

October 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, 487th Bombardment Squadron, 340th Bombardment Group

Prepared by: Sgt. James P. Shanley and Cpl. Richard C. Hurley, 487th BS.

i. Losses in action

1. Robert H. Meek
2. Bernard Bloomberg
3. Wilbur C. Lantz
4. Howard L. Trudell
5. Charles F. Donovan
6. William E. McGriffin
7. George H. Smith
8. David D. Cuthbertson
9. Vernon J. Lyle

j. Personnel who have distinguished themselves in action.

1. Alfred N. Bunn
2. Gordon E. Butterfield
3. Fred P. Camp
4. Joseph M Cline, Jr.
5. Harry L Chochran Jr.
6. Charles M. Cook
7. William P. Crandell
8. David D. Cuthbertson
9. Carroll E. Dearborn
10. Charles F. Donovan
11. Harold H. Frazier
12. Fred C. Kirby
13. Charles R. Klebes, Jr.
14. Wilbur C. Lantz
15. James A Littlefield
16. Joseph A Marchisealla
17. Robert H. Martin
18. Henry J. McClernon
19. William E. McGriffin
20. Thomas A. Oliver
21. Howard L. Owen
22. Wallace Preswich

23. Vern I. Salsbury
24. George H. Smith
25. Walter J. Smith
26. Kenneth C. Sparling
27. Paul N. Spencer
28. William B. Suthers
29. Charles E. Tasker
30. Howard L. Trudell
31. James L. Williams

Personnel awarded Air Medals and Clusters:

1. Bernard Albert
2. James J. Allen
3. Dominic Angelini
4. William N. Baskerville
5. Wilbur R. Beadle
6. Gerald F. Becker
7. Walter T. Bielski
8. Robert Bishop
9. Bernard Bloomberg
10. Wildore Bosquet
11. Eugene J. Broos Jr.
12. Willard A. Bruce
13. Oliver A Buendel
14. Marion C. Burger
15. Gorden E. Butterfield
16. Noble H. Byars
17. Edward L. Byerly Jr.
18. Fred P. Camp
19. Robert F Campo
20. Robert W. Carlson
21. Gerald W Carstensen
22. Thomas W Cavanaugh
23. Louis Carbara
24. Harry L Cochran Jr
25. Emmette W Coleman
26. John H Collamore Jr
27. Charles M Cook
28. William P Crandell
29. David D Culbertson
30. Carroll E Dearborn
31. Donald C Dick
32. James C Dinkler
33. Charles F. Donovan
34. George Dranchak
35. John T Edwards
36. Ernest L Elsner
37. Myron E Erickson

38. Edward Eustis
39. Richard F Evans
40. Edgar E Evants
41. Clifford E Fey
42. Alleson J Forrister
43. Harold H Frazier
44. James M Garner
45. Carl Genian
46. Justin F. Graber
47. Edward G Graham
48. William D Hale
49. Nelson Halstead
50. David D Handel
51. Raymond S Heckman Jr
52. Kenneth H Hill
53. Robert L Hill
54. Joseph N Hogarth
55. Ferrell L Holley
56. James C Holloman
57. Donovan W Hurlbut
58. Romeo J Ingley
59. Emil F Jettmar
60. Edward S Johnston
61. Charles E Jones
62. Horace E Jones
63. Warren S Jordan
64. Walter Joseph
65. Walter F Joyce Jr
66. James E Kelley
67. Donald M Kenney
68. Edwin A Kenyon
69. George H Killen
70. Fred C Kerby
71. Charles R Klebes Jr
72. David Konigsberg
73. Henry J Koster
74. Lawrence C Lambert
75. John R Lange
76. Wilbur C Lantz
77. William A Lee Jr
78. Robert E Lehmkuhl
79. Guy L Lewis
80. Roger D Lewis
81. James A Littlefield
82. Eugene S Love
83. Silvain A Lovinfosse
84. Max J Lukas
85. Vernon J Lyle
86. Robert E MacMillen

87. John P Mako
88. Chales A Maliszewski
89. Joseph A Marchisella
90. Robert R Martin
91. Marlan J Michal
92. John W Miller
93. Verl J Miller
94. George S Moule
95. Henry J A McClernon
96. Paul E McDonnell
97. William E McGriffin
98. Harlan G McLain
99. William A McLaughlin
100. Walter F McTernan
101. Walter V McVee
102. Theodore R Olander
103. Edward F O'Neill
104. Edward W Oviatt
105. Howard L Owen
106. Alton W Parker
107. Olan B Parrish
108. Carl A Pennock
109. John Polanko
110. Franklin E Porter
111. Gerard H Powers
112. Louis F Raber
113. James R Rambo
114. John H Ramsey
115. John E Rapp
116. John C Rau
117. Frederick A Rech
118. Jack V Reimer
119. Frank N Reynolds
120. James A Robb
121. James H Rogers
122. Robert F Hushton
123. Vern I Salsbury
124. Paul E Sekeras
125. Joseph E Semenak
126. Guiseppe Serangeli
127. Eugene P Simonsin
128. George H Smith
129. Walter J. Smith
130. George J Sorbello
131. Paul N Spencer
132. Roy W Spurling
133. Mahlon C Stahlman
134. George R Stejskal
135. William B Suthers

136. Maurice E Thompson
137. Joseph E Thornsberry
138. Angelo M Triunfo
139. Robert M Trollinger
140. Howard L Trudell
141. Howard A Van Etten
142. Joseph P Whalen
143. Fleet C Williams
144. James L Williams
145. Charles D Woods
146. Winthrop L Woodward
147. Lewis S Young

October 1st

The first of the month brought forth two hot missions which we hope is no indication of the targets to come. In the morning, seventeen ships of the 487th Squadron took off to bomb Piacenza barracks in Northern Italy. They were over the target at 10:51 and laid their pattern on the northern half of the buildings incurring considerable damage. One ship was holed as a result of the anti-aircraft encountered.....Second raid of nine ships took off at 15:10 to bomb the Magenta railroad bridge. Observations were inaccurate due to intense flak, but it was believed that hits were scored on the east approach. Lt. Donovan was seriously wounded and his ship forced down as a result of vigorous ground fire. The made a safe landing in Allied territory and the crew returned to the base with the exception of Lt. Donovan who is hospitalized in Italy.....P.X. rations were distributed today in rather sparse quantities. Quite a let-down after the rations we have been getting.....Everyone is beginning to show the effect of being without a barber. However, Cpl. Masuto of Ordnance is going to set up as Squadron barber in the next day or so.....This being Sunday there was no show at the Group movie tonite.

2nd

an immediate stand-by at 10:00 hours was scheduled for this morning but shortly before noon a stand-down for the remainder of the day was declared. Weather was given as the reason, although here with the exception of an occasional could it was a pretty fair day. However, the wind was strong and cold, reminding one of what's in store for us.....Pvt. Kowtowski flew his first mission yesterday and made a forced landing with a wounded man aboard. After trying to get out of the Armament Section for over a month it was quite a debut to combat.....Everyone is now complaining of the lack of mail. It has been two days since any mail whatsoever has come in and over two weeks since a decent mail call. Naturally we are of the opinion that the Island has been forgotten. Practically the entire month of September's mail is still en route.....A new rule holding all combat crew members here until their medals are awarded has caused no end of difficulty. With 12th Air Force Headquarters in the midst of moving it looks as though a number of the boys are going to have some wait. Many are asking that they be put in for no more medals because going home is much more important than a medal....."I Dood It" was shown at the movie tonite.....

3rd

Magenta Railroad bridge was the target for fifteen 487th ships again today. They were over the target at 14:18 hours, but visibility was poor due to bomb explosions of previous flights and it was impossible to plot the bomb pattern, although it is believed that hits were scored. Anti-aircraft fire was heavy, intense and accurate, holing all ships in the formation although only one man was wounded by flak, Lt. H.H. Smith.....Lt. Oliver of Tech Supply is now Captain after sweating it out for some time. First Lts. in this outfit are now very small fry, at least among the ground officers.....The Red Cross Club has copied our idea and is now having regular Bingo nites. It's about time they do something.....Mail continues to be non-existent with the exception of about twenty-five letters that came inn today. The situation has started to affect the outgoing mail which isn't good for either Army or home-front morale.....Major Parsons and Major Bugbee are in France taking in the sites etc....."I Dood It" was repeated at the movies tonite.....

4th

Crews got off the ground for a mission this morning, but were called back while in the process of forming. Rain over the target was given as the reason and a stand-down was immediately declared.....The latest rumor is that rotation of ground personnel has been set at three men per month for the entire Group. Frankly it doesn't make any difference to the majority because the whole thing has been a huge joke ever since its origination. It makes good reading material for the folks back home and that's about the extent of its effect on the population.....S/Sgt Bunn claims that his newly issued O.D.'s include nine different serial numbers. No doubt they were used by some front line outfit whose former owners were among the casualties. A great percentage of the boys were unable to get anything near their size and are still without a winter uniform.....With few exceptions everyone in th Squadron was huddled around all available speakers and radios for the first game of the World Series tonite. Many bets were won and lost in the score of 2 to 1 in favor of the Browns.....Our runaway, Pvt. Coombes, who has been at large for months was picked up in Northern Italy and is being returned to the Island.....The rain was responsible for calling off the movie tonite.....

5th

Another stand-down for the 487th today. A mission is beginning to be the exception rather than the rule, but unfortunately we can't control the weather. If it's clear here a safe bet would be that it isn't over the target area.....During recent stand-down days much time and effort has been devoted to tent winterizing and stove installation. Many Squadron tents are in good shape for the winter including a gas stove. Wonder how long it will be before the clamps are put down on gas consumption even though there is nothing else to burn. With all of the wood available in Corsica, the lack of same is certainly obvious around here.....Capt. Rapp, Operations Officer, is now Major Rapp.....Pvt. Kiel who recently came into the Squadron as a kitchen man is now an armorer-gunner. A great many of the men have put in their bid for combat as the possibility of going home as a ground man fades.....Lts. Rushton and Spurling are going to fly a Service Command General around the country for a while. It will be a break in that they will see a lot of Europe throughout their tour with the General....."The Navy Way" played at the movie tonite.....

6th

Rain kept all 487th planes on the ground today. It might also be added that many of the combat crew members spent the greater part of the day in their sacks. A day such as this one was is conducive to nothing constructive, if anything at all. Everyone has that washed out appearance, typical of the "Sad Sack." However, in spite of the miserable weather, hardly a man missed the fresh eggs for breakfast. The quartermaster amazed the entire Squadron by issuing 2700 fresh eggs. to top it all off, we had steak for dinner.....The second jeep in less than a week's time was wrecked today by Lts. Graber and Love. Both have broken legs with possible internal injuries and S-2 is minus a vehicle. It's surprising that more haven't been killed by the break-neck speed with which they travel on these extremely narrow roads. S/Sgt. Berry and Sgt. Kyle Rice returned from Florence yesterday with prisoner Coombes. No one knows much about his doings since he took off on his own several months ago, as he is remaining sphinx like....."Chip off the Old Block" was the picture shown at the movie tonite.....

7th

Again today the weather over Italy kept the 487th on the ground. Stand-downs are the most common occurrences of this month. Some of the boys who are sweating out their last missions are really sweating these days.....The Rome planes were unable to take off again today as the field in Rome was closed. This makes the second extra day for the boys now over there. It's a good deal if they aren't broke.....Six bottles of beer per man were dispensed today. It was a surprise too, because we thought that our beer drinking days overseas were a thing of the past which only goes to prove that one can't come to immediate conclusions in the Army.....Pay-roll was signed in the mess line today.....Capt. Winebrenner made a Lite inspection of the personnel tents this morning and clipped only one wire. Apparently it was the only tent honest enough to leave their high voltage bulb in. Other tents with two lights were smart enough to conceal one....."Chip off the Old Block" was repeated at the movie tonite.....

8th

The Squadron was supposed to put up nineteen planes this morning, but again weather conditions prevented them from putting up even the Rome courier. Our Roman Commando's are enjoying another day of leisure in the city.....Several promotions among the enlisted ground personnel were announced today for the first time in many moons. Cpls. Olson, Zientek, Di Perno, Barteszewaki and While made Sergeant and PFC Burke donned two stripes. Burke's tent-mates have already made a sign for the front of the tent bearing only the newly made corporal's name.....Four ground crew replacements came in yesterday. One of them is T/Sgt. Clerk and has caused quite some difficulty in placing him. In order to hold the rating open he has been assigned to Public Relations with Sgt. Fuiks. The idea being to get out twice as much P.R. work.....Sunday nite is letter writing nite in the Squadron since there is no movie. The E.M. Club also gets a particularly big play on Sunday especially after pay-day.....

9th

Another stand-down today which makes it the eighth non-operational day in a row. Weather was given as the reason although we enjoyed a very bright day on Corsica.....Several of the boys who have been stranded in Rome for six days returned tonite with Lt Serangeli, although fifteen could not be accommodated and are still in the city. What a break for those who were forced to remain.....After supper last evening Cpl. Nelson was cursing to himself while sorting the first mail we've had in quite sometime. Everyone eagerly awaited the outcome and although pleased to get what they did, were

disappointed in the amount of letters still missing. It seems quite apparent that the Island has been completely forgotten along the mail route. A smattering of fifteen or twenty letters came in today.....Special Service spent their entire day laying cement in their proposed new location, directly in back of S-2 tent. It was decided to give them a new tent before the personnel and rag they've been using as a ten was completely washed away.....A new system on handling Air Medals and Clusters has been inaugurated which will do away with a lot of the work. Instead of typing everything a mimeographed summary and citation has been added. This should have been thought of long ago....."Background to Danger" with Brenda Marshall and George Brent was featured at the movie tonite.....

10th

It's getting to the point where it really isn't necessary to state that there was a stand-down in the 487th because a mission is beginning to be the rarity. However, to keep the records straight there was no mail today with the weather held responsible.....A wire came in from the A.T.C. in Rome stating that our stranded personnel on leave in the city were desperate and that an all out effort should be made to get them. Perhaps tomorrow will be the happy day for which they're waiting.....We now have one native Corsican boy working in the kitchen on pots and pans. He can't speak Italian or English but manages to get along.....Cpl. Frank Nasuto has given up bomb loading to become Squadron Barber. Frank is a good barber and will make twenty cents a head besides his regular army pay. There's a lot of work in a big outfit like this for one barber.....Since packages have ceased coming in everyone seems to be hungry. Capt. Linthicum says "About nine o'clock every nite he could eat the leg off a table." We miss those evening snacks in the tent....."Background to Danger" was the picture shown at the movie tonite.....

11th

another stand-down was in effect all day as a result of the weather in the target area. No doubt the boys on the Italian front are having one hell of a time with the weather let alone the Krauts.....A detail was busy cementing the floor for the Orderly Room today. Surprisingly, the Orderly Room is the last office in the area to winterize. No doubt when the entire outfit is completely bedded down for the winter we will move. It always happens that way and for once it really wouldn't be very difficult to pull out of this desolate spot, regardless of the effort put forth to make it livable, providing the new location wasn't in the Pacific Theater.....Rotation has become quite a laugh in this Squadron. We read all the particulars in the Stars and Stripes, but no one seems to to home. Replacements continue to come in, but the old personnel still remain. Apparently rotation is strictly American newspaper talk or political fodder.....Special Service moved into their new quarters today and are pretty comfortably set up with a cement floor and new tent....."You Can't Ration Love" was shown at the Group movie tonite.....

12th

Our first mission in nine days took off at 09:10 hours this morning to bomb supply stores on the outskirts of Bologna. There were eighteen ships in the squadron formation and although clouds covered the target area, this formation bombed through an opening in the clouds, scoring many direct hits. Two of the participating aircraft were holed as a result of enemy anti-aircraft fire.....S/Sgt. Paul McMillen, former mess-sergeant flew his first mission today and was in one of the holed ships. A number of the crew members donated their liquor to Paul after the raid which made his story more humorous. Flying in the same plane with Paul was Pvt. Garven former armorer on his first mission also.....Two planes finally got over to Rome today and picked up our Rome weary vacationists. After

nine days, the last few without cigarettes or money, they rejoiced at the thought of Corsica. Another contingent who left on the outgoing planes were in hopes that they would enjoy the same fate – at least they are prepared for a lengthy sojourn.....All Medics in the Grop were busy yesterday moving the patient evacuee's from DC's landing at our field to the new location of the 40th Squadron Hospital. the hospital moved from Ajaccio tot he former 306th Service Group area about three miles down the road. When completed the hospital will have a beautiful set-up boasting hot and cold running water in each building.....”You can't Ration Love” was repeated at the movie tonite.....

13th

Friday the 13th! and the 487th stood-down all day which at least satisfied the superstitious. However, other Squadrons participated in raids and there were no ill-effects. For a while last night we were alarmed when “77” was trying to land in the rain after its return trip from Malta although it finally landed safely at the 321st field.....Ten bags of newspapers and packages came in this morning and consequently all personnel spent the entire morning sweating out Cpl. Nelson. Suppose this will be the last package delivery before the Xmas rush so everyone intends to conserve what they received today.....The Squadron band is improving with its constant practice an dis scheduled to put on a show sometime next week. After much controversy it has become a Group band with other members of the Group now playing although the majority of its musicians are 487th men.....The 340th show was called off tonite due to inclement weather.....

14th

Combat crews were alerted at 10:00 this morning for a possible mission and although the sky was clear and the sun was shining in Corsica, the weather in the vicinity of the target area did not warrant a take-off and a stand-down was declared for the rest of the day. Combat men are becoming very restless and eager to get in a few missions as a long lay-off gives them too much time to think.....Lt. Cline went off the gold standard and donned the silver bar – he was really sweating it out, but finally made the grade.....Another large quantity of packages and newspapers came in today much to the delight of all concerned. First-class mail is still obvious by its absence and has everyone wondering what the score is. Mail from the folks at home is still the Army's #1 morale booster – could it be that nobody cares?.....”uninvited” starring Ray Milland and Gale Russell was the picture shown at the 340th movies tonite.....

15th

Fair weather conditions finally enabled us to get in a mission, although not a completely successful one. At 09:08 hours, fifteen of our aircraft took off to bomb a road and railroad bridge at Largenta, Italy, with the railroad bridge at Ronco Scrivia as the alternate target. due to complete could coverage over primary target, the alternate target was attacked at 11:25 hours. This target was also obscured by clouds and the 2nd box did not drop its bombs. The 1st box bombed the choke point at the southern end of the Ronco Scrivia M/Y with the pattern extending approximately halfway across the choke point. On this mission 30x1000 lb. bombs were dropped and the balance of the load was brought back. Heavy, slight and fairly moderate ack-ack fire was encountered over the primary target, but no damage was inflicted on our planes. Ack-ack over the alternate target was Nil – all planes and crews returned safely to the base.....Steaks for dinner today and believe it or not – plenty for everyone. Even though tough, they were a relief from the monotonous ham [?] diet....P.X. rations were distributed today – plenty of candy and toilet articles, but no cigarettes which does not go ever so big as our last ration was two weeks ago and nearly everyone is out of smokes – looks now like we'll have to depend on the folks

at home to keep us supplied with cigarettes also.....Sunday nite, consequently, no movie.....

16th

Eighteen crews were alerted for a mission at 08:00 hours this morning but the raid was canceled just as they departed for Group briefing. Bad weather in the vicinity of the target area once more intervened and a stand-down was declared for the rest of the day.....These idle days are being spent in making our tents comfortable for the winter months ahead. All who can get the lumber and tools with which to work are boarding up the sides of their tents and making all around alterations. The Orderly Room is in the process of being modernized with an almost entirely wooden structure and cement floors to boot. Work on the structure is just about half finished and it promises to be the “super de-luxe” O.R. of the Group.....At long last a fair quantity of mail came in – some old stuff and a little new, but not enough to compensate for the many days we received no letters at all. At least the P.O. has discovered that the 340th Group is still on the Island – here's hoping deliveries will be more regular from now on.....The officers today moved into their combination mess-hall and club which from all accounts is quite a de luxe affair. All officers in the Squadron put forth their best efforts and talents to produce something worthwhile and the finished product is something to be proud of – Our officers really can produce if they want to.....”Andy's Blonde Trouble” starring Mickey Rooney and Lewis Stone was the attraction at the movies tonite.....

17th

Another missionless day due to bad weather in the target area. These non-operational days are occurring altogether too frequently for combat men especially those who need only a few missions to wind up their tour and return to the home shores. If we were any place but this Island and a stand-down or a succession of them would probably be welcomed, but with absolutely no place to go or anything to do by way of diversion, lay-offs are bound to become tiresome and boring.....Since the inauguration of the Officers mess-hall we now have two mess-officers, Lt. Bloomberg has taken over the duty of filling the Officers dishes with good things to eat while Lt. Mako continues to see the E.M. are provided with more & more varieties of hash. The Enlisted Men at least got one break out of the deal – a little more space in the mess-hall. It's interesting to watch what the future will bring. We did have pork chops for dinner today – good meatly ones too.....The 321st Group entertained at the Red Cross Club tonite with a good band and a fairly good vocalist. These days even a 4th class show would be well received. “Andy Hardy's Blonde Trouble” was repeated at the movie tonite.....

18th

Today was one of those on again off again affairs as far as a mission was concerned – early alert which was postponed for two hours at the end of which time a stand-down was declared for the rest of the day. Then contrary to all rules and regulations an immediate stand-by was declared at 1:30 and fifteen crews were hastily summoned for take-off at 14:35 hours. However, the mission was in vain as a complete cloud coverage over the target area prevented them from dropping their bombs. Heavy, moderate anti-aircraft fire was encountered east of Asti, but no damage was done to our formation and all planes returned safely to the base.....Capt. Winebrenner departed today for the States and a thirty day emergency furlough. Everyone is anxious to get home even for only a short stay, but prefer to sweat it out instead of receiving bad news from the folks back home.....Another small quantity of mail came in today, but not enough to make us happy. Our letters from September 15 to 30 are still among the missing – no doubt the best thing to do is forget the whole deal.....”Roger Touhy Gangster” was the picture shown at the movies tonite – not too good.

19th

This afternoon at 13:45 hours fifteen ships of this Squadron took off to again attack Magenta railroad bridge in Northern Italy. Anti-aircraft fire was one of the heaviest barrages yet seen by many of the combat crew members. Five ships were holed, three men were slightly wounded and Lt. Meek, Co-pilot on 7Z was killed. However, Lt. Lantz brought the ship back to the base with his Co-pilot dead and three wounded men aboard. This was our second loss in combat since coming to Corsica, but regardless of how few the losses are they always throw the Squadron into a turmoil. Lt. Bloomberg was wounded for the second time on this mission and is ready to quit flying right now. Lt. Lantz and Sgt. Trudell were the others who were slightly wounded. Due to the intense flak and smoke from the other patterns the efficiency of this raid has not been determined.....Two trucks and one plane went over to the other side of the Island to procure wood for the E.M. mess-hall, but upon arriving the detail found their trip to be in vain. The French now in control of the building they were going to tear down refused to allow the destruction and our men returned empty handed....."Roger Touhy Ganster" was repeated at the movie tonite.....

20th

Another hot target this morning for eighteen ships and crews of this squadron – target was Imola stores and take-off at 12:23 hours. Along with the intense anti-aircraft fire which holed nine of the ships, for FW 190's approached the rear of the first box, but turned off when fired upon. All bombs are believed to have landed within the target area although the effectiveness of such a raid is difficult to ascertain.....This week Maj. Parsons fell heir to a little trailer home which includes an inner spring sack, wash basin, cupboard and many other forgotten luxuries of civilian life. All Squadron C.O.'s received one so it's quite evident that they are being made comfortable for a long and miserable Corsican winter. Such things make the lack of provision for the average men more obvious but they have more to look forward to in a release from the Army.....Cpl Strom of the Armament Section received his rotation papers today, but was unable to get transportation to Naples. He is considered fortunate to be going home after twenty months overseas with an incurable leg infection. Rotation of ground personnel in this organization is still the laughing stock of the campaign....."This is the Life" was shown at the Group movie tonite.....

21st

Weather kept the 487th on the ground today although rain on Corsica was slight and the sun was out most of the day.....For some unknown reason a general policing detail was carried out this morning and after several hours of picking up everything that doesn't grow, ours was the cleanest cow pasture in Corsica. Perhaps another General is going to visit us.....S/Sgts. Fey and Koster who have completed a tour of combat are now on detached service to Wing as assistant crew-chiefs. The rules governing the disposition of combat crews changes so frequently that it's difficult to determine who will and who won't go home after completing a combat tour. Both boys have visited the Squadron on their respective day off and neither of them are too well satisfied with the present set-up. Such activities would certainly not encourage men to volunteer for a second tour once they get home.....The Orderly Room is now completed and has the title of being the best Orderly Room we've ever had. It's a gray wooden building with a concrete floor and the executive office partitioned off.....Formal and dirty K.P. started officially today. It's the first time we've had anything but serving detail since the first days of the Corsican campaign. Only two men a day serve, but it's on that day we'll appreciate what the Italian civilian help did for us until someone got the bright idea to send them home....."This is the Life" was repeated at the movie tonite.....

22nd

Weather conditions kept 487th planes away from Northern Italy again today. Targets over there are getting pretty hot and most of the boys sigh a sigh of relief on cloudy mornings with the exception of those sweating out their last missions and are anxious to get out of here. Those sweating out awards are really burned up by a mix-up somewhere along the line which is holding up all recent General Orders – providing any have been issued.....The Group orchestra made its debut last nite at the Red Cross Enlisted Men's Club. It was pretty good considering the fact that it was the first time many of them had played together. At each rehearsal new members are added consequently perfection has not been achieved as yet. Co. Chapman was present at the debut and showed his approval by requesting that they play at the Officers Club on Monday nite.....Cpl. Strom is still eagerly awaiting a plane to Naples. Anyone else with rotation papers in their hands would have lost their mind long ago. However, he will get off for sure in the morning.....Captains Barry and Holmes have already departed for the U.S. after completing their respective tours of combat. Air crew replacements should be coming in soon because a great number of men are finishing up now.....No show played at the 340th movie tonite – it being Sunday.....

23rd

Mission was scheduled for this morning, but it wasn't until 14:30 when twelve planes of this Squadron Took off. Instead of explosives they were loaded with “nickels” for Bologna, Ferrara, Ravenna, Forli and Imola. It's unusual that a nickeling mission encounters opposition, but this one met anti-aircraft fire that holed five ships and wounded two men. Lts. Cuthbertson and Lyle. However, the “nickels” were successfully dropped in their respective areas.....Group has put out an order that all Squadron enlisted men's bars will close at 9:00 P.M. No one is aware of the purpose behind such an order but all concur that there isn't much point in having one under those circumstances.....Generals Cannon and Knapp were supposed to be on the field this afternoon for an award presentation, bu the whole thing was called off around noon until tomorrow. No one would be disappointed if it were called off permanently because many of the combat men have declared they would rather draw their decoration at Supply. The guard of honor stands out there like a bunch of monkeys and received nothing, so it stands to reason that they wouldn't be disappointed if the custom was dispensed with.....”Meet the People” played at the movie tonite starring Lucille Ball and Dick Powell.....

24th

Stand-down remained in effect all day due to inclement weather. Probably the original declaration of a stand-down was for the purpose of presenting awards although weather kept all four Squadrons on the ground. General Knapp presented the medals although before his arrival it as rumored that General Cannon would be with him. There were very few combat men in the squadron who weren't decorated and quite a number of ground personnel made up the honor guard so the entire outfit was fairly well represented. With the number of awards being dished out, presentation should become a regular part of this organization.....Mail has been conspicuous by its absence in the last few days, but the sign read “Beaucoup” today which made many of the boys happy. “Beaucoup” to us is half a bag full with two or three letters a piece. Either people at home have discontinued writing or we just aren't getting it. Regardless of how rarely mail does come Cpl. Nelson the mail clerk remains as sour as any one person could be..... Pvt. A.D. Rice is on K.P. indefinitely for being late the other morning and then failing to show up the second day as ordered. Everyone is rather happy to see such things occur because it just keeps them off the miserable detail.....”Meet the People” was repeated at the Group movie tonite.....

25th

Another stand-down was in effect for the 487th Squadron today as a result of the weather. Heavy rains started in the morning and continued intermittently throughout the day until evening when it became a steady downpour. Many of the boys spent the early part of the night battling the water and from all indications if it persists some tents will be completely washed away. The Red Cross Club is already submerged under three or four feet of water.....Rumors of a move are again very prominent although this rumor is like a streetcar – it comes and goes.....War news is good on all fronts particularly so in the Pacific where the Jap and American Navy's are reported to be engaged in a sea battle off the Phillipines. Complete details are not available although it looks like T.S. for the Jap Navy. Progress in Italy remains rather stagnant and the Allies are still eight miles from the key city of Bologna. Since the fall of Aachen things are rather quiet in that sector while the Canadians and British continue to clear the Antwerp area.....When this task is completed and the great port is open to shipping we should see a large scale offensive from the West.....Rains kept the movie goers under cover tonite.....

26th

Another stand-down day due to the heavy rains which continued steadily throughout the nite and all morning. Many of the boys spent an uncomfortable nite due to leaking tents and several inches of water which tended to make a row boat out of their happy homes. Just about half of the Squadron was inundated and nothing could be done to relieve the situation until the rain ceased at about 1:00 P.M. Fortunately the skies cleared and the unfortunates who were washed out hurriedly transferred their tents to a high spot in the area to insure against a repeat performance of last nites disaster. The Squadron area has taken on the aspect of a Quartermaster Laundry with blankets, clothes and cots conspicuously “drying out.” Besides all the personnel tents, the Enlisted mens Club was also hit hard. The musical instruments took a bad beating, particularly the piano when the water just about reached the ivories.....The good news from all fronts and particularly the progress being made in the Pacific area helps lots to boost the morale of an organization who has been taking it on the chin for nigh onto twenty-one months.....”The Marauders” from the 42nd Bomb Wing entertained at the E.M. Red Cross Club tonite to a large audience in spite of the fact that the road leading to the club was “knee high” mud.....To alleviate the suffering, 340th movie presented “Follow the Boys” another entertaining show.....

27th

Stand-down as again the status for the 487th Squadron today. Weather conditions here as well as over the target area were responsible. However, two planes managed to get off for Naples although the boys sweating out Malta were again disappointed. Capt. Linthicum came back from Naples tonite after spending four long days awaiting transportation. Despite the rain and hazardous route the ships were allowed to take off from Capadichino and arrived here just before dark.....The Squadron finally got the six Yugoslav's to work in the kitchen. We had almost given up hope of even getting them, but it's always better late than never. To the delight of everyone concerned K.P. will again be done away with – thanks to the Yugoslavs.....The rain today kept everyone pretty close to the sack, if not in it. It's quite apparent that the 487th will log more sack time than combat time this winter if the past week is any indication of Corsica's winter weather.....”Follow the Boys” was repeated at the movie tonite.....

28th

A clear day broke this morning for the first time in over a week. However, the 487th was on a stand-down and other Squadrons were unable to take off from the water soaked runway with a bomb load, consequently there was not raid for the entire Group. The 487th will remain on a stand-down status until the other Squadrons pull a mission, unless an unusual number of ships are required.....The Group showers were functioning today and the area surrounding the building resembled a popular "drive-in." many have been unable to shower for some time and took advantage of the hot water today.....Our newly added Yugoslav help was busy hauling sand today for the mess-hall area. From all the attention the mess-hall gets one would think it a very swank dining salon, but one meal would prove otherwise. Another detail was busy hauling rocks for the washed-out auto path through the area. Rain has brought much work to the 487th....."So's Your Uncle" with Billie Burke played at the movie tonite.....

29th

Stand-down was in effect all day again. If it isn't the weather itself it's the condition the weather has left our field in. This was the second good day in succession for us here on Corsica which is really unusual.....The training program is forging ahead on these missionless days. Naturally everyone concerned is not too happy about the whole thing, but its orders from higher ups. It does seem rather ridiculous to indulge men who have flown many combat missions in an extensive training schedule. Perhaps its in preparation for the C.B.I. Theater. After a transition flight the morning, Lts. Evans and L[?]artz cracked up an airplane in the middle of the runway. The pilots claim that the landing gear buckled up but the common story is that intending to pull up the flaps a mistake was made and the landing gear was hoisted half way down the runway. Whatever the trouble was a terrific amount of damage was done to one airplane.....Cpl. McCarter passed out about three-thirty this afternoon right outside the mess-hall. He has been subject to spells lately, probably from over indulgence or lack of "spirits." The episode caused considerable commotion however, the ambulance and medics took the situation in hand. Last nite the orchestra played its first paying engagement. It was at a dinner dance given by the 306th Officers in their club. Besides a wonderful steak dinner each enlisted band member received five dollars....."So's Your Uncle" was repeated at the movie tonite.....

30th

Stand-down was again the order of the day although local training flights put many planes and men in the air. We had a heavy shower this afternoon, but after clearing off, the remainder of the day was rather pleasant, although cold.....Mail has been coming in abundantly for the past week much to the joy of all concerned. Dates of letters vary from very old to the other extreme and everyone is pretty well caught up on back mail now. Some airmail letters are over a month old while others are barely a week enroute, nevertheless they're all letters that we've been sweating out for a long time. We hope that a new method of delivery has been devised so that the worst is behind us.....The six Yugoslavs we have working in the mess-hall are the best workers we've ever had. Pots really shine when they get through with them. Their distribution had been undecided for a few days but they are divided evenly now – three in the officers mess and three in the Enlisted Mens.....A vote was taken to decide the fate of the Enlisted Mens Club after it had been practically washed out by the rains. No one in the area was particularly anxious to have it so it will be moved to the line when they get around to the moving. Incidentally the club hasn't functioned since the watery days....."Gildersleeves Ghost" with Harold Perry and Mariam Martin played at the movie tonite.....

A stand-down just is assumed nowadays and today was no exception. However, a simulated raid including briefing et al was carried out this afternoon.....The boys were unable to get over to Rome again today giving the men already over there another day added to their now long overdue pass. Every morning, the men to go on pass prepare themselves for the trip, but before the morning is over the flight is canceled due to the condition of Littoria.....Lts. Sterling and Narusewicz, S/Sgts. Crosby and Leatherwood returned to the Squadron tonite after furloughing in the States. When it isn't compulsory we sometimes wonder why anybody would return to combat although they seem to be happy and sane. The story is still the same concerning the c.....s..... in the U.S.A., but those of us who haven't been home for almost two years feel that we could stand it. S/Sgt. Crosby brought the cooks a nice big can opener which could have been a subtle hint but nevertheless very appropriate.....Surprisingly no one's carbine was found to be very much out of order yesterday at inspection. Gas masks were also given the old one – two.....Pay call was held today for both officers and enlisted men. Many games of chance were pursued following the happy occasion.....”Gildersleeves Ghost” was repeated at the movie tonite.....

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