



663 SQUADRON

Commander:

Capt. E. Pawlikowski.

Locations:

Sep 1944 Eboli Jan 1945 Meldola Apr 1945 Imola May 1945 Porto St. Giorgio. Later in region of Lago di Garba, with flights at Padova, Verona, Milan, Firenze, Iesi and Bologna.

Aircraft:

Auster IV and V (all unarmed)

663 Squadron was formed Sept 8, 1944 at San Basilio, Italy. The Squadron was part of the army rather than the Air Force. The Squadron's mission was to cooperate with the Artillery of the Polish 2nd Corps by spotting artillery fire and to uncover enemy artillery positions. 663 Pilots were all artillery officers recruited from the Polish 2nd Corps and had undergone flight training. The missions were flown solo by the pilots in Auster Mk IV's and Mk V's who also had to spot enemy targets and positions. The Poles nicknamed these aircraft affectionately "***Kubusie***". The job this squadron performed was invaluable to the Allied Artillery, especially in the hilly terrain of central Italy. The greatest danger for these Pilots was anti-aircraft fire, but this was usually avoided by flying at treetop level. Enemy fighters, at that time, were rarely seen. 663 Squadron started combat operations in January 1945 for the Polish 2nd Corps. In April 1945, the Squadron participated in the Battle for Bologna. After the end of hostilities in Italy, the Squadron transported liberated Polish POW's and other personnel in Italy. 663 Squadron was disbanded Oct. 29, 1946 at "Burma Camp", Llwyngwrl, North Wales, England.

