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DOD DIR 52007, 17 Sep 58

486TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON  
340TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M) By: Dir, RSI - Init: NOV 19 1959

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

PERIOD COVERED: July 1945 to and including September 1945 STATION: C.A.A.B., COLUMBIA SC

PREPARED BY: THOMAS F. WARNS, 1stLT, AIR CORPS, 486th Bomb Squadron

SHEET NO. 1.

~~SECRET~~A. ORIGINAL UNIT

( See previous Outline History)

B. CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION

Unit re-assembled and re-organized.

C. STATIONS

From Rimini, Italy to Staging Area #1 to Port of Debarkation, U.S. (CPH, Va.)

## D. At beginning of period covered.

Officers -16 Enlisted Men-226

At end of period.

Officers -16 Enlisted Men 41

E. MARCHES

(See War Diary of the 486th Bomb Sqdn for previous months.)

F. CAMPAIGNS

The 486th Bomb Sqdn returned to the United States on August 7, 1945.

G. BATTLES

(NONE)

H. COMMANDING OFFICER IN IMPORTANT ENGAGEMENTS

None

I. LOSSES IN ACTION

NONE

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

None.

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WAR DIARY - 486TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON, 340TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP PERIOD COVERED:

MONTH OF JULY, AUG. 1945, STATION: RIMINI AIRFIELD: PREPARED BY: THOMAS F. WARNS,  
1st LT., AIRCORPS, 486TH BOMB SQDN.

SHEET NO. 1

SECRET

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- 1 - Sun Practically no one at breakfast - and small wonder. Along about the time everyone gets up on Sundays (noon) an entertaining rumor began making the rounds - all flying personnel out of the area within 48 hours. Even if exaggerated it made for a more pleasant day. Big breakers and a hot sun brought out an unusually large crowd to the beach this afternoon. The day came to an unpleasant close with a particularly smelly picture up at the Group Theater.
- 2 - Mon This morning the rumor was made definite. The 16 Combat Crews will take off early tomorrow morning for Naples. For a time it seemed the outfit would never get started. Today's news boosted everyone's morale. With the officers club out of business and the enlisted mens' club practically so, it was no surprise to see a record number at the movie. It was the second run of Practically Yours -- a good show.
- 3 - Tue The big day! At 0800 the Combat Crews took their last look at Riccione! --- from 50 feet in the air. At least, it can be surmised, the hoped it was their last look. --- All day the area wore a strangely deserted look. Even the beach this afternoon was empty. Steak for dinner as well as supper -- remaining behind has some compensations. Same movie tonight as last night.
- 4 - Wed Ground Echelon::::: Very quiet holiday. Some excitement was caused in the evening by the first of several flares etc.  
Air Echelon::::: Air Crew members spent the 4th in Naples. All planes in good shape. If the weather remains good plans are to proceed to Tunis on the 5th.
- 5 - Thu Ground Echelon::::: Another day with nothing to report.  
Air Echelon::::: Left Naples for Tunis in good weather -- Arrived without incident and spent the night.
- 5 - Fri Some new men in the Squadron today. Otherwise the day was dull and uneventful. Tonight was the grandclosing of the enlisted mens' club. It closed as it had opened -- with a bang.  
Air Echelon::::: Squadron split in two. First half managed to take off for Marrakech but last flight was delayed by bad weather and had to remain overnight.
- 7 - Sat Practically no work today with the exception of Supply. A good 20 men were busy all day, painting and stenciling crates. This promises to be the last of the Squadron equipment to be so marked and shipped. -- Rations were handed out after supper.  
Air Echelon::::: Flight from Marrakech, Morocco to Dakar without incident.

- 8 - Sun The Squadron area took on an even more deserted appearance today. All men flying home by ATC took off at 1900. A total of 12 Officers were on hand for the noon meal. The few men left spent the afternoon on the beach. Very little activity this evening outside of one small party in the course of which a large amount of empty beer cans made their way into the street. Air Echelon::::: Flight from Dakar to Roberts Field, Liberia was accompanied by very bad weather all the way. Delays can be expected if this keeps up.
- 9 - Mon Several officers and enlisted men were transferred into the squadron today including the flight surgeon and communications officer. -- Chow has really become something to talk about. With all the men leaving extra rations accumulated. Plenty of steak twice today. Air Echelon::::: Poor weather. Flight to Asencion delayed.
- 10 - Tue Bacon-eggs and toast for breakfast. This was to be the day of departure for the ground echelon but the usual postponement occurred. With the chow situation as good as it is not many people care a lot about the delay. Very quiet afternoon and evening. Air Echelon::::: Nothing to report.
- 11 - Wed Captain Shealy promoted to Major as of yesterday. In the absence of Major Hackney he has assumed command of the squadron. The few remaining squadron members spent the greater part of the day on the beach. Air Echelon::::: All flights have arrived in Asencion. Tomorrow the last is expected to proceed to Natal.
- 12 - Thu Nothing new to report -- quiet day. Air Echelon::::: Flight to Natal without incident. Good weather all the way.
- 13 - Fri Rumor has it that the squadron will be in Naples before the end of the week. The chow continues to be excellent. Air Echelon::::: Poor weather today. Everyone bought boots. By 1300 the last flight had arrived in Belim.
- 14 - Sat The squadron mess, orderly room, and supply were closed this date. All TAF equipment has been loaded finally and all personnel alerted for movement to Naples. This looks like it. Air Echelon::::: Poor weather. No flight today.
- 15 - Sun The squadron departed in a convoy of 29 vehicles this morning at 0600. Two accidents in the first two hours marred an otherwise uneventful trip. About 1900 hours the convoy arrived in Rome after covering 220 miles. It felt more like 500. Italian highways apparently were not built with the idea of comfort in mind. Everyone was glad to hit the sack early (on the ground). Air Echelon::::: No report.
- 16 - Mon Off again this morning at 0630. 125 miles later the squadron arrived at Staging Area No. 1, Bagnoli Italy -- suburb of Naples. There was less confusion existing than might have been expected. After sampling the evening meal it was felt that the ship could not arrive too soon. Air Echelon::::: Squadron took off via Trinidad for Puerto Rico.
- 17 - Tue Day spent unloading equipment and getting organized. Some passes were issued this evening -- Everyone anxious to see what Naples offers in the way of night life. Air Echelon::::: No report.

- 18 - Wed Some disturbing news today. It appears that no unit can expect to get out of here in less than a week. To pass the time many men are taking advantage of the good weather to swim at Coney Island Beach a few miles down the coast. It doesn't compare with Rimini.  
Air Echelon::::: No report.
- 19 - Thu the 24th  
Nothing to report- weather hot - no activity.  
Air Echelon::::: Last flight arrived at Morrison Field and went through the customs office. Delays caused by bad weather put them 2 days behind the leading flights.
- 20 - Fri Air Echelon::::: The last flight reported in at Hunter Field and received their leaves. All air echelon now on leave.
- 21 thru July 31, air echelon on leave.
- 1 Aug thru 31 Aug  
Air echelon on leave.
- 25 - Wed One of the many rumors was confirmed today. The squadron is to depart for the U.S. aboard the U.S. A. T. Cristobal. Embarkation time is to be at 1400 hours on the 26th.-- No passes tonight. Everyone confined to the area until embarkation time.
- 26 - Thu The big event took place at two o'clock this afternoon. It was nearly four o'clock before the last squadron was aboard. The men are quartered in one of the holds on the port side, the officers in the lounge which has been converted into sleeping quarters. Conditions are pretty well crowded, but it could be worse. The ship will remain in the harbor overnight. The remainder of the group will load tomorrow.
- 27 - Fri After a miserable night in which the holds became almost suffocating, came on of the hottest days of the year. By four P.M. everyone was loaded and at 1700 sharp anchor was raised and the long trip to the U. S. began. Before dark the coastline had disappeared but the sea was still calm as a lake. Weather hot all evening.
- 28 - Sat Weather still calm and warm. Everyone settling down to the routine of the ship. Chow twice a day and what lines! By the time one meal is finished, it's time to get back in line for the next. No messkits, however. Conditions are crowded to put it mildly. The ship is one-third overloaded which means that some of the troops must remain on the deck 12 hours out of 24. Fortunately the 486th was not affected by this order.
- 29 - Sun Still in the Mediterranean. Weather cooled off considerably last night but the sea is still calm. Very windy at Church Services this morning. It was necessary to hang on to keep from being blown off the ship.
- 30 - Mon Sea considerably rougher this morning. The chow lines were noticeably shorter today, and not because the food was bad. It has been very good to date. Rumor has it that the ship will dock at Hampton Roads, Va., but not for at least a week.
- 31 - Tue The end of another month-- probably the happiest for all concerned in a long time in spite of the many discomforts.

- 31 - Tue The ships newspaper made its first appearance today. According to the  
(contd) paper we still have a long way to go, but everyone is making the best of it.
- 1 Aug-Wed Another day at sea. Weather continues good and also the food. Something new in the way of entertainment tonight. A fine orchestra has been assembled from among the traveling personnel. With a fine repertoire of the latest some hits plus several comedy acts they made a big hit. Getting very close to the halfway mark!!
- 2 - Thu Bright sunshine and a warm breeze today. The decks were crowded with sun bathers. This afternoon we had a lifeboat drill. So many people on board that there wasn't room on deck for more than half.
- 3 - Fri Nothing new to report today. Should be in Hampton Roads Tuesday morning according to the ship's paper. It can't come too soon!
- 4 - Sat The biggest news today was the radio report of the atomic bomb. To most of the men it seemed incredible that one bomb could do so much damage. We are all hoping it will shorten the war. Very calm evening. Still making from 18 to 20 knots.
- 5 - Sun Very cold this morning during church services despite the fact the sky was cloudless. This afternoon a rain squall broke suddenly--most of the deck occupants getting a good soaking. Intermittent rain and a choppy sea all evening.
- 6 - Mon A warm bright morning found everyone beginning to pack their belongings. If the ship's paper is to be trusted we should arrive tomorrow morning. Darkness found a good many men straining their eyes for that first glimpse of the homeland.
- 7 - Tue The great day arrived at last! Shortly after dawn the coastline rose up out of the fog, but it wasn't until 0930 that the ship actually docked and the task of debarkation began. At 1130, Major William T. Shealy stepped down the gangplank at the head of the 486th Bomb Squadron. After a short train ride, all personnel assembled in the main theater at Camp Patrick Henry and welcomed to the Post by the Commanding General. After chow, quarters were assigned to the group. The big event of the evening was, of course, the telephone call home. Long after midnight many were still waiting for their calls.
- 8 - Wed This morning all organizational equipment was shipped to the assembly station, Seymour Johnson Field, Goldsboro, N. C. At 1300 the first group left for their reception station and home. By 2100 the last had left and the squadron was officially on leave.
- 9 Aug through 31 Aug.  
Squadron on leave.

WAR DIARY - 486TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON, 340TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP: PERIOD COVERED:  
 MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 1945: STATION: SEYMOUR JOHNSON FIELD, NORTH CAROLINA: PREPARED  
 BY: THOMAS F. WARNS, 1st LT., AIR CORPS, 486TH BOMB SQDN.

SECRET

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- 1 thru 18 Ground Echelon on leave.  
 Air Echelon::::: Air echelon reports in minus those men separated at their respective reception stations. Little activity outside of processing -- not much to do until the ground echelon returns.
- 19 Wed Many familiar faces missing as the squadron gradually returns from leave. With the war's end the tempo of discharges has been speeded up and many men are now civilians who otherwise would have returned. The orderly room as a consequence is slightly confused as to just who is in the squadron!
- 20 Thu More men reporting in today and an equally large number reporting out. Not much activity outside of processing.
- 21 Fri The rumor mill in operation again. Reports have it that what is left of the Group will proceed to Columbia S. C. -- permanent change of station.
- 22 Sat thru 28 Nothing to report. All the men eligible for immediate release have been processed. The remainder are packed and awaiting shipment to Columbia. The movement is now out of the rumor stage and is classed as official.
- 29 Sat October 1st is the day set for departure. All preparations have been made and the baggage already loaded. The movement will be by train.
- 30 Sun Another day of waiting. Nothing to report.