

# War Diary of the 486<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron February 1944

Prepared by: 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Clifford W. Swearingen

## A. Original Unit

(See previous outline history)

## B. Changes in Organization

None for period covered

## C. Stations

No change in station for period covered

## D. Strength

1. At beginning of period covered: Officers – 66; EM – 294
2. At end of period covered: Officers – 60; EM – 296

## E. Marches (Diary)

(See War Diary of the 486<sup>th</sup> bomb Sq for Month of February, 1944)

## F. Campaigns

The 486<sup>th</sup> bomb Sq continued to participate actively in the bombing of targets on the mainland of Italy. A majority of missions were flown in direct tactical support of the 5<sup>th</sup> Army forces in the Cassino and Anzio beachhead areas. Three nickeling (leaflet) missions were flown.

## G. Battles (Missions)

[This information is noted elsewhere on this site. See original of War Diary.]

## H. Commanding Officers in Important Engagements

In the month of February, 1944, Major Robert M. Hackney, Commanding Officer of the 486<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq, flew the following combat missions with Squadron formations:

[List shows five combat missions. See original of War Diary.]

## I. Losses in action

1. Mission: February 22, 1944 – Target: Foligno Marshaling Yards, Italy.

Names of Casualties: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. W.E. Somers, Pilot.

Present classification: Deceased as result of flak wound received in action.

## J. Former and Present members who have distinguished themselves in Action

General Order No. 9, XII ASC, 31 January 1944, par 6: “Under the provisions of AP 600-45, as amended, and pursuant to authority obtained in Circular No. 126, NATCUSA, 2 July 1943, an Air Medal and/or Oak-Leaf Cluster in lieu of the Air Medal is awarded the following named personnel, xx Bomb Group, Air Corps, United States army..... for meritorious achievement while participating in sustained aerial activities against the enemy:

[Names only listed here. See original Diary for rank, serial number and award.]

Samuel F. Shireman

Richard F. Cassady

John (NMI) Fete

Delbert L. Gibson

Lorin E. Jene

Paul M. McBeth

Marvin (NMI) Merryman

William E. Wilmerding

Alvin L. Chambers

Carol. W. Click  
Harry S. Coleman  
Dabuek R. Duszkievicz  
Charles R. LeMaster  
James J. McCormick  
John D. O'Leary  
Ivan N. Olson  
Martin F. O'Toole  
Francis R. Root  
Frank T. Saunders, Jr.  
Donald K. Slayton  
Sidney (NMI) Stein  
Robert E. Stotler  
George L. Weil  
Andrew C. Williams  
Harlan A. Woodard  
Ernest E. McComes  
Donald B Allen  
Archibald. S. Anderson  
Phillias G. Billington  
Thomas J. Moran  
Forest (NMI) Wood  
James J. Brashears  
Roy C. Brown  
Kenneth E. Burgo  
Earl G. Canon  
James O. Carter  
Nathanial S. Cole  
Francis B. Easton  
Carl R Fox  
Fred C. Hunt  
Flen U. Phipps  
Alfred J. Pridgeon  
John R. Stunk  
Clarence H. Vernadore  
Frank E. Williams  
Charles E. Godwin  
Broderick M. MacDougall  
Edwin S. Pasek  
Daniel E. Quinn  
Joseph F. Skertic  
Anthony V. Spiewak  
Charles (NMI) Seklany  
George A. Smith (Posthumous Award)

February 1, 1944

Mission was canceled today before briefing, and a stand-down was declared because of weather....Today was payday, and gambling started early. It will stop in about three days....The Marshall Islands were invaded, with several landings on Kwajalein, Roi, and Namur....PX rations were generous, with two cartons of good cigarettes, matches, and candy....Captain Bridge's brother, an officer in an Artillery unit, visited the Squadron. "The Air Corps doesn't have it. So we still wonder who's getting it.".....Frequent comment: "Guess I'll be the only single fellow left.".....The grass is getting greener and the daisies are blooming. There are showers, and the lightning flashes. Spring is coming to central Italy....One man figures high prices and high taxes will eat up his mustering-out pay, which seems to have been set at \$300.00.....The boys in one tent have adopted a sweetheart. Her name is Angelina, and she is the youngest – four years old – of ten children. She is fat and full-faced, and has a low husky voice. They've donated American soap to the old man – a rather timid soul – and have urged him to keep her tidy. They have bought her wooden shoes and a pretty little dress, "Which cost us plenty.".....Promotions: Coleman, Glade, Stein, Gibson, Howard, and Stotler to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.. Adams to Captain.....

2<sup>nd</sup>

Target for today was the road junction in the town of Marino. Six planes of the 486<sup>th</sup> were over at noon and straddled the road to Rome. Squadrons mixed their bombs in the tiny village, and it was difficult to define individual patterns. The Group PI officer called it "an excellent Group job."....Donuts and coffee were served at operations for the first time. Crews were interrogated on the line and this will probably become standard practice as long as we have the donuts...There was some criticism, the men saying they would rather go on to the Squadron for a hot meal....Major Keller and Lt. Swope left for Cairo for a week's stay.....Another "first": Jello for lunch. It was scrounged from a 5<sup>th</sup> Army salvage dump....An Italian stage show was scheduled for the Squadron, but was canceled because the unit had broken up....Movie tonight was "Ghost Breakers" with Bob Hope....Clouds were low today, and the mission had to go above them to form....A B-26 landed after the mission took off. It was examined curiously, and there was considerable joking comments about "Martin's Murder".....Cassino has been surrounded on three sides.....New men: Lt. Fisher, Sgts. Murphy, McKivison, and Horry....

3<sup>rd</sup>

A mission was scheduled, the squadron was briefed, and then takeoff was postponed and later canceled altogether....Good thick steaks appeared for lunch, but supper was uninspiring....Lt. Fisher, who left the States on December 17<sup>th</sup>, says the black market is rampant, especially on such items as liquor; that folks believe the war in Europe is over. He misses a convenient place to wash his hands and face....Gambling is about over for the month....The bomblines moved back in the beachhead area, and moved up at Cassino....One soldier says he had a dream about Hitler, who was personally on a bombing mission and was shot down. Our soldier had the pleasure of guarding him, and asked him if Berlin were badly hit. Hitler said it had been bombed pretty thoroughly, and added that his best horse and buggy had been demolished.....

4<sup>th</sup>

The day was cloudy, and a stand-down was declared in the morning....Pvt. Nagy – known intimately as “houdipole” - has been transferred to 12<sup>th</sup> Bomber Command....Chili for supper tonight. Comment: “It's worse than starving.”.....The medics seem to be resigned to staying over here until the middle of 1945. They are not together on whether we go from here to the USA, some feeling we may go to England first, to England and then to India, or to India direct. They think home will be the same when we get there, but that we will be changed. We'll be lazier, we'll feel like roving, we'll want to see the country before we settle down.....A 486<sup>th</sup> truck went into Naples to see “The Barber of Seville” at the Palm Theatre. The tenor was weak, Figaro had a cold, but the leading lady was pleasant and impressive. Many soldiers are visiting the opera these days, and are giving it a high accolade when they say “it's entertaining.”.....Choice seats in the Palm Theatre are reserved for Peninsula Base Section officers. One of their rows was not filled tonight, and there were men standing. Such shenanigans are no bono.....Lt. Mezell was transferred to 12<sup>th</sup> Op and will go with them on their boat ride.....

5<sup>th</sup>

The 486<sup>th</sup> led the formation today as 12 planes of the 486<sup>th</sup> and 12 planes from the 487<sup>th</sup> bombed the R/R tracks at Terni, Italy. The target was the M/Y [Marshalling Yard], but due to slight error in both course and range, the 486<sup>th</sup> pattern fell to the Southwest of the yards, but got two hits on the line to Rieti. There was no opposition, and all planes returned safely.....There was rain in the morning and low-hanging clouds. Mt. Vesuvius and surrounding peaks were covered with snow. In the air, crews reported temperature down to 20 below zero....Talk has it that the 340<sup>th</sup> rather than the 12<sup>th</sup>, was scheduled to move, but that Col. Jones “argued 'em out of it.”....The 486<sup>th</sup> flew a 12-ship formation for the first time since Catania....”The shows here help pass the time and take one's mind off of home for an hour or two”...Ham for lunch (more 5<sup>th</sup> Army salvage) and bologna (a “first time”) for supper....Movie: Richard Arlen in “Submarine Alert”.....

6<sup>th</sup>

Briefing was scheduled for 1035 this morning, and weather was clear, sunny, and cold. It was changed to 1015, but when crews got there, they found the time had been set up to 1145. They crawled back in the truck, came back to the Squadron for an early lunch, complained that someone was wasting a pretty day. They were in the briefing room again at 1145, when the target was changed and briefing set for 1310....Three planes took off at a time to bomb the road junction at Frascati. The formation went to Alfadina, found the route covered over, came back and went in over the water, going across the lake south of Terracina and on to Frascati. All three squadrons including 12 ships of the 486<sup>th</sup> hit the junction squarely on the nose. A/A on the way out was heavy, scattered, but fairly accurate. Lt. Buchanan got a large hole a few inches from the seat of his pants....The field suddenly clouded over about 1500 hours. One of the 3 stand-by ships returning crashed near Pompeii. Bystanders said a wing appeared to come off, as if the ship might have struck the balloon cable over Torre Annunziata. Conflicting stories seem to indicate that the pilot was alive....The innumerable lights in Naples harbor every night intrigue and mystify those of us who are black-out conscious.....The Engineering tent burned today, destroying a very good typewriter.....Three old 12<sup>th</sup> Group ships came in today, each with an average of 60 missions. We are due to get another....A newcomer here says he likes us. “The older hands here welcome the new ones as old friends.”

7<sup>th</sup>

12 ships of the 486<sup>th</sup> took off at 1411 hours to bomb the marshaling yards at Viterbo, Italy. The 486<sup>th</sup> led, with Col. A.C. Agan, a member of Gen. Eaker's staff, riding as observer. They missed the yards, but laid a pattern across the road and railroad south of the chokepoint. Four fighters were encountered, but they did not close in....The Squadron officer's club, in a building behind operations, opened last night....Movie: Wallace Beery in "Jackass Mail."....Several new radios have appeared. Their high cost (one man paid \$130.00) bothers no one. The only American stations listed on the dials are Pittsburgh and Schenectady...A Sgt. says: "Practically all GI's regard the Infantry with horror but they're the only real soldiers, and they rate my salute any day.".....Another Sgt. says: "I never was an opera lover in civilian life, but I did enjoy the ones I've seen. When you come right down to it, I much rather would've seen a good jazz band but we can't afford to be too choosy out here"....One man hopes he will be home by Valentine's Day, 1945..Transferred: Lt. Chambers and F/O Blakely to XII Bomber Command....

8<sup>th</sup>

Target this morning was the town of Cisterna, Italy. Crews were told that Germans were preparing to put tanks in the houses, as pillboxes, and it was our job to flatten the town....Two squadrons, with 11 planes each, were over the town at 1010 hours and dropped 88 1000-lb bombs. Both patterns hit squarely in the center. Lt. Stein, using binoculars, claims he could see people scampering down the streets. Five planes were holed, but all returned safely....The ALO [Allied Liaison Officer] reported that artillery in the area cooperated yesterday and today by blasting at A/A when our planes come over. Bono idea....Report stated a drive would be made today for both Cassino and Cisterna....BBC announced the complete capture of Kwajalein Island. The Russians have completely cleared the left bank of the Dnieper and have recaptured Nikopol....Three planes of the 486<sup>th</sup> dropped pamphlets in the Avezzano area this afternoon. There was no opposition....Lt. Hallahan was transferred to the 12<sup>th</sup> Air Force Hq....Show: Betty Grable in "Song of the Islands" said the switchboard, but it turned out to be someone else.....Our long-overdue mail has at last come in....

9<sup>th</sup>

Today's mission was in close support of the bridgehead, the target area being a triangle formed by a railroad and two highways near Carroceto. 12 486<sup>th</sup> planes were over the area at 1420 hours and dropped their bombs with good effect. A/A was scattered and all planes came home safely....

10<sup>th</sup>

Eleven planes of the 486<sup>th</sup> took off at 1006 hours to bomb Lanvio, Italy, but brought all bombs back, reporting ten-tenths cloud cover from Terracino to Rome....

11<sup>th</sup>

No mission today...Men returning from Capri are sold on the Island (all except the trip out, which is enough to turn any normal stomach). There is no heat or hot water, but the sheets and innerspring

mattresses are compensation enough. Food is good, and the bar never closes. Ground men stay three days, barely get in a look at Tiberius' Castle between bouts at the bar. Combat crews have seven days leave. The blue grotto is nearly always impossible to see, because of rough waters. General impression is that the Island is a pleasant escape from the warring world....

12<sup>th</sup>

No mission today....The little red funicular railway runs up to the base of the cone at Vesuvius, but most visitors ride up that far in a jeep, walk the remainder of the way, accompanied by guides who make ash tray souvenirs by planting pennies in hot lava (where do they get the pennies?). The rumble is easily felt when the cone is about to cough, and steam comes from crevices. Some few daring souls go up to where they can look into the crater, running the risk of having a piece of hot lava wrapped around their necks. Sgt. Purrington says he did it, but wishes he hadn't.....

13<sup>th</sup>

10 planes of the 486<sup>th</sup>, loaded with 500 lb bombs, took off at 0837 hours to bomb a vehicle and car park between Lake Albano and Lake Lemi. All bombs fell in the target area, and one explosion was reported. One co-pilot reported a single motor vehicle on the main road, going like a bat out of hell. The A/A was intense and accurate, with 4 ships holed, but all planes returned safely. Lt. Hayes received a scratch on the chest by a piece of flak.....Promoted: Luther A. McGuire, to T/Sgt....

14<sup>th</sup>

Six Mitchells of the 486<sup>th</sup> were over Perugia M/Y at 1013 hours today. A pattern of 1000 lb bombs started approximately midway between highway and railroad and extended well beyond the choke point. A/A was scattered and fairly accurate, coming from Perugia L/G [Landing Ground], and three planes were holed. There were no casualties and all planes returned safely....Transferred: Joseph J. Petito, to the 487<sup>th</sup> at his request....

15<sup>th</sup>

Crews knew at breakfast their target for the day – the already publicized monastery at Montecassino. Twelve ships of the 486<sup>th</sup> took off at 1006 hours and were over the abbey at 1059. They dropped 36 1000 lb bombs, with a majority of them landing in or near the buildings, causing fires and explosions. The buildings were obscured by smoke, and photographs do not reveal much. Crews felt the abbey was finito. A/A was negligible and all planes returned safely....Transferred: Lt. Thompson, Capt. Stith's assistant in S-2, to the 180<sup>th</sup> Station Hospital in Africa....

16<sup>th</sup>

Target for today was the M/Y at Campoleone. Nine of our planes were over the area at 1432 hours. Three ships in the lead element dropped their bombs on the road on the west side of the M/Y, partially crossing the yards. The remaining six ships brought their bombs back. Crews reported that the lead

plane, a 488<sup>th</sup> ship, was hit directly by flak and went down in the target area. One parachute was seen to open. The co-pilot of this ship was assistant Group Operations Officer, Major Garsky.....Lt. Click brought 6J in first, with a wounded man aboard and the plane shot full of holes. S/Sgt. Kelsey was wounded in the right arm, believed to have suffered a fracture. One of the 488<sup>th</sup> ships returned with a large hole in the fuselage near the tail, where a 88 mm shell had gone through without exploding....

17<sup>th</sup>

Today's target was a pinpoint near Highway #8, which parallels the Tiber out of Rome to the sea. Six 486<sup>th</sup> planes were over the target at 1004 hours, their bombs dropping slightly to the right of the pinpoint. A/A was negligible, and all planes returned unharmed....New men (from 321<sup>st</sup> Bomb Group): Cpl. Poranda, Sgt. Braden, S/Sgt. Currier, Kellner, Craig, Durkin, Patterson, Congalton, Carey, and Cpl. Strait.....Promoted: Posey, Knuckels, Roberts, Burman, and Morris, to Corporal. Damaini and Mo[?]on, to T/Sgt. Carino, Nunziato, Lannon, Ladd and Wright, to S/Sgt....

18<sup>th</sup>

Six 486<sup>th</sup> planes took off at 1017 hours this morning to bomb the area between Lake Albano and Lake Lemi, south of Rome. They found the target solidly overcast, and all planes brought their bombs back....

19<sup>th</sup>

Two missions today, both to the same target area, a wooded section south of Cisterna, and very near our beachhead bomblines. The 321<sup>st</sup> Group led us over both times – in the morning and in the afternoon. They drew the flak, probably because of their loose formation. On both trips over, our box of six ships reported dropping their frag clusters in the target area, which seems to be filled with troops and supplies for the troops holding the “Factory” at Carroceto. Fires were observed. The flak in the afternoon was slight, whether because of a sharp right turn off the target, or because the dive bombers were underneath our formation, just waiting for guns to fire.....Show tonight was “Jane Eyre” with Orson Wells. It was not very popular....New censorship rules in effect today practically put a stop to letter-writing.....With the elevation today of Lt. Col. Bailey to the position of Deputy Group C.O., Major Keller has again become Gp Operations Officer, and Major Hackney is C.O. Of the 486<sup>th</sup>.....Lt. Gibson finished his 50<sup>th</sup> mission this afternoon, and is about ready to turn in his tools.....Ground forces call us “Coverall Commandos” we hear.....In the Pacific, the bastion of Truk has been assaulted. News is scarce. The Russians announce killing or capture of 10 German division trapped in the Dnieper Bend....A 321<sup>st</sup> ship bellied in on the runway this afternoon and burned. All crew members got out safely, and in a hurry.....

20<sup>th</sup>

Both missions (6 planes each) went to the same target area attacked yesterday. Morning mission was over the target at 9 o'clock and dropped a nice pattern along the road bordering the left side of the wooded area. Flak was moderate, but inaccurate because they were deflection shots. It came from the dreaded area around Lake Albano. The 486<sup>th</sup> Squadron – the only one in the Group to hit the target –

put all bombs within the target area. In the afternoon, all four squadrons brought their bombs back.....Show tonight was “High Explosive,” with Chester Morris. Many found it diverting....The 12<sup>th</sup> Group is rumored to be back in Egypt. We have been notified to estimate how much shipping space it will take to move our Group.....Steaks for tonight, with seconds.....Mail is still scarce.....A wire from TBF [Tactical Bomber Force], dated 20 Feb 1944 says: “The Commanding General in the Beachhead has expressed his appreciation for today's air support and has stated that bombing was the deciding factor in the repulse of the enemy's attack. Lost ground has been recaptured”.....

21<sup>st</sup>

A stand-down was announced late last night – a little too late for the Heavy drinkers to take advantage of it. But in the afternoon three crews were briefed for a nickeling mission to the Pontevorvo area. Lt. Fisher said the area was covered over, but that they took a bearing on Cassino Abbey and released on ETA. There was no opposition, and all planes returned safely....The rest of the combat crews put in a few hours listening to lectures.....More mail in today – three full bags – ending the recent postal drought....

22<sup>nd</sup>

Seven crews were briefed this morning to bomb the marshaling yards at Foligno. Takeoff was 0943, and the load was one-thousand pounders, with 10 percent delay. Lt. Coleman's ship fell out because of trouble in his left engine, and Lt. LeMaster filled in. Because of haze and consequent poor visibility, Lt. Olson had difficulty finding the target, came close to Perugia L/G, where the flak was heavy and accurate. All six planes were holed before they pulled away. The 489<sup>th</sup> pulled the second box out in front and they went over the target first instead of second. Their bombs overshot the North checkpoint, but caused a nice explosion. The box led by the 486<sup>th</sup> Squadron dropped theirs dead on the choke point, in a concentrated pattern. “I followed the bombs all the way down,” says S/Sgt Hunt; “they seemed to converge and go down as a single bomb.”.... Lt. Somers, in 6J, was hit by a piece of flak in the forehead. F/O Leggett, co-pilot, took over while the bombardier salvoed his bombs and came back to give first aid. They brought the ship in nicely, and Lt. Somers was taken to the hospital. Capt. Wathen announced later in the day that he had died....

23<sup>rd</sup>

A dark sky and intermittent rain brought a stand-down today. At 1330 hours, Chaplain Cooper conducted brief ceremonies in the Squadron for Lt. Somers. The body was taken to the American military cemetery in Naples where, on the pretty hill overlooking the city and its harbor and snow-covered Vesuvius, Lt. Somers was laid to rest....

24<sup>th</sup>

Target for today was Fabrica L/G, north of Rome, a recently constructed base for Me109's attacking the Anzio bridgehead. Five of our planes were over the target shortly after noon and dropped frags and 250's on the east runway and dispersal areas. Sgt. Todd reported seeing four or five fires, easily identified as burning planes. Allied strategy was to flush the planes into the air, and then bomb them



when they returned for refueling. It seemed to work, and 18 planes were claimed by the PI officer to be destroyed. All our planes returned safely, reporting only a single burst of flak.....Today's mission was the one-hundredth for 6D, "Cowtown Avenger." Lt. Milloway and S/Sgt. Max Hart have been eager to run up the record for her, and she's the first in the Group to reach the century mark....Last night's show, "Hi Rookie," with Sterling Holloway, was a walloping success. "The best stage show I've ever seen," said one man. "Worth five dollars," said another. The band was tops and the pacing was swift and smooth. The performers were among the best....Someone remarks that fresh butter and fresh meat have become commonplace.....The bombardiers were told tonight that we will obtain Norden sights very soon. Nobody is happy. They point to recent heavy losses of the 321<sup>st</sup> Group, and blame them on the Norden sight....

25<sup>th</sup>

Opera has taken the Squadron by storm. Many men are going for the first time, and are getting a kick out of the performances. Their criticisms are remarkably good. "Barber of Seville" was fairly popular. "Aida" was liked, for splendid sets and good singing. "Pagliacci" was best liked, for its pleasant, familiar music.....Sgt. McKivisson, injured last week in a motorcycle accident, is suffering from amnesia. He remembers only the more recent happenings. He seems eager to return to flying status, and may be allowed to do so, on the grounds that flying will help him jolt back to normal....The new EM Day Room opened tonight with a bang. It is a wood structure, walled with insulating material. Located on the line, it has several neat home-made pieces of furniture, a bar, and two stoves. Those who helped in its construction are very proud of it.....Talk has it that rotation of combat crews has stopped. This, with the curtailment of awards, makes a bitter pill for combat crews to swallow.....

26<sup>th</sup>

No mission today because of steady downpour all day long....Captain Stith returned from the hospital declaring himself as fit as a fiddle....Amidst a loud chorus of praise for the Red Cross, one lone man speaks harshly, saying he can't see the point in sending five civilians over here "to give donuts and coffee to their friends." He thinks the Salvation Army is the only organization for his money....Rumor says the 12<sup>th</sup> Group is in Egypt, doing transition on B-29's.....

27<sup>th</sup>

Crews were up early for a briefing at 0710 hours. Takeoff was set up to 0910 then to 1110, then abandoned altogether because of weather.....

28<sup>th</sup>

Three squadrons of the Group sent six ships each to bomb dispersal areas at Canino L/G, north of Rome. The 488<sup>th</sup> led, failed to find the target, came home, with the 486<sup>th</sup> following. All brought their bombs back, except the 487<sup>th</sup>, which dropped through an overcast. Results are not clear....One man was injured slightly by flak from Gaeta point....The province of Salerno (this area) is a part of "the King's Italy" and is under Italian rule again. Restrictions on the sale of grain and meat are off and shops are displaying their wares. Pork chops sell for about \$1.20 per pound. And wheat is \$1.00 per kilo, underground.....

29<sup>th</sup>

The 486<sup>th</sup> got a stand-down today. The other Squadrons were on stand-by all day, finally got a stand-down. Crews were scattered when an emergency call came in. They were assembled and a mission was flown late in the afternoon to drop frags on the beachhead...GI stoves have been supplied to the Squadron now that Spring is here. With the advent of full blossoming almond and apricot trees, we get our little potbellies.....A number of men have purchased locally manufactured cameos and are pasting them to their letters and sending them home. One cameo carver works at his home in Torre del Greco. His shells are first glued to a stick, for easier handling, and with a tiny chisel he cuts the soft outside into a bas-relief figure, leaving the hard translucent interior of the shell as background. Cameos are sold by their size, and a nice one about an inch wide sells for \$7.00. The carvers live comfortably, with a clean house, a radio, and pleasant interior decoration....

[Many of these same events are also recounted in the War Diary of the 340<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group HQ Squadron, though from a different perspective. The HQ diary can be found here:

[http://57thbombwing.com/340th\\_History/340thGroupHistory.php](http://57thbombwing.com/340th_History/340thGroupHistory.php)

Transcription by Dan Setzer, son of Sgt. Hymie Setzer, 340<sup>th</sup> BG HQ Squadron. April 6, 2015]