

IAF COMBAT KILLS - 1965 INDO-PAK AIR WAR

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	NOTES - Bibliography, References and Excerpts	F/O Flying Officer
		N Navigator
		SU Signals Unit
		AD Air Defence
		B/O Baled Out
		OCU Operational Conversion Unit
		KIA Killed In Action
		POW Prisoner of War
		AAA Anti Aircraft Artillery
		LMG Light Machine Gun
		EP East Pakistan
		HE High Explosive (ammo)
		t/n Tail Number
		s/n Serial number
		MG Machine Gun

TABLE 1.1 - IAF Air to Air claims, Sept 1965 and Post War - Pakistani losses to Air Combat

- For the sake of completeness, post war incidents have also been included.

Date	Kill	Aircraft	Sqn	Claimant	Sector/AB	Victim/Status
3 Sept 65	F-86F	Gnat F.1	23	S/L Trevor Keelor	Chamb	?F/L Yusuf Khan
4 Sept 65	F-86F (t/n 4716)	Gnat F.1	23	F/L V S Pathania	Chamb	F/O N M Butt (18 sqn) / BO
6 Sept 65	F-86F	Hunter	7	F/O A R Gandhi	Halwara	Wreckage not found
6 Sept 65	F-86F (s/n 52-5248)	Hunter	27	F/L DN Rathore	Halwara	S/L Sarfaraz Rafiqi (5 sqn) / KIA
6 Sept 65	F-86F (t/n 1173)	Hunter	27	F/L V K Neb	Halwara	F/L Yunus Hussain (5 sqn) / KIA
7 Sept 65	F-104A (t/n 877)	Mystere-IVA	1	S/L A B Devayya	Saragodha	F/L Amjad Hussain (9 sqn) / BO
7 Sept 65	F-86F (t/n 4027)	Hunter	14	F/L AT Cooke	Kharagpur	F/O Afzal Khan (14 sqn) / KIA
7 Sept 65	F-86F	Hunter	14	F/L A T Cooke	Kharagpur	F/L Tariq Habib Khan (14 sqn) / Escaped, a/c WO
7 Sept 65	F-86F	Hunter	14	F/O S C Mangain	Kalaikunda	? (14 sqn)
7 Sept 65	F-86F (t/n 4028)	--	37	No claim	Kurmitola	F/O A T M Aziz / KIA. Crashed while attempting intercept on Hunters.
14 Sept 65	F-86F	Gnat F.1	2	W/C Bharat Singh	Lahore	?
16 Sept 65	F-86F (t/n 5232)	Hunter	7	F/O P S Pingale	Khemkaran	F/O Shaukat ul Islam (11 sqn) / POW
16 Sept 65	L-19	Mystere-IVA	3	W/C S Bhattacharya	Sialkot	Capt Hidayatullah Niazi (PA) / Rescued
18 Sept 65	F-86F	Gnat F.1	23	S/L A S Sandhu	Lahore	?
19 Sept 65	F-86F	Gnat F.1	9	S/L Denzil Keelor	Sialkot	(see note 4)
19 Sept 65	F-86F (t/n 1199)	Gnat F.1	9	F/O Viney Kapila	Sialkot	F/L S M Ahmed (17 sqn) / BO
20 Sept 65	F-86F (t/n 1174)	Gnat F.1	2	F/O A K Mazumdar	Kasur	S/L A H Malik (17 sqn) / BO
16 Dec 65	Auster AOP Mk.6	Gnat F.1	23	S/L Trevor Keelor	Boparai	? / KIA and Major Aftab Haider / Rescued
2 Feb 67	O-1A	Hunter	27	F/L J S Sidhu	Harike barrage (Lahore)	? / KIA
??	L-19	Mystere-IVA	3	F/L Surjit Singh	?	?

TABLE 1.2 - IAF Air to Air claims - Damage, Probables and Close calls

Date	Target	Aircraft	Sqn	Claimant	Sector / AB	Comments
4 Sept 1965	F-86F	MiG-21PF	28	W/C M S D Wollen	Amritsar	Missed with two K-13 and came close to ramming the target on purpose. See Note 1
7 Sept 1965	F-86F	Hunter	14	F/L AT Cooke	Kharagpur	F/L Haleem or F/L Bashir. Damaged. See Note 2
11 Sept 1965	C-130	?MiG-21F-13	?28	?	Pathankot	1 cm Bullet hole in wing tip. No such encounter mentioned in IAF records. See Note 3

Notes

1. Two MiG-21PFs vs Two F-86F. Wollen's first K-13 exploded below the F-86 and the second was noted to hit the ground. After this, reheat was engaged to close-in and Wollen noted that he was tempted to brush against the fin of the F-86 because the MiG-21PF had no guns. The F-86 pilot was S/L Muniruddin Ahmed, who was shot down and killed by AAA, on 11 Sept. The second MiG-21PF was piloted by S/L Mukherjee who was asked to engage the second F-86 but no details are available. Interestingly, W/C K Y Singh who served as a F/L with the radar unit at Amritsar, stated^[11] in writing that on 4th evening, an F-86F was engaged and damaged by a MiG-21 near Chamb, and that Pakistani radio announced at 1800 hrs that an F-86 had crashed after the pilot baled out safely.

2. Gun camera footage showed that F/L AT Cooke engaged and fired at four different F-86s.

3. Night encounter on 11/12 September. It is not confirmed whether the MiG-21F-13s (Type 74) of the IAF, the only MiG-21 variant with guns and thus the only one capable of putting a bullet hole in the targets, were even equipped with the SRD-5M ranging radar. The other variant with no guns, the MiG-21PF, is stated^[17] to be the first aircraft of the IAF with airborne intercept radar. The pilots of the C-130 claim being intercepted but the MiG-21F-13 could have not been night intercept capable without radar and were never officially used in that role either.

4. The PAF accepts the loss of only one F-86 during the 19th Sept encounters but its official histories give contradictory information. "The History of the Pakistan Airforce"^[15] (p.163) mentions one F/L Malik ejecting after combat whereas most other PAF related publications such as John Fricker's "Battle For Pakistan", mention F/L S M Ahmed as the only casualty of 19th Sept and mention a F/L A H Malik as a loss on 20 Sept.

TABLE 2.1 - PAF AAA and Ground to Air Losses

Date	Target	Victim / Status	Cause	Sector / Claimant
4 Sept 1965	F-86F	Claim	AAA	Jammu / Hav C.Potharaj, 127 AD Regt, possibly air-to-air
6 Sept 1965	B-57B (t/n 3941)	S/L S Alam Siddiqui / KIA	AAA	Jamnagar
		S/L Aslam Quereshi (N) / KIA		
6 Sept 1965	F-86F	Claim	AAA	Halwara
6 Sept 1965	B-57B	Wreckage found at Attari village	AAA	Amritsar (230 SU)
6 Sept 1965	F-86F	Claim	AAA	Amritsar (230 SU)
8 Sept 1965	F-86F (t/n 3427)	F/L Sadruddin / BO	AAA	Fratricide claim / Kasur
8 Sept 1965	F-86F	Claim	AAA	Jammu
8 Sept 1965	F-86F	Claim	AAA	Amritsar (230 SU)
9 Sept 1965	F-86F	Claim	AAA	Wagah
9 Sept 1965	B-57B	Wreckage at Sidhwan Khas	AAA	Halwara
10 Sept 1965	2x F-86F (14 sqn)	Claim	AAA	Baghdogra
10 Sept 1965	3x F-86F	Claimed hit	AAA	Amritsar (1330 hrs)
11 Sept 1965	F-86F	Claim	AAA	Amritsar
11 Sept 1965	F-86F (t/n 1180)	S/L Muniruddin Ahmed / KIA	AAA	Amritsar
11 Sept 1965	RB-57D (t/n 3961)	S/L Muhammad Iqbal / KIA	0.5 inch MG	Fratricide claim / Rahwali
		F/L Saifullah Lodhi (N) / KIA		
11 Sept 1965	F-86F	Claimed hit	Small arms	Pattan
12 Sept 1965	Bell OH-1	GOC 15 Infantry Div / KIA, Pilot / KIA	Tank shell	Phillora / 17 Poona Horse Regt
12 Sept 1965	F-86F	Claim	AAA	Suchetgarh
12 Sept 1965	2x F-86F	Claim	AAA	Pasrur
13 Sept 1965	F-86F (t/n 5160)	S/L Alauddin Ahmed / KIA	AAA	Gurdaspur
14 Sept 1965	B-57B (t/n 3891)	F/L Shaik A Rahman / POW	AAA	Adampur
		F/L B A Chaudri (N) / POW		
18 Sept 1965	F-86F	Claim	AAA	Kasur
20 Sept 1965	B-57B	Claim	AAA	Shambu railway station
21 Sept 1965	3x F-86F	Claim	AAA	4 Division / Khem Karan
23 Sept 1965	F-86F	Fell near Thima	AAA	Amritsar
23 Sept 1965	F-86F	Fell near gun position	AAA	Amritsar
23 Sept 1965	B-57B	Claimed hit	AAA	Amritsar
10 Oct 1965	RB-57F (s/n 63-13286)	S/L Rasheed Meer / Extensive damage*	3x SA-2	Ambala

* CIA supplied RB-57F on loan. The aircraft was flown back but is a possible write-off due to structural damage and the nose-wheel failing to extend. Pakistan maintains that the aircraft was repaired and flown back to the US. American account not available. Before this incident, another RB-57 was damaged on 6 September by AAA guarding the 230 SU at Amritsar.

TABLE 3.1 - IAF Air to Ground kills, Sept 1965- Pakistani losses due to Air to Ground Action

DATE	KILL	AIRCRAFT	SON	CLAIMANT	Sector/AB	COMMENTS
7 Sept 1965	C-130	Mystere-IVA	1	W/C O P Taneja	Sargodha	0558 hrs. Destroyed with 57 mm rockets
7 Sept 1965	C-130	Mystere-IVA	1	?	Sargodha	Wartime claim*.
7 Sept 1965	F-104A	Mystere-IVA	1	S/L D E Satur	Sargodha	Burning wreckage noted.
7 Sept 1965	F-104A	Mystere-IVA	1	?	Sargodha	Wartime claim*.
7 Sept 1965	F-86F	Mystere-IVA	8	S/L M S Jatar	Bhagtanwala	Possibly a decoy. Another was claimed damaged.
7 Sept 1965	2x F-86F	Hunter	27	F/L D N Rathore	Sargodha	0610 hrs
7 Sept 1965	F-86F (t/n 3843)	Mystere-IVA	1	S/L S Handa	Sargodha	Admitted by Pakistan
7 Sept 1965	F-104A	Mystere-IVA	1	F/L D M S Kahai	Sargodha	1000 hrs
7 Sept 1965	2x F-86F	Mystere-IVA	1	F/L D M S Kahai	Sargodha	1000 hrs
7 Sept 1965	Aircraft	Mystere-IVA	1	P Rajkumar	Sargodha	No explosion noted. Possibly decoys.

Notes

* The IAF claimed around 18 Pakistani aircraft destroyed on the ground but many of these claims remain unsubstantiated and perhaps officially scaled down subsequently for the sake of credibility. The above records represent the only information available at present. Damage assessment was admittedly difficult due to lack of intelligence assets and single pass raids. Unlike the 1971 war, Photo-Reconnaissance assets for accurate damage assessment were not available in numbers or on call.

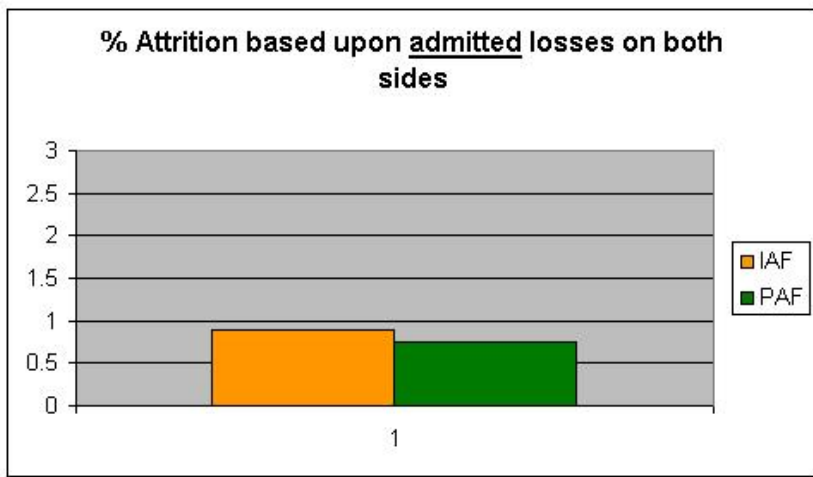
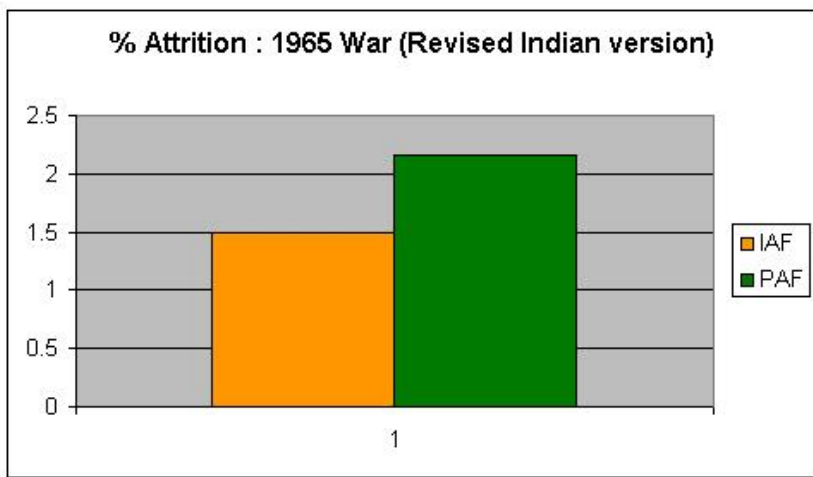
It is not known if any B-57s were claimed on the ground. A total of 8 B-57s ^[4] were claimed by India as destroyed during the conflict.

TABLE 4.1 - Pakistani losses to Non Combat Related Accidents

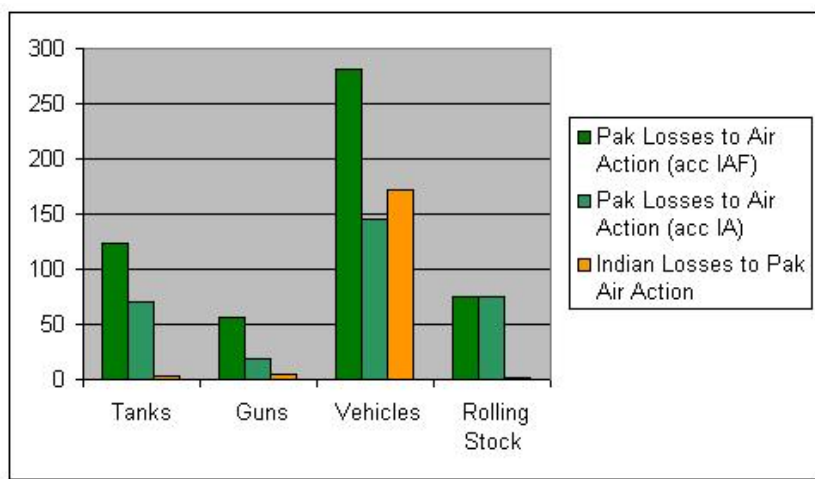
DATE	AIRCRAFT	SQN	VICTIM	Sector/AB	COMMENTS
7 Sept 1965	F-86F	1	F/L Sikander Azam / KIA	Lahore	Crashed during night landing.
17 Sept 1965	F-104A	1	F/O G O Abbasi / Ejected	Sargodha	Undershot Runway and crashed. An <u>unverified</u> Indian AAA claim for an F-104A exists but no further details available.

Attrition Trends

For the period of the war, the IAF also logged no less than 3937 combat sorties (fighters and bombers), not including the combat sorties flown by helicopters or other elements of aviation. INAS 300 of the Indian Navy also flew 106 sorties and INAS 310 also flew a number of Electronic Intelligence missions. The PAF flew 2279 combat sorties^[8] in total. As expected, claims by each side varied greatly and while the PAF admitted only 19 losses, the Indian Armed Forces claimed as many as 73 aircraft kills, although the latter would include kills from post war incidents and from Army Aviation as well. While the latter figure has been scaled down over the years, disparities still remained. For example, the PAF could boast of 120 F-86F (6 squadrons) during the 1965 war but had no more than 2 squadrons (Sqn Nos 15 and 16) of F-86F during the 1971 war. While India claimed a larger number of B-57Bs, the PAF admitted no more than 4 losses to all causes, including accidents. Yet, the PAF which started out with 26 B-57B^[9], and 2 RB-57D/F before the 1965 war (not including another two ex-USAF RB-57F on loan), had only 18 B-57B and a single RB-57D/F in inventory by 1971, although 2 flying accidents between the years were known. Pakistan had also claimed to have lined up its fleet of five C-130s in order to prove that none were lost but once again, the actual number of C-130s acquired was six, according to a veteran PAF author^[9]. The credibility of Pakistani versions has always taken a beating with incidents such as the MM Alam fairytale^[7] and other strange claims including ones that the IAF was operating MiG-19s and MiG-23s^[14]. A retired Pakistani General admits^[10] *"It appears that 1965 war was not rationally analyzed in Pakistan at all. In this regard the Pakistani military decision -makers were swept away in the emotional stream of their own propaganda !"*. As Air Commodore Jasjit Singh AVSM Vrc VM (Retd), Director, Center for Air Power Studies, also points out, demands for emergency supplies of additional aircraft^[11] from Indonesia, Iraq, Iran, Turkey and China, within 10 days of the war, was hardly supportive of the claim that the PAF had lost less than a squadrons worth of aircraft in the conflict. The "Official History of the 1965 war"^[1] puts Pakistan's combat losses at 43 aircraft, although a lot of the former's information is derived from Pakistani accounts. Air Commodore Jasjit Singh, a better source as far as the IAF's perspective was concerned, gives the following revised attrition figures from his paper^[6],



Strangely, even though the IAF flew a larger offensive air campaign by devoting 40%^[6] of its air effort to offensive air support alone, the majority of its losses came from aircraft destroyed on the ground through PAF air strikes. Night bombing by B-57Bs equipped with terrain mapping radar and George Peach bombing systems, was particularly effective. The PAF without doubt, had achieved far more in terms of enemy aircraft destroyed on the ground but the IAF had achieved much more in the close support role, even if the IAF's performance and mission response was *viewed* as far less than optimal by the Indian Army during the 1965 war, as Air Commodore Jasjit Singh and Lt. Gen Harbaksh Singh^[3] Vrc point out [see following chart]. The Air Force's claims for Tanks, Guns and Vehicles destroyed due to air action conflict with the figures for the same, confirmed by the Indian Army, although the latter did confirm that its own equipment losses to enemy air action was relatively negligible. Interestingly, the Indian Army itself claims^[2] 471 Pakistani Tanks as destroyed and 38 captured.



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- [14] "*the PAF out -flew and out -fought the IAF who not only had **MIG-19s**, but also **MIG-21s** and even **MIG-23s**."* Brigadier (retd) Shaukat Qadir, "OpEd : 1965 war : Comedy of errors", http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=story_25-10-2003_pg3_4
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