

SO. BOMB-487-HI
JAN. 1944

[REDACTED]

487 BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON

JANUARY 1944

P.R.C.

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SQ-BOMB-487-41

Outline History - 487th Bombardment Squadron, 540th Bombardment Group (M)

Period: Month of January, 1944

Station: Pospel Airfield, Italy

Prepared by: Sgt. J.P. Shanley-Cpl. Richard C. Hurley, 487th Bomb. Sq.

Sheet No. 1.A. Original Unit

(See previous outline history)

B. Changes in Organization

Effective January 1, 1944, the 57th Bomb Wing and 12 ASC were removed from the chain of command, and the 12th Bomber Command was substituted. The chain of command now is 487th Bomb Sq, 540th Bomb Gp, 12th Bomber Command, 12th AAF, NATOUSA. In operational matters, a Mediterranean Allied Air Command has been instituted. The 487th Squadron continues to be a tactical unit of the Tactical Bomber Force and Tactical Air Force of the Mediterranean Command.

C. Stations

On January 5, 1944, the Squadron Air Echelon, on detached service at Poggia Satellite No. 3, Italy, since December 28th, 1943, joined the Ground Echelon at Pospel Airfield, Italy.

D. Strength

1. At beginning of period: 67 officers and 287 enlisted men.
2. At end of period: 64 officers and 272 enlisted men.

E. Marches

See Diary of the 487th Bomb Sq. for month of January, 1944.

F. Campaigns

The 487th Bomb. Sq. participated actively in the devastation of enemy positions in Northern Italy. In collaboration with other bombardment units the squadron succeeded in isolating Rome and the Anzio beach-head area from supplies by severing axis communication lines.

G. Battles (Missions)

- January 15, 1944 - Target: Airdrome at Guidonia, Italy (9 planes)
 January 15, 1944 - Target: Marshalling yards at Foligno, Italy (6 planes)
 January 16, 1944 - Target: M/Y at Terni, Italy (6 planes)
 January 17, 1944 - Target: M/Y at Chiaravalle, Italy (6 planes)
 January 18, 1944 - Target: Viaduct at Terni, Italy (8 planes)
 January 19, 1944 - Target: Airdrome at Rieti, Italy (6 planes)
 January 20, 1944 - Target: Bridge at PP-G277689 east of Carsoli, Italy (6 planes)
 January 21, 1944 - 1st mission: Target: M/Y at Foligno, Italy (7 planes)
 2nd mission: Target: M/Y at Avezza no, Italy (6 planes)
 January 22, 1944 - Target: Road at PP-G169493, Italy (7 planes)
 January 23, 1944 - Target: Crossroads at Avezzano, Italy (6 planes)
 January 25, 1944 - Target: Road junction at Artena, Italy (6 planes)
 January 27, 1944 - Target: Railroad junction at Segui-Collisferro, Italy (6 planes)
 (first mission)
 January 27, 1944 - Target: M/Y at Orte, Italy (6 planes) - 2nd mission
 January 28, 1944 - Target: M/Y at Orte, Italy (5 planes)
 January 29, 1944 - Target: (Alternate) Harbor installations at San Beneveto, Italy (6 planes)
 January 30, 1944 - Target: Road junction at Frascati, Italy (12 planes)

H. Commanding Officer in Important Engagements

During the month of January, 1944, Major Lewis F. Parsons, commanding officer of the 487th Bombardment Squadron, participated in the following combat mission with the 487th Bombardment Squadron, 1944, M.A.S.

January 17, 1944 - 487th Bombardment Squadron, participated in the following Major Parsons' squadron formation:

January 17, 1944 - Target: M/Y at Chiaravalle, Italy.

Major Parsons flew as co-pilot in the lead ship.

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Outline History - 487th Bombardment Squadron, 340th Bombardment Group

Period: Month of January, 1944

Station: Poapei Airfield, Italy

Prepared by: Sgt. J.P. Shanley - Cpl. R.C. Hurley, 487th Bomb. Sq.

Sheet No. 2.

I. Losses in Action

Wounded in action: On January 30, 1944, in a raid on a road junction at Frascati, Italy, the plane in which S/Sgt. John E. Blume and S/Sgt. Arsene H. Vervacke were crew members was incapacitated over the target by enemy ack-ack and returned to the base for a crash landing. Sgt. Blume sustained a broken leg and arm, Sgt. Vervacke received severe cuts about the face and body.

No lives were lost in action.

J. Former and present Members Who have Distinguished Themselves in Action

BLUME, JOHN E. - 32507895 - S/Sgt.
Purple Heart, GO 2, 340th Bomb. Gp., February 6, 1944

VERVACKE, ARSENE H. - 36174041 - S/Sgt.
Purple Heart, GO 2, 340th Bomb. Gp., February 6, 1944

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