

# August 1944

[Transcriber's note: Some entries are truncated. Especially the opening lists of wounded in action, distinguished actions, etc. Please see the original document for the full details.]

War Diary, 487<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron, 340<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group

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## I. Losses in action

1. Wounded in action over Var River, France
  1. Charles R.J. Klebes
  2. Bernard (NMI) Albert
2. Personnel returned to their organization
  1. Edward P. Dombrowski

## J. Personnel who have distinguished themselves in action

1. Bernard (NMI) Albert
2. Bernard (NMI) Bloomberg
3. Thomas V. Casey
4. Paul G. Daston
5. Edward R. Deere
6. Edward Dombrowski (twice)
7. Ernest L. Elsner
8. Joseph C. Farley
9. Charles L. Fritch
10. Harry D. George
11. Nelson E. Gibson
12. Martin A. Currentz
13. Ward W. Holmes
14. Charles A Jordan Jr.
15. Irvin L. Katherman Jr.
16. Charles R. Klebes Jr. (twice)
17. Casimir C. Klujsza
18. Silvain A. Lovinfosse
19. Marion M. Lynch
20. Charles A. Malissewski
21. John C. Miller
22. Verl J. Miller
23. William A. McLaughlin
24. Olan H. Parrish
25. Elmer E. Ryerson
26. Charles D. Woods

K. The following flying personnel of this organization have been awarded the Air Medals and Clusters:

1. Russel G. Allstron
2. Bernard Albert
3. James J. Allen
4. Dominic Angelini
5. Billy Jo Barry
6. Eugene W. Bartley
7. Willard h. Baskervill
8. Gerald F. Becker
9. Walter T. Bielski
10. George G. Birmingham, Jr.
11. Robert Bishop
12. Bernard Bloomberg
13. Joe L. Boaz
14. Wildore Bousquet
15. James R. Brooks
16. Eugene J. Broos Jr.
17. Oliver A. Buendel
18. Gordon E. Butterfield
19. Noble H. Byars
20. Edward P. Byerly Jr.
21. Fred Pl Camp
22. Robert F. Campo
23. Gerald W. Carstensen
24. Thomas V. Casey
25. Joseph M Cline, Jr.
26. Harry L. Cochran, Jr.
27. Emmette W. Coleman
28. John H. Collemore, Jr.
29. Charles M. cook
30. William P. Crandell
31. Luke J. Crosby
32. Roland D. Curley
33. Paul G. Darton
34. Carroll E. Dearborn
35. Paul V. Daneen, Jr.
36. Donald C. Dick
37. Charles F. Donovan
38. Thomas J. Doyle
39. George Dranchak
40. Quentin C. Ebert
41. John T. Edwards
42. Richard T. Egan, Jr.
43. Ernest L. Elsner
44. Edward Eustis
45. Stewart Farnham
46. Jack B. Faylor
47. Harold H. Frazier

48. Charles L. Fritch
49. Milton L. Gammage
50. James M. Garner
51. Carl Genian
52. Harry D. George
53. Raymond F Gerhardt
54. Steven Gerolde
55. Nelson E. Gibson
56. Edward G. Graham
57. Martin A Gurrentz
58. William D. Halo
59. David D. Handel
60. Charles L Harding
61. Floyd F. Hauser
62. Ivan W. Henderson
63. Kenneth H Hill
64. Robert L. Hill
65. Raymond G. Hobson
66. Joseph N. Hogarth
67. Ferrell L. Holley
68. James C. Holloman
69. Ward W. Holmes
70. Morton Holtzman
71. Herbert C. Hunt
72. Donovan W. Hurlbut
73. Harvey M. Hyland
74. Julius \_ Inger
75. Romew J. Ingley
76. Edward S Johnston
77. Horace E. Jones
78. Charles A. Jordan Jr.
79. Warren S. Jordan
80. Walter Joseph
81. Walter F. Joyce Jr.
82. Paul Kaplan
83. James E. Kelly
84. Edwin A. Kenyon
85. Geroge H. Killen
86. Fred C Kirby
87. Charles R. Klebes Jr.
88. Jessie S Klein
89. Casimir C. Klujsza Jr.
90. David Konigsbert
91. Harry J. Koster
92. Lawrence G. Lambert
93. John R. Lange
94. Wilbur C Lantz
95. John E. Leatherwood
96. Joseph A LeBaron

97. Guy L Lewis
98. Ralph S. Lincks
99. James A. Littlefield
100. Dewayne E. Longwedel
101. Silvain A. Lovinfosse
102. Max J. Lucas
103. Robert E. MacMillen
104. John P. Mako
105. Charles A. Maliszwski
106. Joseph A Marchisella
107. Robert H. Martin
108. Ernest E. Mathurin
109. John C. Miller
110. John W. Miller
111. Verl J. Miller
112. George S. Moule
113. Henry J.A. McClernon
114. William \_ McGriffin
115. Harlan G. McLain
116. William A. McLaughlin
117. Walter F McT\_\_\_\_\_ Jr
118. Harry H. Maru \_\_\_wcz
119. George E. Obrovatz
120. Robert R. O'Bryant
121. Theodore R Olander
122. Edward F. O'Neill
123. Howard L. Owen
124. Klmo T. Padon
125. Jack E. Parks
126. Olan H. Parrish
127. Lewis F Parsons
128. Donald R. Pinkerton
129. Franklin H. Porter
130. Gerard M. Powers
131. Louis F. Raber
132. John N. Ramsey
133. John E. Rapp
134. John T. Raachetz
135. Fred A Rech
136. Jack V. Reimer
137. Frederick Risch
138. James A Robb
139. Leonard R. Robinson
140. James H. Rogers
141. Robert F. Ryerson
142. Varn I. Salsbury
143. Paul E. Sekeras
144. Joseph E. Semenek
145. Guiseppe Serangeli

146. Everard B. Sh\_\_well
147. Eugene R. Simonson
148. George H. Smith
149. Walter J. Smith
150. George J. Sorbelle
151. Kenneth C. Sparling
152. Paul N. Spencer
153. Roy W Spurling
154. Wahlon C. Stalman
155. Constantine D. Stephenson
156. Harold M. Sterling
157. Harvard F. Stewart Jr.
158. William \_ Suthers
159. Maurice E. Thompson
160. Angelo M. Triunfo
161. Stanley Tulin
162. Howard \_ Van \_\_ton
163. Arsene H. Vervacke
164. Joseph P. Whalon
165. Fleet C. Williams
166. James L. Williams
167. Warren C. Wood Jr.
168. Charles D. Woods
169. Winthrop E. Woodward
170. Lewis S. Young

August 1<sup>st</sup>

Six planes of the 487<sup>th</sup> were over Canneto railroad bridge at 18:00 hours this afternoon. Their 24x1000 lb. bomb load was dropped from 10,000' with extreme efficiency. Visual observations report the bridge still standing although hits were registered on the objective. Enemy opposition was nil and all planes returned safely to the base.....Pay call was the main event of the day. Voting cards were also passed out in the pay line for those who wish to vote. The number of men not casting a ballot is amazing.....Specialized medals were distributed to qualified specialists. The medal is quite attractive and very similar to the riflemen's awards. Its presentation pleased many of the "medal happy" 487<sup>th</sup> personnel.....The Group baseball team won their second game tonite held at the 57<sup>th</sup> Wing. Its beginning to look as though the 340<sup>th</sup> may have the theater champions in its midst. Seven men of the 487<sup>th</sup> Squadron are playing with the team.....The Group Dentist has again moved into our squadron area. Purpose behind the move is unknown unless because its closer to Group Hq....."Old Acquaintance" was repeated at the Group movie tonite.

2<sup>nd</sup>

The most encouraging and pleasing news of the day was our first raid on Southern France. Thirteen of our planes took off at 09:31 hours to bomb two railroad bridges – north and south near Nice. The frag and demolition bomb load fell short of the target and the Squadron scored a seventeen percent bombing efficiency record for the mission. Six planes were severely damaged as a result of the intense anti-aircraft fire. Many ships returned to the base on one engine although no planes were lost. France is not

favored by combat crew members in spite of their former anxiety to raid the country.....The Red Cross is sponsoring a three day tour of Corsica permitting three members of each Squadron to participate every three days. No one is very desirous of taking advantage of the opportunity as there doesn't seem to be much to see on the Island. Perhaps taking two blankets and a mess kit discourages enthusiasm. 1st/Sgt. Parkins had difficulty in locating men to take advantage of tomorrow's tour – imagine G.I.'s refusing a three day pass regardless of where its to be spent.....News is the sole topic of conversation in the Squadron lately and especially the Russian front. There's no question about the fact that G.I.'s are grateful to the Russians for the rapidly advancing climax of this war. The large scale offensive now raging in Normandy hasn't shown much progress to the common observer although big things may be coming. Battles for the great cities of Warsaw and Florence should prove fertile at any moment now.....”Lady in the Dark” with Ginger Rogers played at the movies tonite.....

3<sup>rd</sup>

In accordance with a stand-down every fourth day, the 487<sup>th</sup> stood-down all day. With this stand-down came the customary helter skelter of personnel going places – mostly to the beach. The squadron area looks like No Man's Land not later than twenty minutes after the stand-down is declared.....Last night the local talent of the Squadron put on a show at the Red Cross Club. Everyone seemed to enjoy the vocals done by soloists and the quartet – the ensemble provided the accompaniment. Sgt. Barnes while performing a trick of magic slipped and used the most common of army profanity in his repartee. It wouldn't have been so bad if ladies weren't present, but Sgt. Barnes was certainly embarrassed with Emily not ten feet away. However, Emily was very gracious about the whole thing and laughed it off. Following the performance the entertainers retired to the Squadron bar and proceeded to “tie one on”.....486<sup>th</sup> went out after the target we missed yesterday and did considerable damage to the railroad bridge.....It's beginning to look as though we'll have to do a great deal of our own laundry from now on as the G.I. laundry will only take it three times a month. No doubt there are too many troops on the Island to continue a weekly service.....”Lady in the Dark” was repeated at the movie tonite.....

4<sup>th</sup>

Twelve crews were up at the crack of dawn for early Group briefing and take off at 09:45 hours. The first box bombed a railroad viaduct at pinpoint N-849132 in the vicinity of Nice. It is believed that hits were registered at the mouth of the tunnel. Second box dropped on target of opportunity at either [\_\_\_\_\_] or Tenoa [?]. Pattern was observed on tracks in marshaling yards. Other planes in the formation incurred considerable damage as the result of flak although none of our ships were holed. The boys chalked up their second raid on France and their first 'milk run’.....Two Armament men were rotated to the Zone of the Interior today – S/Sgt. Marasavich and Cpl. Doyle. Both boys have been in poor health, but no one is exactly in their prime after eighteen months of overseas service.....Sgt. Foster took a bet at the club tonite and ate a live grass-hopper for a two dollar drink book. The only difficulty he complained of was that the insect was quite active and insisted on kicking his lips during the mastication procedure – Is Foster war-weary or just plain crazy.....Pvt Coombes who took off to the hills a couple of days ago after being suspected of dishonesty has not been seen to date.....”Rosie the Riveter” played at the movie tonite.....

5<sup>th</sup>

Stand-down all day and the usual solitude of a Death Valley that always comes with a stand-down predominated. It's utterly amazing the way combat crews scatter upon the declaration of a stand-down – ground personnel do a pretty fair job of the disappearing act also.....1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Kendall our Medical

officer who was only temporarily attached is now assigned to the Squadron. Other members who have been around for sometime in an unassigned capacity although doing regular duty are: 1<sup>st</sup> Lts. Bass, Love, Graber; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts. Jettthian[?] Rau, Halstead, Pennock; Sgts. Mottola, Cavanagh; Cpls. Reynolds, Lehmkuhl and Thornsberry.....Lt. Dombrowski who was believed lost since June 22 in a raid over Gricigliana, Italy, returned to the Squadron today. He was quite severely burned about the face and head although his hair is growing back after being completely burned off. Naturally he's glad to be back after spending over a month in the mountains of occupied Italy. Apparently food is pretty scarce as he's pretty thin, but who wouldn't be after an ordeal such as he's experienced. Being captured by the Germans and making a get away is no picnic. No doubt Lt. Dombrowski will be leaving for home in the very near future....."Rosie the Riveter" was repeated at the movie tonite.....

6<sup>th</sup>

Up at 06:00 A.M. and 8:10 A.M. take off for six planes and crews to bomb the La Voultre railroad bridge in France. The flight placed an excellent bomb pattern covering central portion of the bridge with several direct hits observed. No enemy opposition was encountered and all planes returned safely.....Second mission took off in the rain at 17:32 hours to bomb the Var River railroad bridge and road bridge at S-518774. Pattern of the first box covered the central portion of the railroad bridge and the second box succeeded in knocking out the west part of the road bridge. Four planes were holed as a result of the intense flak encountered in the target area. Lt. Klebes, lead bombardier of the second box was hit in the head, but continued with his duties releasing his bombs on the target, thus enabling the entire formation to complete a successful mission.....Sgt. Barnes has taken over the duties of Special Service representative with a lot of new ideas. The boys started out by giving a show at the 35<sup>th</sup> Station Hospital tonite – Barnes says "they need practice before putting on any future performances".....A new order came out awarding Air Medals and Clusters today which made a lot of the boys happy and an lot more of them angry. People can't realize that the entire Squadron couldn't possibly be put on one order – it takes all kinds of people as the saying goes....."A Guy Named Joe" played at the movie tonite. This is the second Sunday nite we've had a movie.....

7<sup>th</sup>

Eleven planes of the 487<sup>th</sup> and one from the 489<sup>th</sup> comprised the two boxes taking off at 07:35 hours to bomb the Le Voultre bridge at pinpoint N-933809 and N-968775. The first box crossed the bridge with their pattern scoring direct hits which completely destroyed the bridge. Second box had a compact pattern starting short of the center with direct hits on the bridge. The complete southern section of this bridge was knocked out as a result of the bombing. Other squadrons in the formation were severely shelled by anti-aircraft fire although none reached our flight.....T/Sgt. Pavel was assigned to the Squadron today.....The mail situation has been quite poor lately – everyone is complaining of missing letters. It's the inconsistency that confuses ones correspondence.....M/Sgt. Gene Metz, who took M/Sgt. Lynch's job as line chief after the latter was rotated, is really getting the boys on the ball. Anyone found sitting around the Engineering office or waiting in line for a haircut is detailed to pick up rocks in the revetments and throughout the area. From all appearances the boys aren't going to like their new line chief.....Special Service is trying to organize a Squadron Band although they have been unable to locate instruments – perhaps the Red Cross will come through with the brass....."A Guy Named Joe: was repeated at the movie tonite.....

8<sup>th</sup>

In accordance with the every fourth day stand-down this Squadron stood down all day. the usual inactivity that goes with a stand-down was obvious. A cloudy afternoon kept many away from the beach and as a result the sacks got a good workout.....New censorship rules allowing pictures of a B-25 to go through have brought forth a deluge of outgoing mail lately. Everyone is sending their much treasured formation shots to the home front for the admiring eyes of the family.....The torn off wing of an airplane now rests beneath the operation trailer inscribed with the following: "For meritorious achievement while taxi-ing down the taxi strip of Alesan Airfield." Lt. Sernageli has certainly taken a beating over the mishap.....Some of the boys went down to see Joe Lewis as Ghisonaccia tonite. Apparently he has been touring the island as he appeared at the 57<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group several days ago.....Capt. Coyle held a meeting of all engineering personnel today to tell them what an important part they will play in the coming invasion of Southern France. According to Capt. Coyle it's to come within the next few days. Those dawn patrol missions aren't being made for the fun of it so if that's any indication we can anticipate the big show any day....."A Guy Named Joe" played at the Group movie for the third time tonite.

9<sup>th</sup>

Take off for six of our planes was at 08:40 hours to bomb Ventimiglia railroad bridge in France [actually in Italy]. No opposition was encountered and the formation succeeded in scoring one hundred percent hits. The bomb pattern hit west approach and west end of target bridge.....Lt. Cochran gave the Squadron area a thorough buzz job this afternoon with a P-47. By this time we're so used to buzz jobs that unless the plane takes off the top of a tree it's not exciting.....Blood tests are being [given] to all personnel who desire one but rumor has it that it will be required of everyone shortly. Too many cases of V.D. are showing up throughout the Squadron.....The recently chosen cadrey [sic] has been alerted and is prepared to leave.....No one is quite sure of who or how many are going bu there should be at least twenty from each squadron. Rumor has it that they will return to the States for the training period.....The show was called off tonite due to inclement weather.....

10<sup>th</sup>

Continuous rain last nite and this morning left everyone in pretty sad shape. Many of the tents didn't prove to be the trusty little homes we all thought them to be. The mail that was completely washed away by the deluge and the Special Service tent would remind one of a laundry bag. Personnel thens took quite a beating while many of the occupants moved from one corner to the other in an attempt to avoid the leaks. However, as the rain continued everyone settled down to sleep regardless of the puddls that has settled in their sacks. Judging from the blankets and clothing hung out to dry this morning there weren't many who missed the discomfort. This was our first real rain since enduring the storms of Sunny Italy.....Poor weather persisted throughout the day and a stand-down was declared in the afternoon just as crews were getting on trucks for a two-thirty P.M. Group briefing.....Fifteen bags of packages and papers came in late this evening to the delight of all recipients. Now all we need is our last months first class mail.....Food has been getting worse everyday. In other words we are having plenty of C-rations. The Quartermaster maintains that until the Southern invasion comes off we can expect no improvement. If for nothing else than the mail and the food we are hoping for a quick decision.....American troops are moving so fast in France that its impossible to record their progress. The Italian campaign is at another standstill and the Russians are massing for a new offensive which all together indicates nothing, but most of the boys still expect to be home for Christmas....."Gas Light" was the picture shown at the movies tonite.....



11<sup>th</sup>

Rain again last nite sort of dimmed the possibility of a mission today although it had cleared sufficiently by 17:35 hours for twelve of our aircraft to take off. Their target was gun positions on the coast of France at pinpoint U-522180. Most bombs landed in a compact pattern within the target area scoring probable hits in or near gun positions. Enemy opposition was nil although small arms fire was observed on strafing fighters from a nearby radar station.....The newly formed cadre [sic] consisting of fifteen men from this squadron prepared for departure tomorrow by turning in all their equipment. Within the last few days they have been given dental checks and a rush job was done to restore missing ivories. Cagney had the three front teeth lost in a dive for the slit trench on that fatal night, replaced and also put in a claim for the Purple Heart. naturally they are all in the best of spirits, but who wouldn't be if they were leaving for home.....A guard has been posted in the area in an attempt to catch the culprit who has been disappearing with cigarettes and mess-hall supplies. Several days ago a box of fresh ham was stolen followed in a day or two by a carton of cigarettes. Both would demand a fine price in Corsica.....Our Squadron baseball team lost the first game in the Island semi-finals to the victorious 41<sup>st</sup> Engineers. Score was six to three....."Fired Husband" with Diana Barrymore played at the Group movie tonite.

12<sup>th</sup>

Early briefing and 08:40 hours take off for twelve of our planes to bomb the coastal defenses on Porquerolles Islands just off the coast of France. Both boxes laid a compact pattern in the target area with possible hits on gun positions. The formation encountered no opposition and all ships returned safely to the base.....The cadre [sic] that that was supposed to pull out today had to postpone it another day on account of transportation shortage.....Three cans of beer were rationed to each man this afternoon which needless to say relieved the monotony of an otherwise ordinary day.....War news hasn't changed much in the last day or so. Warsaw is still besieged by the Russians while they also threaten Prussia and the Balkans. Florence is still anybody's town and the Allies are pushing farther in France following the cleaning up of Brittany and the fall of Nantes. Some clever soul has already located a 487<sup>th</sup> Rest Camp in Paris on the S-2 map.....Our team won the second game of the Island semi-finals playoff tonite – score 2 to 1 with the 41<sup>st</sup> Engineers on the losing end of the hotly contested game....."Ladies Courageous" played at the Group movie tonite.....

13<sup>th</sup>

Lead crews were briefed at 06:330 A.M., but the twelve ships didn't takeoff until 08:45 hours. Both patterns covered the target area thoroughly which was again gun positions at pinpoint T-671058 near La Ciotat. Anti-aircraft fire was encountered, but its inaccuracy afforded no opposition and all planes returned safely to the base.....P.X. supplies were received today in pretty fair quantity. Veterans of the desert are rather amused when new lads complain of the snide [?] rations. The older boys well remember the day when one stick of chewing gum per week was a real treat and a roll of Necco wafers were tops.....Everyone is still looking forward to the invasion of Southern France and many would be strategists are deciding on what beaches the great offensive will begin. Much money has already been lost and more is still pending concerning the big day.....The cadre was up early this morning and left before the day really began. Rumor has it that two more cadres will be pulled from this Group in the very near future.....1st/Sgt. Parkins held a Squadron meeting tonite in order to give warning to the thief who has relieved us of one box of hams, sixty cartons of cigarettes and liquor from the I.M. Club. A nightly guard is now posted in the area and further security will be added as necessary. A warning to clean up the tents was also issued....."Ladies Courageous" was repeated at the movie tonite.

14<sup>th</sup>

Twelve ships of the 487<sup>th</sup> took off again this morning to bomb gun positions at pinpoint S-205512 near St. Raphael in France. Both patterns fell within the target area scoring many hits. The formation escaped enemy anti-aircraft fire.....A ship left for Catania this morning to pick up the piano and other musical instruments purchased by the Enlisted Men's Club for the purpose of organizing a Squadron band. The piano is costing close to four hundred dollars.....Sgt. Barnes conducted a bingo game in the Club last nite. Many excellent prizes were given which included souvenirs of Rome. The game went over with a bank and will be repeated as soon a more prizes are procured.....Tonite was on of the most eventful the Squadron has ever had. Immediately after supper is was announced that the invasion of Southern France would begin at 08:00 A.M. in the morning. 487<sup>th</sup> is to be the first formation over the invasion beaches and from 2:00 A.M. on crews will be getting up, briefed and taking off. Roger Lynch, Operations C.O. was really sweating it out as he will be responsible for getting the men up at the proper time. Combat crews were given the dope at a Group meeting tonite. Everyone is tense in anticipation of the coming event.....Our baseball team ployed their second losing game to the 41<sup>st</sup> Engineers tonite with a score of 14 to 8. It is the best three out of five and thus far the Engineers have won two games to our one.....There will be no movies at the 340<sup>th</sup> Group until further notice.

15<sup>th</sup>

A big day for the 487<sup>th</sup> Squadron and the 340<sup>th</sup> Group in particular. The Group celebrated its 500<sup>th</sup> combat mission with our own squadron leading the Group formation of seventy-two planes in a flight to prepare the way for the great Allied landing in Southern France. It was a long day and a tense one as all combat crew members were out of their sacks at 02:30 in preparation for the big event. The first six planes took off at 05:17 loaded with 500 lb. bombs to destroy gun positions near St. Raphael. The formation reached their objective at 06:50, but due to a complete cloud coverage no bombs ere dropped. The second formation in which twelve of our planes participated took off at 06:03 hours to bomb the beach at Antheor. The flight reached the target area at 07:26 and released their bomb load from 7300'. The first box pattern started short of beach in central portion of target and extended across railroad tracks well inland to the top of a large hill. Beach believed to be well covered. 2<sup>nd</sup> box pattern due to cloud coverage in target area was not observed, but some crew members believed pattern hit probably 1500' south of target area along beach while others thought pattern may have hit approximately 3000' north of target area along the beach. No ack-ack or other enemy opposition was encountered bringing all our ships and crews safely home. Second mission of the day took off at 14?27 hours in which twelve of our planes participated. The flight was over the designated area, a road bridge at Avignon, France at 16:27 and dropped their 48,000 lb. bomb load from 12000'. First box on the S.W. bridge crossed the tracks 1000' north of the bridge. 2<sup>nd</sup> box on S.[?] bridge crossed the bridge just to the north of center. Ack-ack this time was heavy, intense and accurate, holing five or our ships. However, all planes and crews returned safely to the base.....The boys in Rome got an extra day's vacation out of the invasion as it was impossible to send a ship over to pick them up – however, they didn't mind enjoying another day in the Eternal City.....Tonite the piano recently purchased in Catania reached the squadron and is now safely ensconced in the Enlisted Mens Club. It's not too large and should be comparatively easy to move, if we do – for \$400 it should get good care and careful consideration.....Group A.L.O. officer made his first appearance in the squadron tonite after a long time. He had plenty of news for the boys which when summed up means - “It shouldn't be too long now”.....Another nite without a movie due to a malfunctioning projector.....

16<sup>th</sup>

Another early morning mission with combat crews arising at 05:00 in preparation for an early takeoff. However, it wasn't until 06:48 that our twelve planes took off to bomb a road bridge at Le Pusin, France. [Le Poussin?] The formation reached their target at 08:30 and dropped their 48,000 lb. bomb load from 9000' to 9300' with a fair degree of success. The first box bombed across the bridge with two direct hits east of the center of the bridge. The second box bombed across the west side and west approach to the bridge with black smoke observed on the target as a result. No ack-ack or other enemy opposition was encountered thus chalking up another "milk-run" in the French campaign.....News reports of the landing in southern France are very encouraging and the boys are building high hopes for the States by Christmas 1944 – here's hoping.....Sgt. George L. Von Berg was assigned and joined to the squadron as of this date and at present is working in Group Headquarters on detached service.....Fried chicken for dinner today was really a treat, only complaint being there wasn't enough for everyone – late arrivals got cold spam as usual.....340<sup>th</sup> Group baseball team of which many members came from the 487<sup>th</sup> played the fourth game of a five game series with the 41<sup>st</sup> Engineers in the semi-finals for the championship of the Island. The Group won an exciting game 5 to 2 and the series stands even - 41<sup>st</sup> won 2 and 340<sup>th</sup> Group 2.....Group Special Services acquired a new projector and resumed the nightly movie with "His [should be "Her"] Primitive Man" starring Walter Catlett and Edward E. Morton....

17<sup>th</sup>

Stand-down was in effect until 14:30 at which time twelve crews were alerted for a mission. they boarded trucks and proceeded to Group operations for briefing, but a thunder shower canceled the raid and a stand-down was declared for the rest of the day.....Fresh hot dogs garnished with hot mustard were served for dinner today and believe it or not each man got THREE. Even with exceptional generosity there were some left over to serve at the supper meal. Things really are getting better – excepting of course the mail situation which has been very poor lately. Everyone is of the opinion that the invasion had something to do with deliveries – no doubt it did, but now that the worst is over we should be literally swamped with letters.....Rain prevented any activities this afternoon and the squadron area was deserted with everyone or most everyone in his sack – all except "Greg" Moore who took advantage of the situation and pecked out a couple of numbers on the new piano in the "Nut Club"....."His [Her] Primitive Man" was repeated at the movie tonite.....

18<sup>th</sup>

Another early morning mission with eleven of our planes taking off at 07:09 hours to bomb a road bridge in Le [?]izin, France. However, it was impossible for the formation to navigate through the dense cloud cover formation encountered enroute and all planes returned to the base, bomb load intact. A stand-down then went into effect until 13:00 hours, but a heavy thunder storm again prevented takeoff for the second day in succession. In spite of the fact that our planes are grounded the news continues to be very good and the latest landing is progressing much more rapidly than was expected – maybe it's true that we will hit the home shores by Xmas '44.....Two mail calls in one day is something we've anticipated for a long time. Even though most of the letters were old and long overdue they were received like manna from heaven.....A G.I. show put on by the personnel of the 310<sup>th</sup> and 321<sup>st</sup> Groups replaced a picture at our open air theater tonite. Some very clever skits and dancing was well received by a large audience.....

19<sup>th</sup>

Twelve crews were alerted this morning at 05:00 and finally took off at 06:30 to bomb a rail bridge at Orange, France. The formation reached their objective at 08:50, but found the target completely obscured by clouds and returned to the base with their bomb load intact. A stand-down was then declared until 14:00 hours at which time the same twelve crews were alerted and took off at 15:45 with the same target as their goal. The formation reached the target at 18:00 hours and dropped their 48,000 lb. bomb load from 9000' with very good results. The first box had a long pattern extending across and covering the central portion of bridge. Second box pattern covered north portion of bridge as far as the north shoreline of the bridge. Heavy, moderate but inaccurate anti-aircraft fire was encountered over the target, but no damage was caused to our formation – all planes and crews returned safely to the base.....Another substantial amount of mail came in today, making the boys very happy.....Fried chicken for dinner again today which gives vent to the slogan “something's going to happen, we never had it so good”.....”Hi Good Looking” was the picture shown at the movies tonite.....

20<sup>th</sup>

The squadron was at a stand-down all day and as usual the beach was well covered with 487<sup>th</sup> personnel. Heat and sun were terrific and all bathers gained another shade on their already deep coat of tan.....Cpl. Johnny Pabis returned from hospital today following his thirty-day sojourn as a result of his double hernia operation. Considering everything he looks pretty well although he claims that the falling stomach sensation is still present. Thirty days is remarkable progress for such an operation.....Fresh ham for dinner added zest to the ordinary C-ration or stew diet which has been so frequent of late.....Rations were distributed in double quantity tonite, the reason being the anticipated move by the Service Group. If they move it's a cinch that we will follow shortly. In spite of Alesan being our longest stop-over a move will please the majority.....The baseball team won the Island semi-final tonite by beating the 41<sup>st</sup> Engineers for the third time with a score of 4 to 2 in our favor. The team is now supposed to play the Island finals at Ghisonaccia.....apparently the Italian employees of the Squadron are going to remain in Corsica after much controversy. Naturally the entire Squadron membership is happy about the whole thing because if they had gone; details would have been abundant.....No movie was shown tonite.....

21<sup>st</sup>

Crews were up at the crack of dawn this morning for early briefing and 8:00 A.M. takeoff. The target was the Parma west railroad bridge in Italy's Po Valley. It was the first time we've hit Italy since the Southern France offensive began and bombing results were excellent. Both 487<sup>th</sup> boxes crossed the bridge approximately at the center with direct hits observed. Enemy opposition was nil and all twelve planes returned safely to the base.....News on all the Allied fronts is so encouraging that even high ranking officials are predicting a more rapid finale than any of us anticipate. If progress continues to be as rapid and decisive as the fall of Toulon and the threatening march on Paris we could be able to resume “the home by Xmas motto”.....Bingo games went over with a bang again tonite at the E.M. Club. Prizes are nice and really sought after. Big prizes call for more coupons and a lot of the boys are saving their coupons from one bingo nite to the other in order to cash in on the grand awards.....There aren't many left in the Squadron desirous of seeing Rome who haven't already seen it. Suppose Paris will be on the list before too long.....”Sahara” played at the movie tonite.....

22<sup>nd</sup>

A mission was called off at the 06:35 hours briefing this morning due to the rapidly moving bomb line. Ground movements are so rapid in Southern France that tactical bombing is considered impractical at this point by a B-25.....congratulations are in order for Capt. Mugbee who became a Major today.....S/Sgt. Iwan returned to the organization today after a thirty day deal in the States. He enjoyed the furlough immensely, but was quite burned up at the excellent treatment being rendered the prisoners of war at American camps. Sgt. Iwan claims that its difficult to get not the P.X. at Patrick Henry due to the great quantity of prisoners allowed the privileges of purchasing whatever and whenever they desire. That arrangement is quite different from anything our boys have run into, but America has always been known among Europeans as a land of "suckers." No wonder there are so many who would enjoy an endless war.....Rumors concerning a move are numerous although no one has any official word to substantiate either the move or weird destinations.....Group showers are still among the war casualties and if one is inclined to bathe regularly he must either go down to the 306<sup>th</sup> shower, bathe at the beach or revert to the old helmet days. Nothing is promised for our showers, but six non-operational days should be ample time for repairs....."Sahara" was repeated at the movie tonite.....

23<sup>rd</sup>

Six planes of this squadron took off at 07:40 hours to bomb a viaduct in Southern France. However, due to cloud coverage all ships returned with their bombs. At 16:00 hours another formation of twelve planes took off to bomb Avignon Southwest railroad bridge. Both boxes crossed the stacks and west approach with their bomb pattern. Scattered flak was inaccurate and all planes returned safely to the base. 7T turned back two minutes across the French coast due to an engine trouble, after jettisoning their bombs in the sea.....A new bulletin board idea by Sgt. Barnes is getting considerable notice the last day or two. It's an inquiring reporter column in which all squadron members will figure eventually. The first question asked on whether or not the soldier would like to feminine members of his family to join the Armed Forces was disapproved as several circulars have been distributed disapproving such controversy. Naturally the answer is always an emphatic "NO" and that apparently doesn't appeal to the War Department.....Lts. Farnham, Edwards and "Jerry" Flynn are back from the hospital after ditching a plane several days ago. Flynn isn't even an airman, but the jump didn't seem to affect him anymore than the others.....Continental and G.I.'s alike were happy to hear of the liberation of Paris today. The famous French Capital know to Europeans and Americans as the jewel of Continental cities was taken by the F.F.I. and was spared the ravages of military operation. It shouldn't be long until Allied rest camps are established in the gay city. France's great port of Marseilles also fell to the Allies today. Progress is so rapid that it's difficult to even realize the significance although we're sure of one thing and that is that the war can't last much longer....."Presenting Lily Mars" with Judy Garland was the picture at the open air theatre tonite.....

24<sup>th</sup>

A road bridge at Beahoux[?], France was the target for six of our ships taking off at 08:50 hours this morning. However, due to cloud coverage all planes returned with their bombs. Ack-ack was encountered enroute although no damage was done. The second mission of the day was at 13:46 hours at which time six more planes took off to bomb gun positions at a pinpoint target near Mar, France. They might just as well have brought back their bombs this time, because the pattern stretched across the water north of the target. Anti-aircraft fire was absent although three ME109's made an appearance, but failed to attack.....Contract bridge tournament was held tonite at the Enlisted Mens Club and only four entries remain to battle out the championship. Barancwski [sp?] is the undisputed cribbage

champion of the squadron after beating all competition last nite.....Preparation for the second Anniversary day is now under way and a complete days celebration is planned for tomorrow. Medal presentations, ball games, U.S.O. show and a party at both the Group Officers and Enlisted Mens Clubs.....”Presenting Lily Mars” was repeated at the movie tonite.....

25<sup>th</sup>

Organization day for the 340<sup>th</sup> Bomb. Group which this day celebrated its second anniversary. The celebration was as festive as could be expected in Corsica, although it was quite different from last years fanfare in Comiso, Sicily. Activities started at 2:00 P.M. with a presentation of awards by General Knapp. Unfortunately General Cannon was unable to get here as was the original plan. The presentation was made a little more colorful this time by the addition of a band. After the awards were given out, General Knapp said that he had never seen as large a formation to be decorated and was very proud of the work done by the 340<sup>th</sup>. At 4:00 P.M. a baseball game between the celebrated 340<sup>th</sup> team and the 41<sup>st</sup> Engineers was held – score 13 to 6 in our favor. U.S.O. troupers entertained the boys at the Group open air theatre at 7:00 P.M. In the evening the Red Cross Enlisted Mens Club had an informal party while the Officers Club staged a dance. Our own bar set up free drinks all nite and as a result much noise making predominated. A group stand-down was in effect and little if any work was done throughout the day. From all indications there will be less work done tomorrow because a big nite leaves on facing a horrible dawn.....In commemoration of the glad day a magazine containing a short resume of the Group's history and past stations was distributed to each member. Quite naturally no one is interested in seeing the third such celebration in any theatre of war, but all we can do is hope.....

26<sup>th</sup>

Stand-down again today which was perhaps the best thing that could happen because combat crews were in no position to fly and ground personnel would rather relax. Many big heads were prominent throughout the Squadron as a result of last nites orgy. Much complaining in regards to Italian liquor always follows these big occasions, but it just takes a very short time to recover sufficiently to over-indulge again.....Hitler's Europe is crumbling rapidly to the delight of every G.I. in foreign service and particularly the 487<sup>th</sup> membership. News or rumors are consumed with abandon. Romania's surrender and declaration of war against the Nazi is the most encouraging bit and particularly so because other Balkan States are expected to follow in the footsteps of Romania. The French campaign is moving with such swiftness that it's difficult to plot the course of events although from all indications it's quite obvious that great victories are being announced prematurely. Reports are so conflicting that it's difficult to judge just what the Allies have or haven't taken.....Now that the 324<sup>th</sup> Service Squadron has left we ar anticipating a move in the very near future – we hope to France.....Chicken for dinner today provided the best meal we've had in some time. Contrary to what we expected after the Riviera landing, the food issue continues to degrade. Unfortunately our taste for C-rations hasn't taken a change for the better and consequently everyone is eating lightly. Mail deliveries has shown no marked improvement either.....Olson & Johnson in “Crazy House” played at the movies tonite.....

27<sup>th</sup>

An early morning mission was scheduled for this morning, but when crews arrived at Group briefing a stand-down was declared. However, at noon twelve planes took off to bomb gun positions on the Isles west of Marseille, France. The bomb pattern was accurate and results were considered quite effective. All planes returned safely to the base.....Cpl. B.R. Reuter was assigned and joined for duty as of this date. He was previously relieved of assignment due to his lengthy confinement in the hospital.....Cpl

Hammond was reduced to the grade of Private once more, although a little matter like that has no effect on "Jason".....All combat crew members are now restricted to the base in preparation for a new drive in Italy as well as France. The Sqd. is to have eighteen planes available for combat everyday until advised otherwise. Pleasure seeking combat men were picked up at various Italian havens and Malta today.....It was announced today that Bulgaria has accepted peace terms of the United Nations and has severed Nazi connections. The bottom seems to be falling out of German controlled Europe although it takes Germany herself to end the war.....Rumor has it that the 340<sup>th</sup> is moving, but no one has decided on the destination. Guesses such as India do absolutely nothing for morale.....An abundance of packages and a small amount of first class mail came in this afternoon.....No movie at the 340<sup>th</sup> tonite although the 306<sup>th</sup> entertained a number of the boys at their theatre.....

28<sup>th</sup>

Crews were up again for another false alarm. Squadron alert was at 5:00 A.M. and when they arrived at Group briefing it was announced that the target had been taken by ground forces. It's quite apparent that if we don't move shortly the Group will be known as the missionless 340<sup>th</sup>.....According to the postal authorities the majority of troops overseas will spend another Christmas on foreign soil as they are urging that Christmas packages be mailed early.....Cpl. Nelson has introduced something new in the way of announcing that mail has been received. Rather than giving the unpleasant "No" he has made a clock-like sign with a hand that points to either, Poco, Beaucoup, and most frequently to "T.S." Naturally this particular sign gets more attention than any other in the Squadron.....A hot rumor was around today that one Mitchell outfit will go to France, another home and the 340<sup>th</sup> will depart for the C.B.I. Theater. No one knows where the rumor originated, but it's cinch that if it materializes "The Best Dam Group There Is" will be "The Best Dam Group There Was".....Coming back from the movie tonite a 486<sup>th</sup> jeep, tearing along the road at a break-neck speed, ran into a 488<sup>th</sup> pedestrian and it is now believed that the boy will lose his leg, if he lives. Where in Corsica could one be going that requires such speed? It's about time that something be done to enforce a speed limit along these roads....."Romeo In Burlesque" [Actually "Casanova in Burlesque"] with Joe E. Brown played at the movie tonite. An excellent G.I. swing band preceded the picture.....

29<sup>th</sup>

Five A.M. alert this morning although before takeoff it was announced that ground forces had again taken our target and a stand-by status was in effect for the remainder of the day. These missionless days are beginning to get quite tiresome as Corsica has nothing to offer in the way of diversion and as a result without a raid the day seems endless.....Since we got double beer and P.X. rations last week there was none to distribute this week. However, none of the candy was saved and everyone is pretty hungry for sweets about now.....Every nite since the piano has been added to the attractions of the Enlisted Mens bar loud and not to pleasant singing may be heard nitely throughout the area. The Orderly Room clerks find it difficult to get a good nites sleep under such conditions, but their continuous bitching has done nothing toward rectifying the situation.....Three cases of beer are to be raffled off Saturday nite in order to procure the funds for instruments and equipment to be used in organizing the Squadron Band. Chances are being sold at ten francs per copy.....S/Sgts Floyd and Stephenson left for the States after completing their tour of combat....."Casanova of Burlesque" was repeated at the movie tonite.....

30<sup>th</sup>

Stand-down all day. The combat crews are beginning to get a little worried over their missions these days as its been so long since they have put in any time. If the situation continues they'll have to

complete their tour in the Pacific. The Germans are running through France so fast that they will be completely out of our range very shortly unless we move on up into France. However, it's rather doubtful whether they will last long enough for our Groups to move in and become operational. The great Cathedral city of Reims fell today without a single shot being fired so it's pretty evident the opposition is almost negligible. Germany's main source of oil and one of the greatest prizes of the war, the Ploesti oil fields were occupied by the Russian army today. It's still a question of how much longer the Nazi can last with the ever increasing pressure from all sides.....Rumors of a transfer to the C.B.I. theater are still the subject of most conversations although no actual data is available and everyone hopes that it remains a rumor.....A huge General Order came through awarding almost two hundred air medals and clusters to personnel of this Squadron which has made most of the boys happy and eliminated the constant Air Medal bitching.....The drive on malaria has intensified and it's become practically impossible to leave the mess-hall without your Atabrine.....PFC "Ned" Burke since being in the photo lab, never writes a letter without enclosing a picture or two. "Ned" is now known as the most photographed G.I. on the Island of Corsica and could probably compete in a theater contest of that type....."Canterbury Ghost" was the thriller unreel at the movie tonite.....

31<sup>st</sup>

Twelve bombers of this Squadron took off at 07:50 hours with a 48x1000 bomb load to bomb a railroad bridge at Cittadella in Northern Italy. Patterns of both flights scored direct hits in the center and east approach. Heavy, intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire harassed the formation, but holed only one plane in the 487<sup>th</sup> flight.....Capt. Birmingham, Operations Officer made his Majority today and Lt. Kendall scored with the railroad tracks. Promotions of both officers and enlisted men have been quite rapid lately leaving very few of the combat personnel under T.G. Ground men are still without ratings that they think they should have, but lack of encouragement leads them to believe that they'll go home in their present grade.....Lt. Mako who has assumed the task of mess-officer is taking his job very seriously and is trying his best to produce some decent meals. The Quartermaster rations have been very poor lately and Lt. Mako is running all over the globe to pick up fresh foods.....One of the boys in the Squadron received word that ex 487<sup>th</sup> men Cliff Parsons and Paul Pitonyak are now happy civilians. Some staff when we're still sweating out Hitler with demobilization far removed from our thoughts, although there weren't many who don't intend to take a crack at horning in on the demobilization once Germany is defeated....."Canterbury Ghost" was repeated at the movie tonite.....

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