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(for PROD GP Chief)

MANUSCRIPT DATA SHEET

- I. Author: Hubertus Hirschold Brigadier General
- II. Title of the report: Commitment as air force commander of the  
air fleet 2 on the southern front in  
Italy October - November 43\*
- III. Received on 1.4.47
- IV. Sources of information:
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  - B. Data : None Written from memory

\*Addition to Main Report: Commitment of the Air Fleet 2 for the  
protection of the Italian Mothercountry from June 1943 on.

Brigadier General

Commitment as Air Force Cmdr. of the Air Fleet 2  
on the southern front in Italy

Period: After conclusion of the evacuation from Sardinia and Corsica  
(4.10.1943) and the battles for Neapel-Salerno until November 1943.

Command Set up: After the evacuation of Sardinia and Corsica, the air  
force Cmdr. Air fleet 2 took over the combat tasks of  
the II. Air Corps (Support of the defensive combats  
on the southern Italian front). At the same time, the  
short-range combat forces of the air fleet 2 in Italy  
were placed under the command of the air force cmdr.  
Air Fleet 2.

The II. Air Corps took over the long distance combat  
tasks of the Air Fleet 2 (Combat formations, long-range  
reconnaissance).

The air force Cmdr. Air Fleet 2 was placed under the  
command of the II. Air Corps.

Tasks of the Air Force Cmdr. Air Fleet 2:

Support of the defensive combat of the Army, with the  
cooperation of:

O. B. Sued  
10th Army  
Airdrome Regional Command (Montefiascone)  
Italian Flek Cmdr. (?) [Sic]

Troop elements under the command of the Air Force Cmdr, Air Fleet 2:

1. Ground Attack Wing 4
2. Fighter Wing 77
3. Fighter Wing 53
4. 1 Short-Range reconnaissance group
5. 1 signal Battalion (Air)
6. Mobile Repair shop Unit 30
7. 1 Engineer Battalion (Air)

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Command Set up: After the evacuation of Sardinia and Corsica, the air force Cmdr. Air fleet 2 took over the combat tasks of the II<sup>nd</sup> Air Corps (Support of the defensive combats on the southern Italian front). At the same time, the short-range combat forces of the air fleet 2 in Italy were placed under the command of the air force cmdr. Air Fleet 2.

The II<sup>nd</sup> Air Corps took over the long distance combat tasks of the Air Fleet 2 (Combat formations, long-range reconnaissance).

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- To 1) Ground attack Plane Wing 4: First only one group committed. Wing Hq. and one group in northern Italy (Piacenza), one group in Graz to rest up. In November it was obtained to put in line the Wing Hq. and another group.
- To 2) Fighter Wing 77: With 2 (2) [sic] groups in line one (?) [sic] resting up in Northern Italy.
- To 3) Fighter Wing 53: I don't remember any more how many groups it had in line.
- To 4) Short range reconnaissance group: Hq. and 2./H.14 in line, 4./H.12 resting up in northern Italy.
- To 5) Signal Bn. (air)
  - Composed of( Signal operational Co.
  - ( Signal Radio Co. (?) [sic])
  - (Signal Communication Co.
- To 7) The Air Force Engineer Bn. was assigned to the construction of air fields.

Places of Commitment of the Formations:

- Ground Attack Wing 4 1 group Guidonia. From Nov on. Hq. and one group Viterbo.
- Fighter Group 77) Region of Rom. - Viterbo
- Fighter Group 53)
- Short range reconnaissance group with 2./H.14. located east of Rome.

Command posts of the Air Force Cmdr. Air Fleet 2:

Initially former command post of the II<sup>nd</sup> Air Corps: 5 km. east of Viterbo, later on near Torre Nova, at around 8 km. south east of Rome.

Conduct of the operations:

Employment of the flying formations for the support of the defensive combat of the 10th Army principally in the western sector of the front. Reconnaissance of new enemy landing preparations. The fighters were rarely employed against the combat formations flying toward northern Italy..

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Signed: Hirschfeld

Translated by  
Jacqueline Roper 4 June 1948