

## September 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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[Note: A page is missing from our copy of the original. The page would have contained 'Losses in Action' and the beginning of 'Distinguished themselves in action.']

Individuals who have distinguished themselves in action:

Gerald F. Becker  
Walter T. Bielski  
Wildore Bosquet  
Eugene J. Broos  
Oliver A Buendel  
Gordon E. Butterfield  
Noble H. Byars  
Edward L. Byerly  
Fred P. Camp  
Robert F. Campo  
Robert W. Carlson  
Gerald W. Carstensen  
Thomas W. Cavanagh  
Louis Cerbara  
Harry L Cochran  
Emmette W. Coleman  
John H. Collamore  
Charles M. Cook  
William P. Crandell  
David D. Cuthbertson  
Donald C. DickJames C. Dinkler  
Charles F. Donovan  
George Dranchak  
Quentin C. Ebert  
John T. Edwards  
Ernest L. Elsner  
Edward Eustis

Jack B. Faylor  
Harold H. Frazier  
Charles L. Fritch  
James M. Garner  
Carl Ganian  
Justin F. Graber  
William D. Hale  
Nelson Halstead  
David D. Handel  
Kenneth H. Hill  
Robert L. Hill  
Ferrell L. Holley  
James C. Holloman  
Ward W. Holmes  
Donovan W. Hurlbut  
Harvey M. Hyland  
Romeo J. Ingley  
Emil F. Jettmar  
Edward S. Johnston  
Horace E. Jones  
Charles E. Jones  
Charles A. Jordan  
Warren S. Jordan  
Walter Joseph  
James E. Kelley  
Edwin A. Kenyon  
George H. Killen  
Fred C. Kirby  
Charles R. Klebes  
David Konigsberg  
Henry J. Koster  
Lawrence C. Lambert  
John R. Lange  
Wilbur C. Lantz  
William A. Lee  
Guy L. Lewis  
James A. Littlefield  
Eugene S. Love  
Max J. Inkas  
Paul H. Mabe  
Robert E. MacMillan  
John P. Mako  
Maliszewski  
Joseph A. Marchisella  
Robert H. Martin  
John C. Miller  
John W. Miller  
Verl J. Miller  
Rocco J. Mottola

George S. Moule  
Henry J. A. McClernon  
Harlan G. McLain  
William A. McLaughlin  
Walter F. McTernan, Jr.  
Robert E. O'Bryant  
Theodore R. Olander  
Edward W. Oviatt  
Howard L. Owen  
Jack L. Parks Jr.  
Olan B Parrish  
Lewis F. Parsons  
Carl A. Pennock  
Franklin E. Porter  
Gerard H. Powers  
Louis F. Raber  
James R. Rambo  
John H. Ramsey  
John C. Rau  
Jack V. Reimer  
Frank N. Reynolds  
James A. Robb  
James H. Rogers  
Robert F. Rushton  
Elmer E. Ryerson  
Vern I. Salsbury  
Paul E. Sekeras  
Joseph E. Semenak  
Guiseppe Serangeli  
Eugene P. Simonson  
George H. Smith  
Walter J. Smith  
George J. Sorbello  
Roy W. Spurling  
Mahlon C. Stahlman  
William B. Suthers  
maurice E. Thompson  
Joseph F. Thornsberry  
Angelo M. Triunfo  
Howard A. Van Etten  
Joseph P. Whalen  
Fleet C. Williams  
James L. Williams  
Charles D. Woods  
Winthrop L. Woodward  
Lewis S. Young

September 1, 1944

Despite the original schedule of twelve ships, only one flight of six took off at 08:30 hours to bomb Piave road bridge in Northern Italy. The accurate bomb pattern crossed the bridge left of center with probable direct hits. Opposition was negligent and all planes returned safely to the base.....Allies in Northern France after a sixty mile advance in less than two days is pounding at the Belgian Frontier. It shouldn't be long before we know if Germany is going to fight on her own soil.....A new crew came in last nite although they are only here in an attached capacity for the time being. It won't be long now until a great many of the combat personnel will be eligible for rotation so we can expect replacement crews to be coming regularly very shortly unless the war ends.....A food scrounging trip took off this morning for Sicily, Lampedusa and Malta. Here's hoping their search is furtive. The Enlisted men's bar provides a great deal of the mess fund – The showers opened up today after being out of order for two weeks. It's a welcome relief because one can't take a decent bath in the ocean or streams and the 306<sup>th</sup> is quite a journey.....”Minstrel Man” with Benny Fields played at the movie tonite. The picture was produced by an unknown who shall probably remain an unknown if “Minstrel Man” is an example of future productions.

2<sup>nd</sup>

An early morning mission was postponed until 12:45 at which time six B-25's took off to bomb a railroad bridge at K-500680 in Northern Italy. There were some possible hits within the target area although the majority of bombs landed beyond and to the right of the target bridge. Ack-ack fire was out of range and all planes returned to the base unharmed.....The three cases of beer that were raffled off tonite for the purpose of buying musical instruments, went to Lt. Smith and T/Sgt. Graham. Major Bugbee pulled the winning ticket out of the hat and when he found that it was an officer he refused to draw the next, so S/Sgt. Faylor was called up and he pulled a gunner. Despite the fact that it looked like a cooked up deal, it was purely coincidental.....In the last few days meals have improved considerably and the roast beef dinner we had today was delicious. Cpl Ben Harmon, cooks helper, claims all the laurels as he was acting first cook in the absence of same. More meals like that would eliminate a lot of the bitching.....Six bottles of beer and two cokes per man was the beverage ration distributed today. It is probably two weeks rations, but good while it lasts.....King Carroll, Group prisoner who eats at our mess-hall provided a lot of laughs when he unveiled his victory hair cut consisting of a “V” shaved above each ear and a halo effect in the rear.....”Minstrel Man” was repeated to a very small crowd at the movie tonite. Word got around that it stunk.....

3<sup>rd</sup>

Mission for today didn't take off until 15:40 hours to bomb a railroad bridge at J-642322 in Northern Italy. Both bomb patterns crossed the bridge and covered the north approach. The formation encountered no opposition and all planes returned safely to the base.....M/Sgt. Katherman, Armament Chief has been awarded the Bronze Star for outstanding performance of duty throughout the Group's existence in combat.....Lt. Bloomberg is back with the Squadron after a month's recuperation in the hospital, following a serious flak wound.....Lt. Billy Jo Barry returned from Flying Control School in Cairo a pretty sick man and went immediately to the hospital.....Sgt. Hewes, Cpls. Stejagal and Trudell are now members of the Squadron after being attacked [attached?] for sometime.....The victorious Group base-ball team now playing the Island finals in Ajaccio has won the second game and lost the first so we're eagerly awaiting the results of the final game.....Today's P.X. rations provided enough candy to last for the duration – 3 Oh Henry's, 2 Hershey bars and 4 tubes of M & M's.....In accord with the general rule there was no show tonite.....

4<sup>th</sup>

Twelve ships of the Squadron took off at 09:25 to bomb a railroad bridge at F-147237 in Northern Italy. The formation was without escort and none was needed as they encountered no enemy opposition. After the bomb run the bridge was believed to be still standing although hits were scored on the north approach and center of bridge.....Just about everyone desirous of seeing Rome has had the opportunity by now. Engineering is accelerating their leave program and at the rate they have been going lately, no one will be slighted.....Lt. Mako was making everyone's mouth water today by parading around the area with two bottles of Scotch he recently brought back from Malta.....A Cairo trip came up all of a sudden today and before many got a chance to bid for it, the order was in Group. Eleven boys will leave early in the morning.....Tonite brought forth the news that a General will be in the area tomorrow. Naturally the usual policing up detail followed the announcement....."Presenting Lily Mars" was featured at the movie tonite.....

5<sup>th</sup>

The Sesto Calende railroad bridge was the target for eighteen of our ships this morning. The huge formation was over the target shortly after nine o'clock dropping their bombs with precision accuracy. Direct hits were scored on the bridge itself and both approaches were damaged. Enemy opposition was non-existent and all planes returned safely to the base.....The Allies are now reported to have entered Holland after liberating the Belgian capital of Brussels. Progress is so rapid that commentators admit news is old by the time it's announced. Finland is now out of the war after accepting Russia's peace terms – It's difficult to ascertain exactly when hostilities cease because reports vary, but at least we know they have ceased. The A.L.O. Officer spoke tonite at 6:15 and enlightened us to a great extent although he was unable to answer the most pressing question, "When will the war be over?".....Another raffle was announced today to procure money for the coming squadron party. Scotch and beer are the prizes.....The base-ball team returned early this evening. They have one more game to play with the Ajaccio team which will be played here. All players are confident and judging from the money bet in the Squadron, everyone else thinks it a sure thing.....488<sup>th</sup> had their activation party tonite in the area and as a result no movie was shown.....

6<sup>th</sup>

Stand-down was in effect all day. Intermittent showers persisted throughout the day and evening. It's beginning to look as though winter is on it's way with dark dismal evenings. Everyone is getting pretty edgy about spending the winter in Corsica – winter overseas isn't a pleasant thought, but Corsica is even worse.....The newly organized Squadron band has been rehearsing the last few days and it will be sometime before they sound like much of anything. In the first place they haven't got enough instruments and secondly the players are pretty green after not touching anything musical for quite some time.....Mail service has taken a considerable drop recently and its been about three days since we've had a real mail call. The mail alone would be one very good reason to move from the Island of Corsica.....Rumor has it that the 340<sup>th</sup> Group will move back to the Italian mainland about twenty miles north of Rome. Another one says that we will be preparing for a long move by water very shortly. The truth of the matter is that we'll probably sweat out the war in Corsica.....Lt. Kienle is spending most of his time out on the line since Capt. Young, Armament Officer, left for the States on an emergency leave. It's rather doubtful that Capt. Young will return to the theater of war.....For some unknown reason there was no Group movie tonite.....

7<sup>th</sup>

Another stand-down was in effect today. Apparently it was due to climatic conditions as the entire Group stood-down. The sun came out this afternoon although clouds continued to threaten throughout the day.....Col. Chapman inspected the entire area this afternoon, and according to present rumors he wasn't satisfied with its condition. No one knew what he was looking for, but apparently he didn't find it.....At 2:30 P.M. practically the entire Group was out to the championship game between the 340<sup>th</sup> team and the Ajaccio champs. Unfortunately we came out on the losing end of a five to three score. Some say that we still have the better team, but they're still the winners. It was quite a disappointment because we were confident that the theater champions were in our midst.....Twenty ground replacements of all kinds came in late this evening. Being unable to accommodate them in personnel tents they were quartered in the parachute and Special Service tent. When replacements come into this Squadron they certainly get a warm welcome because each one may mean another man on rotation.....One of the new Red Cross girls served donuts in the mess-hall for supper tonite. S/Sgt. Marchisella monopolized her time with a lengthy conversation during the entire supper hours – he's really in there solid.....”The Great Moment” with Joel McCrea played at the Group movie tonite along with a reel on the Vesuvius episode. Everyone was thrilled to see a short on the 340<sup>th</sup> Group even if it did take the eruption of Vesuvius to bring it about.

8<sup>th</sup>

Again today the 487<sup>th</sup> was non-operational. It was our turn to stand-down, but due to inclement weather there was no mission throughout the Group. It's beginning to look as though weather will be responsible for a lot of missionless days if we remain in Corsica.....Rumors of a move are rampant. Some say we'll go back to Italy until the war is over and then over to the C.B.I. Now that the demobilization plan has been unveiled everyone has lost all hope of ever seeing the homeland. It's quite obvious that only those eligibles for demobilization are being considered. The common opinion in this Squadron is that it would be far better to make provisions for a furlough for overseas veterans and worry about demobilization after that is accomplished. Apparently the men with a good combat record will suffer the entire war out rather than being rewarded for their efforts.....Most of the boys who came in last nite are line men. One man who was given the job of second assistant to Bornstein has been in the Army for little more than two years, if that long, nineteen of which have been spent of foreign soil.....”Captive Woman” played at the Group movie tonite.....

9<sup>th</sup>

At 17:00 hours twelve planes and crews of the Squadron took off to bomb enemy defenses at I-823017 north of Florence. Cloud shadows and a large hill partially obscured the target and the first box returned with their bombs although the second box dropped with good results. Anti-aircraft fire was accurate, although moderate and only one ship was holed.....T/Sgt. McClernon went down into the bomb-bay and kicked out a frag which was tangled in the wires. This act of heroism will get for him a Soldiers Medal and another point towards demobilization.....The drawing for the party fund came off tonite. Lt. Robb won the bottle of Scotch, S/Sgt. Brownlee two cases of beer and Sgt. Serio took home the quart of gin. No doubt the winners were deluged with visitors through out the evening. “I never won anything in my life” was Bob Brownlee's reaction.....News on the war fronts is good, but not as sensational as it has been in past weeks. Hostilities between Bulgaria and the Allies ceased at 10:00 P.M. tonite and Bulgaria is now at war with Germany. Peace terms have not been published as yet.....Good sources say that the 340<sup>th</sup> will soon be in Italy, about twenty miles above Rome. “Captive Woman” with Susan Hayward was repeated at the movies tonite.....

10<sup>th</sup>

A ten o'clock mission was scheduled for eighteen of our ships this morning, but at the last minute a stand-down was declared.....For the last two days packages and papers have been coming in at the pre-Christmas rate. Every G.I. likes to receive packages, but if packages came in he can always bitch about the lack of first class mail. However, in spite of the bitching, many evening snacks will be enjoyed as a result of today's package delivery.....Capt. Coyle, former engineering officer, has taken Capt. Bayless' job as Squadron Adjutant. Capt. Bayless left yesterday for an assignment in the States. He will assume duties on the Cancellation Board to dispose of surplus war contracts. Capt. Bayless has been with the Squadron since its early days in South Carolina.....Capt. Jordan, S/Sgts. Parks and Rech also left for the States today after completing a tour of combat. S/Sgt. Rech came over as original ground personnel in the Armament Section and started to fly at Pompeii.....Lt. Spencer rejoined the Squadron last nite after a sojourn in the States. he made 1<sup>st</sup> lieutenant during his absence and will assume the duties of Assistant Operations Officer.....No movie at the 340<sup>th</sup> tonite, although "Old Acquaintance" played at the 324<sup>th</sup> Service Squadron.....

11<sup>th</sup>

Defense positions at Q-720996 near Vernio, Italy, was the target for six ships and crews of the 487<sup>th</sup> squadron this morning. The formation was over the target at 10?00 hours dropping their bombs in the center of the target area. Opposition was nil and all planes returned safely to the base.....Sgt. Bornstein who has been the Squadron carpenter fro eighteen months is now on Group guard after relinquishing his job to his ex-assistant and one of the very recent arrivals. They have been kept pretty bust lately building a platform for the festivities to take place on activation day. Much work and planning has gone into the celebration so we're expecting a knock-down and drag-out affair.....The Squadron orchestra rehearses daily now and they're improving with practice. The band consists of ten pieces including much brass, strings and drums.....Mail and packages were plentiful again today. Special Services received some much needed magazines and books.....Several of the boys have passed the board in Foggia and came back with their orders. Their only problem is to prepare for the departure which should take the ordinary G.I. about five minutes....."Around the World" with Kay Kyser and the gorgeous Georgia Carrol played at the movie tonite.....

12<sup>th</sup>

Early briefing and 08:18 take off this morning for the eighteen ships of this Squadron. Target was another railroad bridge at Solignano, Italy. The first two boxes thoroughly covered the bridge with their pattern, scoring several direct hits while the third box overshot. There was no opposition encountered throughout the entire route and all planes returned safely to base.....Those who missed "peter parade" last nite were inspected in front of the Orderly Room this evening.....One of the mess-hall boys is being punished for a misdemeanor committed while under the influence of liquor the other nite. Today's program was a detail this morning and this afternoon was spent marching up and down in front of the Orderly Room with rifle and a musette bag full of rocks. For the time being his home is a pup-tent and even that's too good for him.....T/Sgt. Daston returned from the hospital today after a two month confinement. He limps slightly and has no color although he claims to be feeling tops. Sgt. Daston was wounded by flak sometime ago.....T/Sgt. Ed. Johnston, S/Sgts. Iwan and Hogarth left for Naples today where they will board a ship for the home shores.....Rumors of a move are still rampant but plans for the September 15<sup>th</sup> celebration are going ahead so apparently the move isn't immediate....."Around the World" was repeated at the movie tonite.....

13<sup>th</sup>

Twelve ships took off at 10:25 hours this morning to bomb Vigevano railroad bridge, but they found the objective completely covered by stratus cloud layers and proceeded to the alternate which was Tortona railroad bridge. The formation was over the target at 12:13 hours, dropping their bombs with precision accuracy directly on the objective. The vital bridge was observed to be down after the devastating attack. Other flights in the formation were severely holed by flak, but the 487<sup>th</sup> escaped the barrage and all planes returned undamaged.....Ground forces are now fighting on the homeland of the super-men, but no great advances have been made since the battle of France. A veil of secrecy is covering all Allied activity in that sector and a likely guess would be that everything will remain rather dormant until shortly before November 7<sup>th</sup>. One good reason why elections should be done away with during war time. Another conference between Churchill and Roosevelt is now taking place in Quebec. Whatever is being discussed remains a secret but its rumored that the topic is Pacific strategy.....Souvenir books for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary were completed today and will be distributed at the celebration. Its a mimeographed rehashing of the history with actual B-25 photos for the cover. No doubt the book shall provide good reading matter for the folks at home and for ourselves in the future when its all past history.....S/Sgts. Ebert, Faylor and Harding departed for the home-front this morning.....The man who is being so severely punished spent the entire day policing the area spare fifteen minutes for meals....."Let's Dance" with Belita played to an appreciative audience at the movie tonite.....

14<sup>th</sup>

Troop concentration and ammunition dumps at Rimini, Italy, was the target for twelve planes and crews of the 487<sup>th</sup> Squadron this morning. Flak was heavy, intense and accurate, but despite persistent opposition the formation succeeded in covering the entire target area with their well placed pattern. One crew member was slightly wounded by flak and eight of the bombers were holed, but all planes returned safely to the base. A late afternoon mission was called although when crews arrived for Group briefing for some unknown reason a stand-down was declared.....Maj. Bugbee and Capt. Coyle are the joint owners of a Dachshund puppy and Lt. Klebes owns the other one of a pair that are into everything around the squadron. They are pedigreed dogs and it's really a treat to see a thoroughbred after the many mongrels who have attached themselves to the Squadron from time to time. The dogs were purchased in Rome, but since the pedigree papers are in Milan the owners will have to wait for the liberation of the great city.....Two crews have come into the squadron recently and judging from all the boys that are finishing up many more will be necessary.....Final preparations for the big celebration were completed today and everyone is looking forward to the fine menu if nothing else....."Let's Dance" was repeated at the movie tonite.....

15<sup>th</sup>

Activation Day – when a twelve plane mission was called this morning it was thought that the day's festivities were ruined, however before the mission took off a stand-down was declared. The day of days started out with melon and fresh fried eggs for breakfast. Seconds were cheerfully handed out if requested. Noon meal of steak, fresh combination salad, potatoes, apple pie and iced tea was relished by early diners, but hamburger was substituted when the steak ran out. Dinner was followed by a baseball game between officers and enlisted men – enlisted men came out on the long end of a 12-6 score. By the end of the game the ship from Catania that was supposed to bring ice cream back in time for pie à la mode arrived and beer, hamburgers and the ice cream were dished at Joe's Joint." The beer was of the Tunisian variety and didn't go over too big, but it was wet. A line formed for the food and



refreshments that characterizes any G.I. affair, but this one was sweated out with a smile. A raffle plus Bingo followed the refreshments. Souvenirs of Rome were included in the Bingo prizes and Sgt. Kyle Rice copped the first raffle prize – an extra three day pass to Rome. It was dark and late before Mitchell Airs, 321<sup>st</sup> orchestra arrived, but the finale was worth waiting for. Adding to the gaiety of the crowd was the strong intoxicants served at the E.M. Club. It was a tired crew that hit the sack tonite, but nevertheless appreciative of the effort put forth to make this party a success.....”Swinging the Blues” was shown at the movie tonite, but few 487<sup>th</sup> men attended the theatre.....

16<sup>th</sup>

Early alert this morning for twelve ships and crews that took off at 7:45 A.M. to bomb motor transport repair shops at Bologna, Italy. It was slightly hazy over the target, but bombardiers took advantage of the good visibility and slight anti-aircraft fire to inflict a severe blow on the enemy. The first pattern hit a cluster of buildings and highway just south of the target area and the second box hit center of target area covering many buildings. Large columns of smoke were observed coming from the northwest corner of the target area immediately after our bombing. Crews were happy to have this target behind them as they had anticipated heavy flak although their worry was in vain as it was considered a perfect “milk run”.....many of the boys were suffering ill effects from yesterday's party in the form of G.I.'s. It could have been any number of things that caused the epidemic and not liquor because even prohibitionists were seen trotting to the latrine from time to time. Sufferers said it was worth the discomfort though so all is well.....Major Birmingham has done a disappearing act and Capt. Rapp of the 488<sup>th</sup> has been transferred to this Squadron as Operations Officer and Lt. Spencer has assumed the duties of assistant operations officer. Major Birmingham's going home papers are awaiting him and it's thought that he's taking one last fling with the Romans.....Area and tent inspection scheduled for today has been postponed until next Monday. Friday has been set aside as “bed airing day” which is an entirely new wrinkle to this organization.....”Swinging the Blues” was repeated at the Group theater tonite.....

17<sup>th</sup>

08:35 hours was take off time for twelve crews of this Squadron. Target was troop concentrations west of Rimini, Italy. Both boxes extended through the target in the center and immediately west of center. Ack-ack coming from west of Rimini was accurate and succeeded in holing five ships. 7N was hit and forced landed at Fano. One engine and gas tank was shot out which made it a pretty touchy landing although no one was wounded. Crew members of the downed ship were picked up immediately by another plane and brought back at which time they started a search for Capt. Kendall to tell him “They had it.” Two days ago the same crew made a crash landing.....P.X. rations were distributed in abundance today – only catch is that its two weeks rations. Eight bottles of beer and two cokes yesterday established a beverage record for the 487<sup>th</sup>.....Church services were held as usual at the Red Cross Club. A new Catholic Chaplain has replaced Chaplain Dougherty who was transferred to another part of the world.....Major Birmingham returned to the Squadron today long enough to pack up and shove off for the States. Lt. George who went down June 22<sup>nd</sup> over Gricigliana, Italy, returned tot he Squadron after coming through the lines. He had a tough time, but has already been to Foggia and will leave for home shortly.....Sunday, and consequently no movie.....

18<sup>th</sup>

Sixteen bombers of this Squadron took off at 9:15 A.M. to again attack troop concentrations at Rimini, Italy. Due to a complete coverage at the initial point and over the target it was impossible to bomb. Six planes were holed as a result of the accurate flak encountered at the target area. Hydraulic system in 7Y was shot out, but they succeeded in landing safely.....Rome trips are starting the rounds again which should permit everyone another three day pass in the city. At first it was doubtful that everyone would get there a first time and now some of the boys are refusing a repeat. T/Sgt. Garbet who won the extra three day pass to Rome at the raffle the other nite isn't interested in a first trip. Claims he's going to hold it open for a pass to Paris.....New crew members that came in the other nite questioned some of the older boys as to when they could draw linen, mattress and pillow. The American press must be painting a lively picture of combat life.....A new atabrine drive has been in effect for the past week. One must take an Atabrine tablet before entering the mess-hall for supper and there is a G.I. at the door with a chart to see that you do....."Three Men in White" showed at the Group movie tonite.....

19<sup>th</sup>

Eighteen combat crews were alerted early this morning for a mission, but due to heavy rains takeoff was postponed until 9:00 at which time a takeoff was again impossible. A stand-down was then declared for the rest of the day.....Apparently the rainy season has begun in earnest as heavy rains continued intermittently all day and throughout the nite.....A number of the boys were all set for a holiday in Rome, but again weather intervened and after sweating it out until noon they decided the best thing to do was hit the "sack" and hope for better luck tomorrow.....Our Italian K.P.'s, barber and tailor were scheduled to leave us today, but they too were delayed another day. Inasmuch as they were packed and ready to leave they refused to do any favors for the boys who needed hair-cuts, clothes pressed etc. and idled away their time relaxing. A 12<sup>th</sup> AF order required the Group to get all Italian workers off the Island and they'll be sadly missed as the dreaded K.P. duty will again fall on the G.I.'s and much bitching will result.....Rain caused cancellation of the picture scheduled for tonite.....

20<sup>th</sup>

Crews were up early this morning for a raid, but the weather had closed in and take-off was impossible. Consequently, a stand-down was declared.....It rained almost constantly throughout the day and as a result no planes left the field. The Naples courier took off, but came back shortly after its departure. In compliance with orders all Italian civilian help was in readiness for their return to Italy, but they too were detained by the weather. After much screaming farewells they were taken to the line only to return and repeat the same performance tomorrow.....Many of the boys found themselves rained out of their happy homes this morning, but after almost twenty months of fighting the elements it doesn't phase them to any extent. Some are attempting to water-proof their tents by putting in wood floors. The Squadron has requisitioned enough wood for everyone, but as yet the order hasn't been filled. Trucks went up to Bastia today to find the lumber supply non-existent.....A new ban at burning out latrines almost burned down our masterpiece today. However, S/Sgt. DeLorge and Cpl. Cissell proved the worth of a fire extinguisher and prevented a disaster.....Climatic conditions prevented the movie from showing tonite which will probably be a common occurrence from now on.....

21<sup>st</sup>

Combat crews were alerted again early this morning, but for the third successive morning did not take off. The skies in this vicinity were clear and the sun was shining, but weather over the target area was very bad and a stand-down for the day was declared when the crews arrived at Group for briefing.....Now that our civilian Italian K.P.'s have left, it has been decided that the officers should have their own mess-hall (War is REALLY hell). After all these months of a combination affair that seemed to work well, someone throws a wrench in the works. Details were in evidence obtaining wood for the proposed "Salon" and a guard was detailed to protect the lumber during the dark hours.....Now that we are definitely bedding down for the winter many distasteful details are in progress preparing for protection against the elements. Many of the boys today worked laboriously acquiring the wherewithal for a cement floor in our own mess-hall. It is also rumored that the same thing will be installed in the personnel tents.....Many combat men were promoted today so also were two ground men. Sgt. Hoff, one of our hard working crew chiefs climbed all the way to Technical Sergeant while Cpl. Donald M. Kuhn made "buck." Both boys have been sweating it out for some time and just can't believe it really happened. The Group movie provided entertainment with a showing of "Gamblers Choice" starring Chester Morris and Nancy Kelly.....

22<sup>nd</sup>

At 09:00 hours eighteen 487<sup>th</sup> ships took off to bomb a railroad bridge at Ponte di Piave, Italy. The designated area was reached at 10:59 hours and a 64,000 lb. bomb load was released very successfully from 9500'. 8x1000 lb bombs were brought back due to radio malfunction. First box had a compact pattern across southwest end of the bridge. Second box started at the road bridge with direct hits and extended on to the center of the railroad bridge, possibly scoring hits on it. The third box started just beyond the road bridge and crossed the railroad bridge east of center. No ack-ack or other enemy opposition was encountered and all planes and crews returned safely to the base.....Installation of a cement floor in the mess-hall started in earnest today and progress is amazing – it shouldn't take too long to complete the job.....All line personnel who moved into a safer area after the enemies attack on May 13 are now making preparations to move back on the line as it will be much more convenient during the cold months to come, to have your living quarters handy to your work.....Fried chicken for dinner today was a welcome relief from c-rations.....No mail again today making the sixth day in succession that there has been little or no mail. Are the troops on this Island forgotten? Certainly seems like it....."Shine On Harvest Moon" was the picture shown at the movies tonite.....

23<sup>rd</sup>

Ten 487<sup>th</sup> ships took off at 09:04 hours this morning to bomb Cittadella by-pass, and the alternate target was Padua east railroad bridge. A solid overcast prevented accurate bombing and the pattern was short and to the right of Cittadella. Anti-aircraft fire was nil and all planes returned safely to the base.....All Jewish boys who went to Rome for celebration of the recent holiday were held over there for six days due to weather. They returned to the Squadron last nite, four days overdue.....The weather has also turned out to be a break for fellows on leave. It's been impossible to return and as a result everyone has overstayed their passes.....A new latrine is being dug and not any too soon as the odor is sufficient to be noticed on a person two hours after leaving the throne room.....Cpl. Runyon who has been in Supply since the States has transferred to Ordnance and Cpl. Guthrie has taken his place in Supply. Cpl. Graffius is now in Armament after two years in the Kitchen.....Mail came in today in pretty good quantity, but there is still plenty somewhere between here and the home-front....."Shine on Harvest Moon" was repeated at the movie tonite.....

24<sup>th</sup>

Cittadella by-pass was again the target for our twelve ship formation this morning. However, all bombs were returned to the base due to complete overcast.....Weather is very uncertain during this season and it's rather doubtful that we shall get in many missions from now on. The A.L.C. officer spoke in the Squadron tonite and informed us of all the good progress, but also added that we had one more month of decent weather and if the war wasn't over then it would be a long winter. It's surprising how all the big headlines had us fooled into believing Germany couldn't hold out another winter. The outlook isn't too good, but it's all to be seen.....Sgt. Don Kuhn has taken S/Sgt. Jung's job of Section Chief in Operations. It will be interesting to see if he goes home because he can't make Tech.....Sgt. Earl Platz who has been in the mess-hall almost since it started has been made mess-sergeant. His predecessor, S/Sgt. McMillen, is now a combat gunner. The reason for all these boys going into combat is that it looks like the only way of getting home.....Great progress is being made with the cement floor being installed in the mess-hall. The officers new project is also shaping up.....The new latrine is being blown out with dynamite and the occasional bomb gives us a feeling of actual war.....No movie was shown tonite, it being Sunday.....

25<sup>th</sup>

A mission was scheduled early this morning, but at the specified time the status was changed to stand-by followed very shortly by a stand-down.....Our super latrine was taken down today in order to erect the new one, but someone had walked away with the carpenter's tools and all work on the project was ceased. One must now go to the woods for his daily. However, tomorrow should find us with a new and better outhouse.....Boys now washing officers dishes, that were formerly done by our departed Italian employees are receiving fifteen dollars a month extra. After all these months they find it a little difficult to go back to pot washing, but the fifteen dollars lends something to the situation.....New blankets were distributed today allowing every man a total of five and it's quite evident that more will be required as the winter progresses. It's rumored that there are no stoves available on the Island so it will be interesting to notice how problems will be handled. No doubt many make-shift arrangements will make an appearance in the near future.....S/Sgt. Jung and Cpl. Reuter are our latest rotation fortunates to depart from the 487<sup>th</sup>....."Bermuda Mystery" was shown at the Group movie tonite.....

26<sup>th</sup>

It wasn't until noon today when twelve 487<sup>th</sup> ships took off – one box to bomb Piazzola railroad bridge and the other to again hit Cittadella by-pass. Both boxes scored direct hits on their respective objectives. Anti-aircraft opposition was encountered although it was inaccurate and made no hits on the formation.....Details are still going on in preparation for the bedding-down procedure. The cement floor in the mess-hall is almost completed, but the new latrine is unfinished and rather slow in the process. It will take some time before the new carpenters are as adept at the art of latrine building as Sgt. Bornstein. Incidentally Bornstein is still on Group guard after relinquishing his primary duty as Squadron carpenter.....So many of the combat boys are going home that it's almost impossible to keep track of who is and who isn't here. The medical board that decided the fate of combat crew members has moved from Foggia to Florence which gives the boys an opportunity to squint at the famous city before departing for God's country.....Rumor has it that five percent rotation for this outfit will go into effect sometime between the first of October and the fifteenth of November. It's about time, but God help the poor lads that will have to sweat out twenty months more of this life. Rumors of a rest camp in Paris are also going strong now.....For some unknown reason there was no movie shown tonite.....

27<sup>th</sup>

The entire Group was on stand-down all day due to the weather over the target area. Many crews spent the day winterizing their tents which has become quite a novelty of late. Some are putting cement floors in and those fortunate enough to get lumber have made good use of that while others are just letting things go as they are. It's surprising that lumber for the entire job can't be procured because God only knows that timber is the only thing Corsica isn't short of. Perhaps if the proper effort were put forth it wouldn't be so difficult....."Al" Kosak and "Sam" Boor went over to Rome yesterday to sit for their portrait and returned the same nite. Many of the boys are having one made for use as Christmas gifts and the results are excellent. Roman photographic artists are really talented, turning out portraits for three and four dollars that would cost considerable money in the States if done by our finer photographers.....The last touches are being made on our latrine and if the war doesn't last forever it should last for the duration of our stay in Corsica which we hope will be the end of the war.....The Italian front is showing more progress these days since the penetration of the Gothic line. It's quite apparent that the Ziegfried line is going to live up to its reputation....."Desert Victory" was shown at the movie tonite for about the tenth time since being overseas. However, it always goes over big with the veterans of the desert.....

28<sup>th</sup>

Weather conditions kept the planes on the ground again today, although the mission was not canceled until noon. Rain didn't come until evening although a strong gale prepared us for the worst early in the afternoon. If this weather is any indication of whats in store for us during the winter months we shall be spending all of our time putting up tents as the wind blows them down. In any case it's a cinch that the winter doesn't hold much fascination in store for Corsican based units.....Lt. Serangeli brought back four Sardinian laborers to work on the officers mess, now under construction. If the present rate of progress isn't speeded up they too will be here for the winter. Lt. Mako claims that if the officers would go to work on the thing in earnest it would be completed in no time.....The mess-hall floor was completed today and should be back to normal within the next few days. Enlisted men have been eating outside almost entirely since the project began. It looks as though it was finished just about in the nick of time.....Rain started about four o'clock and continued through the nite consequently, there was no movie. This situation will probably be repeated frequently from now on.

29<sup>th</sup>

This was obviously a stand-down day. Rain and a gale like windstorm persisted, keeping everyone either in the sack or close to it. For those who have winterized their tents with floors and sides it wasn't so bad, but for the others it was a very unforgettable day. Several tents including the top of the Enlisted Men's Club came down but they were rapidly repaired. Later in the afternoon the rain subsided and everyone went to work on their tents.....Orchestra practice occupied part of the day – the band is beginning to sound pretty good now and it shouldn't be long before they put on a show.....Some of the officers decided to borrow a little lumber from their mess-hall in order to fix up their tents. This idea didn't go over so big with Major Parsons who issued an order that all lumber would be returned immediately and that officers would work on the Club until every board was nailed down.....Mail seems to have ceased coming altogether now – every other day or two about twenty-five letters come in which really isn't worth the bother. For an Army who claims to be the most advanced in the world it's more than disgusting. Perhaps the situation could be overlooked if it weren't brought to our attention in magazines, ballyhooing the great work that's being done along these lines....."Battle for Arabia" was shown to a meager audience at the movie tonite.....

30<sup>th</sup>

After yesterday with all of its rain and misery, the sun was shining brightly this A.M. At 13:56 hours seventeen ships and crews of this squadron took off to again bomb the Cittadella by-pass. No enemy opposition hindered the operations and results were gratifying. First and second boxes crossed the center and west center portion of target while the third box covered the east portion. Boys who are sweating out their last few missions are thankful for the good weather and milk run variety of raids.....Two cokes per man were dispensed this afternoon. For the first time for weeks we received no beer although that was too good to last. Along with mail the Island has apparently been forgotten as far as rations are concerned also.....Lt. Deneen returned to the squadron today after several months in the States at Flexible Gunnery School. He claims its good to be back, but we feel otherwise.....The boys returned from Rome today after getting an extra day in the city due to climatic conditions. A new bunch also went over hoping for the same fate.....Everyone was a little disappointed today as the Catania ship didn't bring back the eggs that were expected. Reason: They are asking fifteen cents per egg in Catania. Fresh vegetables were about the only luxuries we netted out of the deal....."Action in Arabia" was repeated at the movie tonite.....

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