

486th Bombardment Squadron

Outline 20 August, 1942 – 31 December 1943

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 as mainly the 309th Bombardment Group (M) at Columbia Army Air Base.

- (1) Command at activation:

1st Lt. Louis E. 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/O [Table of Organization] 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 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
- (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, February 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 14, 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) Advanced party departed El Kabrit, Egypt, by air. Arrived Meinine, Tunisia same date; rear party remained at El Kabrit, Egypt.
- (11) April 17 – Flight Echelon and advanced party moved by motor convoy from Meinine 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” part 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 Messian 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:

1 st Lt. Robert R. Bennett	May 6, 1943
1 st 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, and unsafe grenade exploded setting off all safe grenades and all other combustibles in the shop:

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

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

2nd Lt. Daniel R. Duszkievicz
 2nd Lt. John D. Oleary
 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 N. Murphey
2nd Lt. William H. Parham
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
1 st Lt. Frank C. Broderick	S-4

g. Photos attached.

[Following is a transcription of the captions of the photographs contained in the Photos September 1943 file.]

Photo 1:

Taken at Catania, Sicily, September 1943. Standing from left to right: T/Sgt. Hunt, Lt. Clem, S/Sgt. Williams, Lt. Mayes, Lt. Stotler, Sgt. Easton. Front row: Cpl. Howell, Cpl. Sturgis, T/Sgt. Daviess & Sgt. Abrams.

Photo 2:

Taken at Catania, Sicily September 1943: From left to right: Lt. Maclay, F/O/ King, S/Sgt. Knuckles & S/Sgt. Dunkinson.

Photo 3:

Taken at Catania, Sicily, September 1943. Major Robert M. Hackney, Operations Officer.

Photo 4:

Taken at Catania, Sicily in September 1943 on the occasion of the first anniversary of the activation of the Squadron. The boys are in a fiesta mood here as they celebrate the first beer in over six months. From left to right: Sgt. Legare, M/Sgt. Whitaker, 1st Sgt. Dilbeck, Cpl. Way, Sgt. Zala, Sgt. Bleizeffer & Cpl Perle.

Photo 5:

Taken at Catania, Sicily in September 1943 in front of Squadron bulletin board. Message center and mail room can be seen in the left background. From left to right: Lt. Henderson, Lt. Masten, Lt. O'Clock, Major Hackney (Operations Officer), Lt. Thompson, Lt. Belanger, & Lt. Kessler.

Photo 6:

Taken at Catania, Sicily in September 1943. A view of the orderly room tent. Note open air effect – This was before the rains came at Catania. Seated from Left to right are: Lt. Shealy, Adj., Major Keller, Sq. Commander, and First Sergeant Dilbeck.

Photo 7:

Taken at Catania, Sicily in September 1943. Another view of the orderly room, left to right: Cpl. Engelking, File Clerk, T/Sgt. Knueven, Personnel Sgt-Major & S/Sgt. Dickson, Payroll Clerk.

Photo 8:

Taken at Catania, Sicily in September 1943. Major Keller, Squadron Commander isn't really as interested in the newspaper as he appears to be – The voice of “Axis Sally” is coming over the radio.

Photo 9:

Taken at Catania, Sicily in September 1943. A group of enlisted men talk shop in the S-2 office under the trees. Left to right are: Sgt. Krause, S-2 clerk recuperating after a hard day, S/Sgt. Williams, T/Sgt. Willoughby, Cpl. Sekelsky & Sgt. Heath. S/Sgt. Williams is missing in action over Athens, Greece since November 17, 1943.

Photo 10:

Taken at Catania, Sicily in September 1943. Standing from Left to right: T/Sgt. Dupuy, Cpl. Geo.

DeYoung, Lt. Hendricks, S/Sgt. H. G. Walters, Lt. Howard. Front row left to right: Lt. Parham and T/Sgt. Max Sandmeier. [Ship pictured is named: Prop Wash]

Photo 11:

Taken at Catania, Sicily in September 1943. Standing from left to right: Lt. Jenne, T/Sgt. Badley, Sgt. Pasek, Lt. Merryman, Lt. Saffery; front row: T/Sgt. Billington and S/Sgt. Weiner. [Ship in background is named: Wild[?] Cat]

Photo 12:

Taken at Catania, Sicily in September 1943. Standing from left to right: Cpl. Stuczyk, Lt. duskiewicz, Lt. Ohman, Lt. Murphy. Front row: S/Sgt. Brown, T/Sgt. Shinn, S/Sgt. Helffrich. [Ship in background is named: Who Cares?]

Photo 13:

Taken at Catania, Sicily in September 1943. From left to right: Lt. Fete, Lt. Dyrud, Lt. Young and Lt. Williams.

Photo: 14:

Taken at Catania, Sicily in September 1943. Standing from left to right: Lt. Mayhew, Lt. McCormick, T/Sgt. McLane, S/Sgt. Brashars, Capt. Thabault. Front row: T/Sgt. Stauffer & S/Sgt. Strait.

Photo 15:

Taken at Catania, Sicily in September 1943. A scene in the officer's mess showing Lt. Thompson on the right front. Lt. Shealy is hidden by Lt. Thompson. The girls were entertainers (Italian) who performed during the evening program. The occasion was the first anniversary of the Squadron.

Photo 16:

Taken at Catania, Sicily in September 1943. Major Louis E. Keller, Sq. Commander, at his desk in orderly room.

Photo 17:

Taken at Catania, Sicily in September 1943. The spacious quarters of the squadron commander, including telephone and radio. On the left of the radio is Major Hackney, with Major Keller tuning in a station.

Photo 18:

Taken at Catania, Sicily in September 1943. Standing from left to right: Lt. Look, Capt. Welch, Lt. Swope, S/Sgt. Villard, S/Sgt. Doyle; Front row: S/Sgt. Kirwan, T/Sgt. Moran, T/Sgt. Flynn.

Photo 19:

Taken at Catania, Sicily in September 1943. Standing from left to right: Lt. O'Clock, T/Sgt. St. Arnold, T/Sgt. George, S/Sgt. Falter, Lt. Stemple; Front row: Sgt. Labe, Lt. Williams, Sgt. Gordon. [Ship pictured in the background is named: The Dottie Lay-M???

Photo 20:

Taken at Catania, Sicily in September 1943. Lt. George Look says he believes in personal cleanliness.

Photo 21:

Taken at Catania, Sicily in September 1943. A poker game during leisure moments.

Photo 22: Taken at Catania, Sicily in September 1943. Lt. Nafe, Engineering Officer, discusses his problems with T/Sgt. Willoughby, Tech Supply Sergeant.

Photo 32:

Taken at Catania, Sicily in September 1943. A view of the Officer's Mess.

