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By: Dir, RSI - Init. *mk* NOV 19 1959

SO-BOMB-486-H-1  
20 AUG 1942 - 31 DEC 1943

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486 BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON

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DOD Dir. 5200.30

P.R.C.

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SECRET

59-BOMB-4867 H1

486TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)  
340TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)

DECLASSIFIED

DOD DIR 5200.9, 27 Sep 58

By: Dir, RSI - Init: NOV 19 1959APO 520, c/o Postmaster,  
New York, New York,  
31 December 1943.SUBJECT: Historical Outline of 486th Bombardment Squadron (M),  
340th Bombardment Group (M).TO: Commanding General, Twelfth Air Force; Attention of Historian,  
A-2 Section.1. The following historical outline of this organization covering  
the period from activation to December 31, 1943, is hereby submitted:

a. Activation - Although the 340th Bombardment Group (M) was activated on August 20, 1942, at Columbia Army Air Base, Columbia, South Carolina, per General Order #19, Columbia Army Air Base, the 486th Bombardment Squadron did not function as a unit with the group until September 12, 1942. Source of personnel was mainly the 309th Bombardment Group (M) at Columbia Army Air Base.

(1) Command at activation:

1st Lt. Louis M. Keller, Commanding Officer.  
S-1 2nd Lt. William M. Pearlstein  
S-2 Capt. Forrest G. Stith  
S-3 1st Lt. Robert M. Hackney  
S-4 2nd Lt. Frank C. Broderick

b. Strength, Commissioned and Enlisted - Original contingent of personnel assigned to unit on September 12, 1942, and consisted of one Second Lieutenant and forty-four Enlisted Men. At the end of September the assigned strength was twenty-six officers and one hundred thirty-seven enlisted men. By the end of November the Squadron was practically up to T/C strength, having assigned at that time fifty-nine Officers and two hundred eighty-six Enlisted Men. During the period from November, 1942 to December, 1943, the personnel of the unit did not fluctuate more than 15 Officers and Enlisted Men. On December 31 1943 the actual strength was sixty-nine Officers and two hundred eighty Enlisted Men.

(1) On June 28, 1943, the first of twelve Enlisted Men was discharged under the provisions of the over 38-year-old law; the other eleven followed within thirty days and all were returned to the states.

(2) The first of replacement combat crews joined the Squadron on July 2, 1943.

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(3) The first combat crews to be returned to the States for rehabilitation after completing fifty combat missions departed on October 17, 1943.

(4) The first ground replacements assigned to the Squadron joined the unit on September 26, 1943.

c. Changes of stations (permanent and temporary): The following changes of stations listed in chronological order have been extracted from the "Station and Record of Events" section of the Squadron morning report:

(1) Departed Columbia Army Air Base, South Carolina; arrived Walterboro Army Air Base, South Carolina, November 30, 1942. Road: Good. Weather: Cloudy. Distance: 88 Miles.

(2) Departed Walterboro Army Air Base, South Carolina, January 30, 1943; arrived Camp Stoneman, Pittsburg, California, Feb 4, 1943; Rail transportation.

(3) Departed Camp Stoneman by river boat on February 14; boarded U.S.S. West Point 2230 hours, February 14; sailed from San Francisco, California, February 15, 1943.

(4) Flight echelon departed continental limits of U.S.A. from Morrison Field, West Palm Beach, Florida, on February 25, 1943. Flight echelon arrived El Kabrit, Egypt during the period from March 10 to March 20, 1943.

(5) Ground echelon arrived at El Kabrit, Egypt, on March 29, re-uniting with the flight echelon for the first time overseas.

(6) March 29 - 5 Combat Crews to the front.

(7) April 3 - 6 Combat Crews to the front.

(8) April 6 - 3 Combat Crews to the front.

(9) April 12 - Ground echelon departed El Kabrit, Egypt, by motor convoy.

(10) April 13 - Advanced party departed El Kabrit, Egypt, by air. Arrived Medinine, Tunisia same date; rear party remained at El Kabrit, Egypt.

(11) April 17 - Flight Echelon and advanced party moved by motor convoy from Medinine to Sfax, Tunisia.

(12) April 29 - Ground Echelon arrived Sfax, Tunisia.

(13) June 1 - Rear party arrived at Sfax, making trip from El Kabrit, Egypt, by rail from El Kabrit to Alexandria, by boat from Alexandria to Tripoli, Lybia, and by motor convoy from Tripoli to Sfax.

- (14) June 3 - Entire Squadron moved to Hergla, Sousse, Tunisia.
- (15) July 27 - "B" party (ground echelon) departed Hergla by motor convoy, arrived at Arizona staging area same date.
- (16) July 31 - Boarded L.S.T. #235 at La Goulette, Tunisia. Sailed for Sicily, August 1; debarked at Licata, Sicily, August 2; arrived at Comiso Aerodrome, August 3, 1943.
- (17) August 5 - Flight echelon arrived Comiso, Sicily.
- (18) August 9 - "C" party departed Hergla, Tunisia; arrived Comiso, Sicily, August 13, 1943.
- (19) August 27 - Entire Squadron moved to Catania, Sicily.
- (20) October 16 - "A" party moved to San Pancrazio, Italy.
- (21) October 17 - "B" party departed Catania, Sicily by motor convoy, crossing the Messina Straits by ferry, arriving San Pancrazio, Italy, October 25, 1943.
- (22) November 18 - "A" party moved to #3 landing ground, Foggia, Italy.
- (23) November 19 - "B" party moved to #3 landing ground, Foggia, Italy.
- (24) November 25 - Flight echelon arrived at #3 landing ground, Foggia, Italy.
- (25) December 28 - Ground echelon departed Foggia #3, arrived Pompei Airfield, Italy, same date.

d. Losses in action - Officers and Enlisted Men:

- (1) The following Enlisted Men were killed as a result of plane crashes while the Squadron was still in the States :

S/Sgt Pilot Billy D. Pinkerton	October 24, 1942
S/Sgt Pilot Morris O. Jones	October 24, 1942
S/Sgt Morris Beital	October 24, 1942
Pvt Frank L. Good	October 24, 1942
Pvt Donald W. Goforth	October 24, 1942
S/Sgt Pilot Jack E. Blackledge	December 9, 1942
S/Sgt William F. Hosey	December 9, 1942
S/Sgt Abe Seitz	December 9, 1942
S/Sgt Forrest C. Houck	December 9, 1942
S/Sgt Jack Zelen	December 9, 1942
S/Sgt Alfred T. Secor, Jr.	December 9, 1942

(2) The following Officers were killed in action:

1st Lt. Robert R. Bennett	May 6, 1943
1st Lt. Fred E. Blaney, Jr.	September 12, 1943

(3) The following Enlisted Men were killed due to enemy action. While policing the Ordnance shop of all Italian hand grenades which had been gathered in from the squadron area, an unsafe grenade exploded setting off all safe grenades and all other combustibles in the shop:

Sergeant Albert M. Callahan	September 6, 1943
Pvt 1 cl Sandy S. Castillo	September 2, 1943

(4) The following Officers and Enlisted Men have been reported missing in action since November 17, 1943:

2nd Lt. Daniel R. Duszkiewicz  
 2nd Lt. John D. O'leary  
 2nd Lt. John E. Smith  
 S/Sgt John E. Sweeney  
 S/Sgt Frank E. Williams  
 Sgt Roderick M. MacDougall

(5) The following Officers and Enlisted Men are prisoners of war in Germany since April 26, 1943:

1st Lt. Samuel R. Dorrance  
 2nd Lt. Robert J. Davis  
 2nd Lt. Charles C. Huppert  
 T/Sgt William C. Galate  
 S/Sgt Fred N. Foster

e. Members of the Squadron who have distinguished themselves in action:

(1) The following Officers were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross:

1st Lt. William E. Kesler - For giving First Aid on more than one occasion to wounded members of his crew thereby saving their lives.

1st Lt. Fred E. Blaney, Jr. - By keeping his aircraft in level flight on one engine while his crew abandoned the ship which made it impossible for him to make a successful parachute leap from his aircraft.

1st Lt. Joseph M. Snow - For meritorious achievement as Bombardier on a medium bombardment aircraft in combat in the Middle East.

(2) The following Officers and Enlisted Men were awarded the Purple Heart Medal:

1st Lt. Charles F. Caskey  
1st Lt. Earl E. Belanger  
2nd Lt. Paul F. Poduska  
2nd Lt. Lawrence J. Fisher  
2nd Lt. William M. Murphey  
2nd Lt. William H. Farham  
T/Sgt Henry R. Willis  
S/Sgt William J. Luck  
S/Sgt James O. Carter  
T/Sgt Archibald S. Anderson

(3) 1st Lt. Paul T. Henderson was awarded the Soldier's Medal.

f. Command at close of period - December 31, 1943.

Major Robert M. Hackney, Commanding Officer.	
Captain William T. Shealy	S-1
Captain Forrest G. Stith	S-2
Captain Nelson L. Dozier	S-3
1st Lt. Frank C. Broderick	S-4

g. Photographs attached.

For the Squadron Commander:

*Thomas B. Meyer*  
THOMAS B. MEYER  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
Squadron Historian.