " A " party, 11 September 1944, " B " party, 21 September 1944.

e. Movements: None

f. Campaigns:

- (1) Name: Italian
- (2) Duration: Still in progress

g. Operations:

- (1) Campaigns: Italian
- (2) Nature of operations: Dive bombing, armed recce, weather recce and area cover.
- (3) Number of missions and sorties for the period 1 January thru 31 January 1945.
 - (a) Missions: 79
 - (b) Sorties : 471
- (4) Result of most important mission: None

h. Commanding Officer on important mission: None

i. Losses in action:

- (1) Missing in action:
 - (a) Name: 2nd Lieutenant Randolph W. Lee
 - 1. Date: 3 January 1945
- (2) Duty to death:
 - (a) Name: Flight Officer Walter C. McCollum
 - 1. Date: 8 January 1945
- (3) The following named pilot was reported M. I. A. in Outline History of November 1944 has since returned to his squadron.
 - (a) Name: 1st Lieutenant Wayne S. Dodds
 - 1. Date Returned: 13 January 1945

j. Presentations of awards to past and present members of this organization.

- (1) Name: Lieutenant Charles E. McCreary
 - (a) Basis: Gallantry in Action
 - (b) Award: Silver Star

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APO 65066th Fighter Sq.
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- (2) Name: Lieutenant Anthony R. Knauf
 - (a) Basis: Extraordinary Achievement
 - (b) Award: Distinguished Flying Cross
- (3) Name: Captain Quentin J. Goss
 - (a) Basis: Extraordinary Achievement
 - (b) Award: Distinguished Flying Cross
- (4) Name: Captain James P. Hartwig
 - (a) Basis: Extraordinary Achievement
 - (b) Award: Distinguished Flying Cross
- (5) Name: Lieutenant David S. Ketchum
 - (a) Basis: Heroism not involving conflict
 - (b) Award: Soldiers Medal
- (6) Name: Captain Richard L. Johnson
 - (a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement
 - (b) Award: 8th Oak Leaf Cluster
- (7) Name: Captain George S. Irby
 - (a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement
 - (b) Award: 6th Oak Leaf Cluster
- (8) Name: Lieutenant Anthony R. Knauf
 - (a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement
 - (b) Award: 5th Oak Leaf Cluster
- (9) Name: Lieut. Colonel William J. Yates
 - (a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement
 - (b) Award: 4th Oak Leaf Cluster
- (10) Name: Lieutenant Joseph Angelone
 - (a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement
 - (b) Award: 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
- (11) Name: Captain Thomas H. Callan
 - (a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement
 - (b) Award: 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
- (12) Name: Lieutenant Louis J. Pernicka
 - (a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement
 - (b) Award: 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
- (13) Name: Lieutenant Miller A. Anderson
 - (a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement
 - (b) Award: 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
- (14) Name: Captain Arno H. Heying
 - (a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement
 - (b) Award: 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster

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OUTLINE HISTORY

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31 January 1945

C.C. Initials

HEADQUARTERS 66th Fighter
APO 650

1 February 1945

- (15) Name: Lieutenant David T. Hutton
 - (a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement
 - (b) Award: 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
- (16) Name: Lieutenant George A. Mosites
 - (a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement
 - (b) Award: 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
- (17) Name: Lieutenant Gene Norris
 - (a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement
 - (b) Award: 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
- (18) Name: Lieutenant Charles E. McCreary
 - (a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement
 - (b) Award: 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
- (19) Name: Lieutenant Richard W. Kruse
 - (a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement
 - (b) Award: Air Medal
- (20) Name: Lieutenant Philip T. Lehman
 - (a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement
 - (b) Award: Air Medal
- (21) Name: Lieutenant Alfred R. Lyth
 - (a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement
 - (b) Award: Air Medal
- (22) Name: Lieutenant Lincoln R. Sherwood
 - (a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement
 - (b) Award: Air Medal
- (23) Name: Lieutenant Matthew F. Heiman
 - (a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement
 - (b) Award: Air Medal
- (24) Name: Lieutenant Samuel Z. Hunnicutt
 - (a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement
 - (b) Award: Air Medal
- (25) Name: Lieutenant Eugene D. Kranzush
 - (a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement
 - (b) Award: Air Medal
- (26) Name: Lieutenant Charles T. Paine
 - (a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement
 - (b) Award: Air Medal
- (27) Name: Lieutenant Aikens V. Smith
 - (a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement
 - (b) Award: Air Medal

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OUTLINE HISTORY

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HEADQUARTERS 66th Fighter 66th Fighter Sq.
APO 650 31 January 1945

C.C. Initials

1 February 1945

(28) Name: Lieutenant Kenneth R. Lewis
(a) Basis: Meritorious Achievement
(b) Award: Air Medal

2. Enclosed is the War Diary of the 66th Fighter Squadron for the period 1 January thru 31 January 1945.

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

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Sheet No. 1, War Diary of the 66th Fighter Squadron, APO 650.

Month of January, 1945. Prepared by A. N. Apostolou, 1st Lieut., AC

DAYEVENTS

- 1 In extremely "bumpy air," two effective and one ineffective missions were flown in our attack upon railway and highway installations. Major Leaf addressed the enlisted men before pay call and thanked them for their work of the past year. With your continued cooperation, he added, we will be able to maintain our record of one of the best tactical squadrons in the Air Corps.
- 2 Continued fair weather over the Western Po Valley permitted a continuation of our concentrated effort against enemy road and communication lines and four missions were flown. Colonel Lydon, Squadron Commander at the time of our leaving the States and now Group Commander of the 324th Fighter Group, flew in to-day to renew old acquaintances.
- 3 On the last of three routine missions to the Po Valley, Lieut. Randolph W. Lee's aircraft received flak hits and he was forced to bail out in the Verona Area. "Desert Victory" was shown this evening as a part of the "Information and Education" program.
- 4 In another "all out day" seven missions of thirty sorties were flown with heavy destruction being rained on rolling stock. Four and eight ship flights still continue as is evidenced by the 96 missions totaling 602 sorties flown in the month of December.
- 5 Bad weather over the home field and target area restricted our efforts to two armed recces. "Mediterranean Sweep," a collection of true air corps yarns from Cairo to Rome, is now available and amongst the stories is the Palm Sunday Massacre when the Exterminators made history and also the escapades of Majors Leaf and Benedict.
- 6 Poor flying weather forced the cancellation of our many scheduled missions. The first Saturday morning inspection of the enlisted men's quarters was held to-day and Major Van Slyke was much impressed by the tidiness of the building.

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Sheet No. 2, War Diary of the 66th Fighter Squadron, APO 650.

Month of January, 1944. Prepared by A.N. Apostolou, 1st Lieut., AC

DAYEVENTS

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- 7 A solid overcast in the Po Valley curtailed our flying for the day. The enlisted men's quarters now boast a squadron armory wherein are kept all the men's arms. It promises to be quite an important innovation over the system under which each man retained his own carbine amongst his personal effects.
-
- 8 Hailstones and low hanging clouds kept our operational efforts at a standstill. While on a local training flight, Flight Officer McCollum dove into the Ligurian Sea just west of base and although the area was searched by several aircraft, the results were fruitless and he is presumably lost.
-
- 9 Throughout four missions flown despite intermittent snow and fog, we chalked up nineteen sorties in the continuation of our rail interdiction program. Newly fallen snow practically obliterated terrain features, but we successfully attacked enemy installations with good results. Our Operations Officer, Captain Richard L. Johnson, left for America for 30 days of temporary duty; until his return, Captain George S. Irby will be Ops. Officer.
-
- 10 Although weather conditions were far from ideal for flying, railroad targets were attacked and several rail lines were cut in addition to the damaging of enemy rolling stock. The concession for the squadron laundry has been given to a local laundry concern and all clothes must now be taken there for washing.
-
- 11 Flying through overcast and snow flurries which would have deterred less experienced pilots, three missions set course to attack fuel dumps and military installations in the Po Valley. The third flight was forced to land at Florence when our field was completely weathered in by a snowstorm. This evening Brigadier General Chidlaw decorated members of the squadron who had earned awards for meritorious achievement in the air or meritorious service in maintenance of our aircraft.
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Sheet No. 3, War Diary of the 66th Fighter Squadron, APO 650.

Month of January, 1945. Prepared by A. N. Apostolou, 1st Lieut., AC

DAYEVENTS

12 Snow flurries prevented us from flying during the morning but in the afternoon one dive bombing mission was airborne. Preparations are now being made by the officers for the dance to be held on the 15th of the month commemorating the fourth birthday of the 57th Fighter Group. As usual, the biggest problem is women and it appears that the local Italian signorinas will have a big play.

13 A drizzling rain throughout the day kept all our scheduled efforts on the ground. Approximately a month ago Lieut. Wayne S. Dodds was forced to land behind enemy lines, but to-day he returned to the squadron eager to fly until he has reached his hundredth mission.

14 For the second day running, bad weather in the target area forced the cancellation of all missions. When weather permits over home base on "stand down" days, it has become a Group policy to fly training flights. The first dance of what is hoped to be a weekly affair was held this evening by the enlisted men in conjunction with the men of Headquarters.

15 Highway and rail bridges were the main targets for our fighter bombers in our four missions. Four years ago to-day the 57th Fighter Group was activated and this evening a gala party and dance was held by the officers to commemorate the occasion.

16 Non operational weather over the Po Valley stood us down for the day. A gen talk was given this evening in the squadron's new hall by the Group Army Liaison Officer, Lieut. Russell, under the "I & E" program. Formerly a meeting place for local Communists, the hall, which adjoins the living quarters of the enlisted men, will now be used for squadron meetings and social affairs.

17 Bad weather released us for the morning but later in the day, two missions were flown against enemy rail lines in the Eastern Po Valley. At a formation held at Group

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Sheet No. 4, War Diary of the 66th Fighter Squadron, APO 650.

Month of January, 1945. Prepared by A. N. Apostolou, 1st Lieut., AC

DAYEVENTS

Headquarters, Air Commodore Lees of the R. A. F. presented Major Leaf with the highly coveted British Distinguished Flying Cross.

- 18 In four missions flown to-day our fighter bombers blasted enemy communication and supply lines in the Po Valley. A group of factory trained specialists have been giving talks to ground crews and pilots on the latest modifications of the P-47. In view of the fact that our conversion from Kittyhawks to Thunderbolts was made in the field, these lectures have been of immeasurable value to crew chiefs.
- 19 An attempt was made to venture the dirty weather of the Eastern Po Valley but a solid overcast obscured the target and the formation returned with bombs. Two enlisted men departed this morning enroute to the Zone of the Interior for thirty days.
- 20 Our four missions were concentrated against communication lines and as the result of our efforts, a vast amount of destroyed rolling stock was left behind in the Po Valley. For the last few nights several members of the squadron have been holding practice jam sessions and it is anticipated that shortly we will have a squadron orchestra for social functions.
- 21 No startling results were forthcoming from our four missions. During one of these Lieutenant Louis J. Pernicka's shoulder, as well as his aircraft received flak hits forcing him to belly land at Florence. On the same mission Lieutenant James A. Jones' aircraft was badly damaged by flak and he crash landed at Falconara; it is believed that he did not suffer personal injury.
- 22 For the last few days our aircraft status has been running in low gear and for that reason our maximum effort for the day amounted to twenty sorties. With their territory narrowed down to one small area, the Po Valley, the Germans have concentrated a tremendous amount of flak which has resulted in an increasing number of hits on our aircraft. However,

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Sheet No. 5, War Diary of the 66th Fighter Squadron, APO 650.

Month of January, 1945. Prepared by A. N. Apostolou, 1st Lieut., AC

DAYEVENTS

these black days have been encountered in the past and by hard work on the part of the crew chiefs and the Service Group, we have always climbed right back to the top.

23 Prior to base weather closing in, we flew two routine missions in search of worthwhile targets. Installations in the Po Valley at the present time are almost totally obscured by snow and flight leaders are experiencing difficulty in locating targets. In addition to leaves in Rome, a few lucky pilots have been enjoying the accommodations of the 12th Air Force Rest Camp on the Riviera at Cannes, France.

24 Continuing bad weather and wintry conditions in the Po Valley kept us on the ground for the day. The cultural side of the U. S. O. has hit town and during the next three days a ballet will be presented at the 316th Service Group Theater. Combat pictures taken by our pilots and a gen talk by the squadron Intelligence Officer, Lieutenant Apostolou, on the air situation in Italy were featured on this week's "I & E" program.

25 Ground fog and clouds in the western and northern sections of the Po Valley grounded our kites once again. Four new pilots were assigned to the squadron to-day. Having suffered its only defeat in the finals of the 22nd T.A.C. Tournament, the squadron basketball team has continued its whirlwind pace. The Grosseto league standing finds us undefeated and tied for top position.

26 As soon as weather permits, the squadron will be participating in a new tactical plan of operations. A limited number of enemy rail targets in a designated area have been assigned to this Group and it will be the responsibility of the squadrons to not only destroy these vital links but also to insure their continued unserviceability. We have also been assigned another area in which we are responsible for the destruction of rolling stock and motor transport.

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Sheet No. 5, War Diary of the 66th Fighter Squadron, APO 650.

Month of January, 1945. Prepared by A. N. Apostolou, 1st Lieut., A

DAYEVENTS

- 27 Clearing weather finally favored our fighter bomber efforts and during the course of the day, four missions were flown with routine results. After their successful dance of this evening, the enlisted men are proudly boasting that they have at long last crashed the gates of the local society league.
- 28 A breaking overcast in the late morning gave our Thunder-bombers an opportunity to pound enemy rolling stock during the three missions flown. Of late there has been a noticeable change in the length of time required for mail to reach us from the States. In contrast with the fast delivery by the air routes, our biggest moral booster is now being shipped over the sea lanes.
- 29 Our biggest effort in days found us flying five missions totaling thirty three sorties. Our last three shows set course for an area near the Swiss border where a concentration of German troop personnel had been reported withdrawing to the Reich; a thorough search of the area by our flight leaders revealed no such exodus.
- 30 Another "all out" day with our six missions pummeling the German "life line" in the Po Valley; railway cars suffered the brunt of our attack with twenty seven being damaged and five destroyed. High up in the Apennine Mountains a lodge has been hired by the squadron to be used as a ski hut. Ten men at a time will spend a three day period there and skis will be supplied by the squadron and Group Special Services.
- 31 Six attempts were made to venture the overcast that hovered over base and targets areas but only two flights managed to fly effective missions with the remainder being abortive. The "I & E" meeting held this evening had as its speaker Colonel Hamilton of the British Army who lectured on the organization and problems of A. M. G.

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