

DECLASSIFIED

DOD DIR 5200.9, 27 Sep 58

By: Dir, RSI [REDACTED] 1959

SQ-BOMB-486-H1

JUNE 1945 ~~NOV 1945~~

JUNE 1945

4 - BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON

P.R.C.

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MICROFILMED

6899-47

06840

[REDACTED]

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34-BOMB-440-11
June 15

DESIGNATION ~~SECRET~~

Historical Records

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DOD DIR 5200.9, 27 Sep 58

AIR FORCE:

Twelfth Air Force

By: Dir, RSI - Init: NDVT 9 1959

COMMAND:

SUB-COMMAND

GROUP:

340 Bomb Group
486th " Sqn -

UNIT:

Documents Transmitted:

(Period Covered)

OUTLINE HISTORY:

June 1945

WAR DIARY:

SERIAL ACCOUNTS:

PHOTOGRAPHS:

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

~~SECRET~~

WAR DIARY: 486TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON, 340TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)

PERIOD COVERED: MONTH OF JULY, 1945 STATION: RIMINI AIRFIELD

PREPARED BY: THOMAS F. WARNS, 1st LT., AIR CORPS, 486th Bomb Sqdn.

SHEET NO. 1

SECRET

A. ORIGINAL UNIT

(See Previous Outline History)

B. CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION

None for period covered.

C. STATIONS

No change in station.

D. STRENGTH

1. At Beginning of period covered: OFFICERS-106 EM-321
2. At end of period covered: OFFICERS-85 EM-101

E. MARCHES

(See War Diary of the 486th Bomb Sqdn. for month of May, 1945)

F. CAMPAIGNS

The 486th Bomb Sqdn. was declared non-operational after the surrendered of the Germans in Italy and therefore no missions were flown during the month of June.

G. BATTLES (MISSIONS)

Non-operational during month of June.

H. COMMANDING OFFICER IN IMPORTANT ENGAGEMENTS

None.

I. LOSSES IN ACTION

None.

J. FORMER AND PRESENT MEMBERS WHO HAVE DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES IN ACTION

1st Lt. Harold G. Smith, Soldiers Medal
T/Sgt. Robert L. Helferich, Silver Star
1st Lt., Beryl Burdett, DFC
1st Lt., Francis S. Driscoll, DFC
1st Lt., Cornelius M. Harth, DFC
S/Sgt. Leonard W. James, DFC
1st Lt., Wilbur E. Somers, Air Medal Posthumously
Capt. Charles W. Bowers, DFC
Capt., Robert O'Clock, DFC
T/Sgt. Joseph F. Skipper, Jr., DFC
Capt., Rex A. Estes, DFC
1st Lt. George J. Look, DFC
1st Lt. Edwin C. Masten, DFC
1st Lt. Fred E. Mayhew, DFC

P.R.C.

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6899, 47

WAR DIARY - 486th BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON, 340TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP

PERIOD COVERED: MONTH OF JUNE, 1945 STATION: RIMINI AIRFIELD

PREPARED BY: THOMAS F. WARNS, 1st LT., AIR CORPS, 486TH BOMB. SQDN.

SHEET NO. 1

SECRET

- 1 - Fri This is the month most rumors had the outfit going home, a good many are still convinced of it....The beach was crowded this afternoon. The weather was fine and with no retreat it was too good a chance to miss.
- 2 - Sat Most of the day spent in preparation for inspection. Several Staff Officers were around the area in the morning and this afternoon the whole squadron fell out for retreat and inspection in ranks...Dance tonight at the Officers Club.
- 3 - Sun Very little activity this morning outside of sacking. Some of these Saturday night dances run into pretty late hours. There was also a noticeably large amount of water consumed at the noon meal....This afternoon the beach was crowded as is usual on Sunday afternoons. Even the local signorinas were out.....Movies tonight after an excellent meal featuring roast beef and real gravy.
- 4 - Mon Ground school for the combat crews this morning. After chow I and E Classes; then more ground school. A couple hours of close order drill wound the day up. Most everyone was satisfied to return to his sack early tonight.
- 5 - Tues Flying this morning plus the usual I and E and ground school classes. P.T. this afternoon--in other words swimming. The week's rations were given out this evening - one day early.
- 6 - Wed An early morning practice mission started the day off... All classes were held as usual in spite of the rumors of a half-holiday....Dance tonight at both the Enlisted Men's and Officer's Club.
- 7 - Thurs More fine weather today. It was announced that the Group would leave for home sometime in July. Questionnaires were also handed out to those men with 85 or more points. They were to indicate whether they wished to remain in the Service or not.....A timely discussion of the G.I. Bill of Rights was led by Major Kisselman this afternoon. Everyone left with a much better idea of what aid the returning Veteran can expect.....An Arsene Lupin picture at the Group Theater.
- 8 - Fri. Today was the final day for those members of the Squadron having 85 points or more to decide whether to remain in the service for the duration or to apply for a discharge. With the Group definitely scheduled to return to the U.S. in July, a good many have decided to stay in. This afternoon the G.L.O. gave an interesting talk on the African and Italian Campaigns as part of the orientation program... Excellent chow tonight with ice cream for dessert.
- 9 - Sat 12 ships up this morning. Most of the afternoon spent in preparation for inspection only to have it called off. No one was heard to object.....Big dance at both the Officer's and Enlisted Men's clubs tonight.....Quite a dent was put in the dwindling whiskey supply.

SECRET

SHEET NO. 2

SECRET

- 10 - Sun Church as usual this morning....The beach was crowded both before and after dinner. If this weather keeps up some of the men will really be sporting a sun-tan by the time they get home....Pork chops for supper tonight.
- 11 - Mon Classes and flying this morning. With some small difficulty enough men were rounded up to present several creditable platoons fronts at retreat....Movies tonight at the Group theater.
- 12 - Tues Flying, ground classes for and combat crews and I & E classes and lectures took up most of the day. The usual P.T., Drill and Retreat brought the day to a very uneventful close.
- 13 - Wed School, practice missions and lectures took up most of the day. During the late afternoon a strong wind and rain storm struck the area and kept most of the men in-doors for remainder of the day....PX rations very good today, coke, beer and candy.
- 14 - Thurs The barracks bags of the enlisted men are getting lighter. Another shake-down inspection was held today and once again O.D.'s and carbines were turned in to supply. We hope it is for good this time....All indications are that we are going home soon but as to what date what date we are going to leave nobody seems to know as yet. We hope it is soon.
- 15 - Fri The packing and crating detail is working hard making crates for the Squadron equipment. We sure are in need of some good lumber for crates, all we have is a lot of scraps. The main topic around the squadron is when are we leaving for home....Abbott and Costello "In Society" at the Group Theater tonight, plenty of laughs for everyone.
- 16 - Sat Saturday inspection today. Col. Chapman made an inspection of quarters and area starting at 1000 hours this morning, followed by a personnel inspection at 1700 hours. All members of the squadron then participated in a retreat formation....They say this is preparing us for army life in the states, for most of us it sure will be a welcomed change.
- 17 - Sun Since the end of the war, Sunday has again meant a day of leisure for most of the Squadron personnel. A truck took a group of sight-seeing G.I.'s to the little country of San Marino, and for those that just want to take it easy, the beach affords an excellent place.
- 18 - Mon Several more crews preparing today to leave by Ferry Command. Before long the outfit will be down to T.O. Strength. Guesses as to the exact date the rest of the Squadron is going to leave vary from the 1st of July to Christmas....After waiting until 2200 hrs. the crowd at the movie was finally told there would be no show - someone had made off with the film.
- 19 - Tues Bacon, eggs and hot rolls for breakfast this morning. The rest of the day was spent with the usual classes. The Officers platoon fell out in unusual strength for retreat tonight. The film must have arrived safely for the show "Up in Mabels Room" went on as scheduled tonight.

SECRET

SHEET NO. 3

SECRET

- 20 - Wed Packing has really begun in earnest. Boxes were rolling out in assembly line fashion over at supply this morning. Several more days of such activity and the Squadron will be ready to move. Several planes up tonight running fuel consumption tests. In a few days four crews will be taking off for home flying the 486th planes. No movies tonight.
- 21 - Thurs All the squadron officers has their baggage stenciled this morning with bright yellow paint. The walls and floor of the motor pool garage seemed to get more paint than the baggage, especially when the spray gun was in use. Even Jocko was observed with a slightly yellowish cast. Pork chops for chow tonight.
- 22 - Fri Today was the enlisted men's turn to stencil - The garage was a busy place most of the time....The weather seems to be getting hotter. At least that was the opinion of the combat crews after sweltering through the first aid lecture given by Group this afternoon. Some men needed the first aid more than the lecture.....Four full crews left for the states today via Naples. Rumor has it that every fourth day four more crews will be flying home.
- 23 - Sat Friedeggs for breakfast again. Its' getting to be a habit. Major Kisselman from Group Headquarters made the inspection this morning. This afternoon at retreat an inspection was held in ranks....Dances at both clubs this evening. Multi signorines tonight for a change. Also multi whiskey.
- 24 - Sun Quite a bit of excitement this morning. Thirty odd enlisted men were informed that their services were required in the Pacific theater, immediately if not sooner. Those that drank, began consuming large quantities of Cognac those that didn't were sorry. ...An unusually hot sun this afternoon made the water almost too warm for swimming but a large crowd was on hand never-the-less. Those two canine characters, "Leroy" and "Bitchie" are becoming real salt water enthusiasts. They go in now without being carried.
- 25 - Mon The men scheduled to be transferred left by plane early this morning. Just about the entire armament section was included. The combat crews attended classes after dinner. Retreat as usual this evening....."The Thin Man Comes Home" was playing at the Group Theater.
- 26 - Tues Very little activity today. A hot sun and high humidity made the day rather uncomfortable. Retreat was called off when a rain storm broke about 3 P.M. Rain all evening and into the night.
- 27 - Wed Clear weather this morning. Combat crews up flying. A horse shoe pitching court has been put up across from operations and has attracted a lot of spectators as well as players. Rations were distributed this afternoon.
- 28 - Thurs Combat crews busy attending lectures at group this morning. Six crews received a pleasant surprise a little later in the day in the form of a 48 hour alert notice. It will be a headache for the men on the line however. Some of the ships need quite a bit of working on yet. Chicken for dinner tonight. There doesn't seem to be a poultry shortage around these parts.

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SHEET NO. 4

SECRET

- 29 - Fri Very little activity today...Those men not busy packing took advantage of the weather to go swimming....Bob Hope in "The Princess and the Pirate" played at the Group Theater.
- 30 - Sat Bacon and eggs for breakfast. This morning the officers and enlisted men were payed. The men on the line have been working like mad getting 6 planes ready to take off for Naples and home tomorrow. Now it looks like all 16 will have to be ready no later than Tuesday. Good news this afternoon, the retreat inspection was called off. All the men left in the Squadron with 85 points or over were transferred to either the 321st or 310th Bomb Groups and placed on detached service with the 340th Bomb Group to help in the packing and getting the planes ready to go back to the states. They will then go to these groups to sweat out transportation back to the states.....Dance to-night and so ends another month, probably the last full month in Italy for the Squadron.

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