

November 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

B. Changes in organization:

Major Lewis F. Parsons was relieved of assignment as Commanding Officer on November 20, 1944. Major John E. Rapp was assigned to the Command on the same order.

Capt. Paul N. Spencer was appointed Squadron Operations Officer on November 20, 1944 vice Major John E. Rapp.

Capt. Olan B. Parrish was appointed Ass't. Sq. Operations Officer, vice Capt. Paul N. Spencer.

1st Lt. George H. Smith was appointed Act'g. Squadron Adjutant vice Capt. Bernard M. Coyle who was furloughed to the United States

i. Losses in Action

S/Sgt. George H. Killen, Wounded in action over Magenta, Italy November 28, 1944

j. Personnel who have distinguished themselves in action.

Willard A. Bruce
Noble H. Byars
Charles F. Donovan
Lucien B. Gould
Justin F. Graber
William D. Hale
Robert L. Hill
Horace E. Jones
Walter F. Joyce
David Konigsberg
Wilbur C. Lantz
Robert E. MacMillen
George S. Moule
William E. McGriffin
Louis F. Raber
Robert F. Rushton (twice)

Guiseppi Serangeli
Roy. W. Spurling
Mahlon C. Stahlman

Awarded Air Medals and Clusters thereto:

Bernard Albert
James J. Allen
Dominic Angelini
James W. Austin, Jr.
Balise A. Azzara
Billy Jo Barry
William N. Baskerville
Gerald F. Becker
Robert Bishop
Wildore Bousquet
Willard A. Bruce
Oliver A. Buendel
Marion C. Burger
Gordon E. Butterfield
Noble H. Byars
Gerald W. Carstensen
Thomas W. Cavanagh
Louis Cerbara
Joseph M. Cline Jr.
Harry L. Cochran Jr.
Emmette W. Coleman
John H. Collamore Jr.
Hubert Conwill
Fred L. Cormack
William P. Crandell
Luke J. Crosby
Paul V. Deneen Jr.
James C. Dinkler
Charles F. Donovan
John T. Edwards
Myron E. Erickson
Richard F. Evans
Edgar E. Evarts
Stewart Farnham
Alleson J. Forrister
James M. Garner
Pierre P. Garvin
Carl Genian
Robert N. Gist
Edward G. Graham
William D. Hale
Nelson Halstead

David D. Handel
Raymond S. Heckman Jr.
Thomas A. Hetzel
Kenneth H. Hill
Robert L. Hill
Kenneth R. Hopkins
Harvey M. Hyland
Romeo J. Ingley
Emil F. Jettmar
Charles E. Jones
Horace E. Jones
Walter F. Joyce Jr.
Donald M. Kenney
Edwin A. Kenyon
Herman H.W. Kiel
George H. Killen
Charles R. Klebes Jr.
David Konigsberg
Paul S. Kowtowski
William E. Krebs
Francis J. La Pierre
John E. Leatherwood
Robert E. Lehmkuhl
Roger D. Lewis
Julius Lieberman
James A Littlefield
Eugene S. Love
Vernon J. Lyle
Bryant O. Lyons
Paul H. Mabe
John P. Mako
Robert H. Meek
Marlan J. Michel
John C. Miller
George S. Moule
Paul E. McDonnell
William E. McGriffin
Paul S. McMillen
Walter V. McVee
Harry P. Naruszewicz
Edward W. Oviatt
Alton W. Parker
Olban B. Parrish
Carl A. Pennock
John Polanko
Joseph F. Quinlin
James R. Rambo
John H. Ramsey
John E. Rapp

John C. Rau
James A. Robb
Paul E. Sekeras
Joseph E. Semenak
Guiseppe Serangeli
Eugene P. Simonson
George H. Smith
Kenneth G. Sparling
Roy W. Spurling
Mahlon C. Stahlman
George R. Stejskal
William B. Suthers
Nathan G. Thomas
Joseph F. Thornsberry
Robert M. Trollinger
Howard L. Trudell
Joseph P. Whalen
Caldwell A. Whipple
James L. Williams
John J.S. Wisanowski
Ralph L. Woods

War Diary November 1944

November 1st

With the exception of local training flights which have become quite common around these parts, activities are practically at a stand-still.....Airplanes are still unable to land in Rome as the field is said to be under a foot and a half of water – what a break for the boys marooned over there providing they are well supplied with money and have a source for procuring cigarettes.....A much needed combat crew came in the other night, but with the number finishing up we'll need a lot more. According to present indications there will be no set number of missions to complete a tour of duty, it's said that the maximum effort will be required whether it be fifty missions or a hundred and fifty. Needless to say the idea has caused a great deal of unrest among combat men.....We are to move within two weeks according to the latest rumor, but no one is placing much faith in the idea.....Supply is requisitioning all equipment lost in the recent flood and the cooks seem to be the heaviest losers. We also put in orders for the new field jackets and a sweater today.....Major Bugbee is now functioning up in Group Hq. for an indefinite period.....”Starmaker” was shown at the Group movie tonite.....

2nd

Despite a nice bright morning the Squadron was inactive. However, there were a few local training flights plus one trip to Naples. Major Parsons and Sgt. Parkings took off on their flights which is supposed to cover Bari, Catania, Malta and return. It will be nothing short of amazing if they make it in the intended three days.....After four days in Cairo and the other six in Alexandria the Egyptian sojourn was over and the ship returned today. Everyone claims to have had the time of their lives so the Egyptian cities must be the cosmopolitan cities they always were. S/Sgt. Garner is back to beat the

drums in the band once more.....Sgt. Fuiks was running through the area today like a crazed child waving two three day passes for Naples in his hand. He was unable to take off so his "Tony" will have to wait another day for the sight of Marcus.....Fresh Chicken for dinner today and it was the second day in a row which is really amazing....."Starmaker" was repeated at the movie tonite.....

3rd

The same old story today – Stand-down. Everyone, both ground and combat personnel are getting restless and tired of nothing to do. Sending the outfit home for the winter looks like a good solution although impossible. Sunny Italy's weather is all that seems to be keeping us dormant. On a weather flight over Italy the other morning, S/Sgt. Paul McMillen said it was worse than flak so it really must be bad.....The band played a paying engagement at the Officers Club tonite. Besides five bucks for each enlisted man there's usually a few of those much sought after American whiskey drinks.....The Enlisted Mens mess Officer, Lt. Mako, spends every meal hour soliciting the men while they're eating. However, if the meal is too poor he doesn't appear to ask for opinions. There hasn't been much complaint on the meals lately though.....Quite a number of the men are taking correspondence courses which is undoubtedly due to all the circulars distributed within the last few months. Rumor has it that educational classes will be compulsory for those left over here at the war's end....."Beautiful but Broke" with Joan Davis played at the movies tonite.....

4th

Practice flights were the only activities of the day. It's been so long since we've had a mission that the boys are giving up all hopes of ever finishing their tour. The ground personnel who went into flying in order to get home aren't progressing very rapidly.....Now that the piano has been moved to the Special Service tent, the surrounding area has been filled with music good and bad. However, the day room being built on the end of the enlisted men's mess-hall will house all musical instruments very soon.....Instructions came in this morning that all personnel would be in full O.D. uniform with ties or complete fatigues. The reason being that the General was to make an appearance. Naturally he didn't show up because he never does although it's good to see the area cleaned up occasionally. What a General would be parading around a cow pasture like this for is beyond comprehension. He spent his entire visit pinning medals on 488th and 89th men.....We received word that 7M had landed safely somewhere in Italy after fearing it to be lost several days ago on a routine flight to Naples. T/Sgt. Bills was th only 487th man on board....."Beautiful but Broke" was repeated at the movies tonite.....

5th

The 487th pulled its first raid this morning in one day less than two weeks. Take-off for twelve ships was at 09:41 hours and they were over the target which was Padua East Railroad bridge at 11:47. The first box crossed the center of the bridge while the second box bombed in the smoke of preceding formations with exact results undetermined. Anti-Aircraft fire encountered was out of range and no damage was incurred. This was one of the longest, if not the longest mission we've had since being on Corsica.....Different reports are coming from the Officers Mess – some say it's good and others say it's terrible. Every officer had to pay twelve dollars into the fund this month, but that is supposed to be for the purpose of building up a liquor stock. They say that next month's dues will be no more than six dollars.....T/Sgt. John Bills arrived back in the Squadron today and was accorded almost the same greeting that the downed combat men get when they return through enemy lines.....No show tonite, it being Sunday.

6th

Two distinct raids were executed by the 487th Squadron today. First one consisting of six airplanes took off at 09:53 hours carrying 72x100 phosphorous bombs to be dropped on gun positions at Trento, Italy. Anti-aircraft fire was heavy, intense and accurate, holing three ships. Five of six enemy fighters were observed at 10 o'clock although only one made a pass at the formation. It was fired on when within 350 yards and came in directly under B-25, chanelled and went down with smoke trailing from its fuselage. Ten minutes later the remaining E/A in formation overtook the B-25's and at 1200 yds. started to come in at 6 o'clock but were unaggressive breaking off when fired upon. Both S/Sgt. Woods and Sgt. Whipple claim the enemy fighter, but the actual downer will probably never be determined. In spite of all, the difficulty encountered over the target did not prevent a successful raid as photographs prove that the gun positions were well covered by our pattern. The second wave of six B-25's of this Squadron taking off at 10:05 hours with 20x1000 bombs weren't quite so successful in their attack on Borgo E. Railroad bridge. Their pattern hit approximately 100 yards east of the east approach. However, ack-ack was inaccurate and the raid was considered a milk run.....Next to arguing as to who knocked down the enemy fighter things were rather quiet today.....General Cannon was at the Group yesterday for the celebration of the 600th mission. He commended the terrific bombing being done by the 340th....."Pistol Packin' Mama" was shown at the Group movie tonite. It is one of the worst pictures any Group has ever seen.....

7th

A force of twelve 487th bombers took off this morning to bomb Latisana railroad bridge in Northern Italy. Flak was nil and the formation placed an excellent pattern scoring direct hits by both boxes. All planes were back to the base safely at 13:55 hours.....It's quite evident that combat men who up to now thought they were finished will have to fly at least ten more missions. After being threatened with court-martial and the prospect of losing their rank the boys have decided to give in. Thus the quota of a combat tour has increased to seventy missions which is probably exactly what was strived for when the fracas started.....This is an important date in the U.S. today although it's not much more than another Tuesday to us. However, the political question is discussed regularly throughout the meal hours. Republicans and Democrats are pretty well divided in this organization although no one is betting on Dewey. None of us will probably ever know what the other would have done had he been elected, but new talent always provides variety.....Most of the afternoon was spent sweating out the mail which according to the time taken to sort should have been abundant. It turned out to be papers, a few packages and some old beat-up long overdue letters....."Pistol Packin' Mama" was repeated at the movie tonite.....

8th

It was announced this morning that President Roosevelt was still our Commander in chief. Quite naturally everyone wasn't completely satisfied, but the decision was made by popular vote and the only thing to do is back the President one hundred percent. We can only hope that he brings us through this war as quickly as possible with a lasting peace.....Twelve squadron bombers took off at 10:18 hours to bomb Pinzano railroad bridge in northern Italy. A few bombs cut the railroad track although the pattern hit south of the bridge, no hits were observed on bridge or approach. No flak or other enemy opposition was encountered and all planes and crews returned safely to the base.....Maj. Parsons called a meeting of all combat men to impart the latest news on the length of a combat tour. The minimum effort is now seventy missions and needless to say the change has caused quite a bit of dissension, particularly among those who have completed sixty missions and have been waiting around for three or

four weeks for their departure papers.....Fried Chicken for dinner today and really tough birds – the spam served for supper was even more palatable.....Another “Beaucoup” mail delivery made an uneventful day a little interesting.....”Bride by Mistake” starring Lorraine Day was the entertaining picture shown at the movie tonite.....

9th

At 09:55 this morning six bombers of the 487th Squadron took off to bomb Tomba south railroad bridge in Northern Italy. However, a heavy undercast completely covered the target area and all planes returned with their bombs. It was a milk-run, probably due to the fact that gun batteries were unable to sight the formation.....A band naming contest is now in effect for the purpose of naming the eleven piece 340th band. The contest will be over next Thursday and the winner will receive a case of beer. In the otherwise colorless and dumb Red Cross enlisted men's club, the band gave forth with a little swing session beginning at 20:30 this evening. About the only time anyone is interested in going to the Red Cross Club is on a special occasion because it's a cinch sugar cookies and rancid coffee is no inducement.....Master Sergeants have been detailed to count the number eating at each meal hour. 1st/Sgt. Parkins started it out today using the bean method. Some say it's to get an exact count on how many eat at each meal and others claim that the rations are going to be cut as we are no longer considered combat troops. Guess the boys going up to bomb Northern Italy are just going for the ride.....”Bride by Mistake” was repeated at the movie tonite.....

10th

Two six ship missions left the ground today within twenty minutes of one another. First six took off at 11:05 to bomb Caslae Monferrato railroad bridge in Northern Italy. Three planes in the formation were holed by the intense flak encountered although they failed to drop their bombs due to a malfunctioning intervalometer in the lead ship.....Cittadella by-pass was the target for the following six ship formation. Their pattern cut the eastern end of the by-pass at the overwater section with direct hits observed on target. No ack-ack was encountered over the target although a slight barrage was met enroute. All planes returned to the base undamaged.....A gale with about a seventy mile an hour velocity swept the Squadron area last nite leaving the mess-hall in quite an upheaval. The mess tents were in the midst of a frequent change over, the purpose being to make more head-space. The three tents that had been raised were blown down, frame work and all. The enlisted men's club on the end of the mess-hall just collapsed like a pre-fab job. Special Service tent and several other tents on the line also took to the air. Needless to say, it took many a detail to put things back in shape. There's always something to keep the boys busy.....Lts. Spencer, Sterling, Holley and V.J. Miller made Captain today and Lt. Sparling made First. Too bad we don't have suitable facilities for a proper celebration.....”Once Upon a Time” played at the 340th movie tonite.....

11th

eighteen bombers of the Squadron took off at 11:13 hours this morning to attack Pontetivone railroad bridge in Northern Italy. The formation placed a very concentrated pattern covering the west central portion knocking the bridge out with large craters observed. Direct hits were also scored on a highway bridge just south of the given target. Enemy opposition was nil and all planes returned safely to the base.....On Major Parsons' recent hop around the country he stopped at Athens, Greece. They were only there for two days, but everyone on the plane was favorably impressed by the City. The only thing they brought back was Greek liquor which is supposed to be very good.....Cpl. Nelson is marooned down in Catania due to a mal-functioning nose wheel. It is hoped that the mail continued to come in as

it has been doing since he departed. Whether by coincidence or otherwise is not determined, but we always seem to get more mail when "Smiley" is on leave.....The mess-hall is standing once more although there is still plenty of repairing to be done following the big wind from somewhere....."Once Upon a Time" was repeated at the movie tonite.....

12th

Crews were alerted and ready for a mission this morning, but at the last minute a stand-down was declared. Shortly after the raid was called off a wind storm set in which lasted throughout the afternoon – winter has come to Corsica.....Rations were distributed today in quantity although the selection of candy wasn't too good. Fourteen packs of cigarettes for two weeks is not sufficient for a heavy smoker and consequently much bargaining is being done. Eight bottles of beer were dispersed to each man yesterday as the two week ration.....S-2 has procured some wood for the purpose of winterizing their office. They had been putting off the ordeal in anticipation of a pre-fab building to be shared with the Parachute department, but that possibility looks like a lost cause.....Every Enlisted man payed an extra fifteen francs with his P.X. rations today for ice-cream that we are supposed to have next Sunday. It seems that some sort of an ice-cream powder was received with the rations this week. A fine time to start sending ice-cream over here.....No picture was shown at the Group movie tonite. It's getting a little chilly for open air movies any nite now.....

13th

Today at 11:45 twelve planes of this Squadron took off to bomb Faenza road bridge in Northern Italy. Clouds completely obscured that target and all bombs were returned to the base.....Football is starting up around the area lately. No actual games are played, but everyone seems to be knocking themselves out by just throwing the ball around the place.....Rumor has it that we'll be out of Corsica by the 15th of next month. The supposed new location will be in the vicinity of Rimini. It may be a nice place although it's going to be cold over on the Adriatic. Rumors of a Pacific move have quieted down considerably which is just as well.....Next to going home the arrival of Xmas packages will rival any event that could take place. However, if it goes like it did last year, it won't be long before everyone will be sick and tired of packages.....The Malta ship that was grounded in Catania for the last few days due to nose wheel trouble arrived back at the base tonite. Cpl. "Smiley" Nelson, who remained in Catania for the entire period is still impressed by the Sicilian women.....The picture for tonite was called off due to rain.

14th

Mission for today was called off this morning due to poor weather over the target area. It was just as well that there was no mission because most combat men were on the roster to receive awards. The presentation was held at two P.M. by Gen'l. Knapp in front of Group Operations. A band played during the ceremony which relieved the monotony to some extent although it still seemed like the entire Island of Corsica was decorated. This is the second time Gen. Knapp pinned on D.F.C's to the tune of "My Sweet Little Alice Blue Gown." It's a toss up as to who is the most eager to avoid these days, the men being presented or the honor guard.....We had half hours notice this morning to have the area in inspection order. Col. Chapman was the inspecting officer and he was evidentially well satisfied with the cow pasture. 1st/Sgt. Parkins called a meeting immediately following the inspection and complimented the enlisted men.....Rain threatened all day, bu the threat never developed into anything other than an occasional drop or two....."Louisiana Hayride" was shown at the Group movie tonite.....

15th

No mission today and very little of anything else. Italy was closed in completely from Naples to the bomb line and consequently not even the regular pleasure ships left the base.....All members of the band were planning on a three day vacation in Rome, starting today and the weather kept them here for an engagement at the Officers Club tonite. It was quite a mixed up affair until the weather intervened because invitations had been sent out and it would have been impossible to change everyone's plans as they were intent on going to the big city.....The Officers Club had been closed for several days due to a threatened epidemic of trench mouth. However, the threat must be under control by now.....The first load of Xmas packages came in today and although there weren't a great deal of them we're expecting to be deluged with them from now on. Now that they've started its a pretty good bet that the deliveries will be numerous from now on until the glad day.....A new crew joined the Squadron yesterday, but the Lord only knows why as it doesn't look as though anyone will be finishing up for sometime to come....."The Gang's All Here" was shown at the Group movie tonite.....

16th

Faenza Road bridge was again the target for twelve bombers of the 487th Squadron. Take-off was at 13:25 hours, and all planes returned safely to the base after completing the very successful raid. Direct hits were observed on the bridge with several spans believed knocked out. Anti-aircraft fire encountered was inaccurate and no damage was done to the participating aircraft. Six planes of this Squadron also participated in a nickeling mission over Northern Italy this morning. Nickels were dropped in the designated areas without opposition.....Approximately twenty men awaited take-off for Rome this morning, but the wait was in vain as Italy remained closed for the day. The bunch now over there are really getting a break.....S-2 spent the time between missions winterizing the department. They now have a very nice set-up boasting wood floor and sides.....Rumor has it the one must be overseas at least twenty-nine months before even being eligible for rotation. Stuff like this really does something for the morale....A recent article about the 340th Group appearing in a New Your paper stated that no one was the slightest bit war weary. Are they kidding?....."The Gang's All Here" was repeated at the Group movie tonite.....

17th

Stand-down was announced last nite for the 487th Squadron. It was our turn to stand-down. The boys trying to finish up in a hurry aren't very appreciative of a missionless day particularly when the weather is good.....Several nights ago after the dance at the Officers Club Lts. Cline, Deneen and Van Etten decided to make merry in the area. Sleepers were slightly annoyed by the hilarious group, but after several hours they either passed out or gave up the idea and the area returned to a pleasant solitude. Needless to say, the participants were very sad looking sacks the next morning.....Rumor has it that pilfering from the officers mess is reaching extreme proportions and recently they found it necessary to substitute hard talk for bread at the noon meal. It looks as though a store room complete with lock will have to be erected.....Several combat crew members spent a hectic day dodging the M.P.'s in Corte today. No one will divulge the day's activities, but its supposed that they had a little too much Corsican tonic which usually leads to not so honorable desires....."Falcon in Mexico" was the picture at the movie tonite.....

18th

Target for twelve 487th planes was the Zidanimost railroad bridge in Yugoslavia. There was no enemy opposition encountered and both patterns covered the south central portion and south approach to bridge with four or five direct hits observed. It was a long mission although all planes returned safely from the almost five hours raid. It was rather coincidental that the Squadron hit Yugoslavia just about a year ago this time. Already many rumors concerning a move to Yugoslavia are circulating. One year ago when we raided Yugoslavia it was believed that the war was about over, but today its another story. However, now that that long promised push on the western front has begun some optimists still think the war in Europe will be over this year. The Russians have been unable to crack the Budapest defenses to date although they are fighting on the outskirts of the famous European Capital.....Cpl. Cissel returned to his tent tonite slightly under the weather to find "Uncle Willie," popular Squadron canine, in his sack. Cissel found it necessary to make up another bed on the floor before "Uncle Willie" would budge.....The Squadron received "beaucoup" mail today only to find it had been misdirected and belonged to a hospital in Italy. Naturally the disappointment was celebrated with much bitching....."The Falcon in Mexico" was repeated at the movies tonite.....

19th

Twelve bombers of this Squadron took off at 11:23 hours, one element of six to bomb Faenza north road bridge and the other to bomb Faenza south road bridge. Both bridges and approaches received hits although it is believed that they were left intact. Heavy caliber anti-aircraft fire was experienced on the bomb run, but due to its inaccuracy no damage was done to the formation.....Planes are still unable to take off for Rome which is giving the boys now over there quite a leave. The boys about to go on pass prepare to leave every morning, but the weather and condition of Littoria landing ground alter their plans daily.....Lt. Mako has developed the habit of waiting around the mess hall in the morning to see that on one eats after eight o'clock. The sad part is that his watch is the only correct time piece in the Squadron and he settles all arguments by saying a matter of minutes is unimportant.....For the last few days the mail situation has reverted to the "poco" or "T.S." category. Last year at this time we were getting Xmas packages in abundance.....The rationing of bread to the tune of two per man each meal has put a cramp in the regular evening snacks. However, with the absence of packages no one has much to eat anyway.....Regular church services were held at the Red Cross Club today although a new Catholic Chaplain officiated.....No show was given by the 340th tonite.....

20th

The mission scheduled this morning was called off and a stand-down declared as a result of the weather in target vicinity. The supposed target was a milk-run detail which always meets with disapproval when called off.....A little change has taken place in the mess-hall menu. Instead of having the main meal which usually consists of fresh meat at noon we are now having it in the evening. Several timely reasons are responsible for the change.....The parachute Department has moved out to the line in a pre-fab building. However, the parachute boys who spent so much time and effort on their personal tent have decided to remain in the Squadron area with the exception of Delorge. The vacated parachute tents will be used for a "Day Room" to be added on the mess-hall.....A U.S.O. show called Hollywood Hi-Jinks was staged at the Red Cross Club tonite. There were two showings, one at 6:30 P.M. for enlisted personnel and the other at 8:30 for officers and the remaining E.M. who were unable to get in at the first performance. The place was so crowded that few actually saw the show. Men were hanging from the rafters and every other imaginable place. Seven lovely women made the show a success

despite the conditions under which it was seen. More live shows of this variety would be a decided improvement.....

21st

A six ship formation from this Squadron took off with a frag load this morning, but was called back due to the weather. The target was to have been troop concentrations in the Faenza area.....It looks as though the personnel of the 487th have seen their last of Rome for a while anyway. Group tells us that Littoria is closed to B-25's while the field is under repair. Steel matting is being installed and the job may take all winter. In the meantime leaves to Capri are being granted.....It was disclosed at a meeting of all enlisted men today that Major Parsons thanked the men for their cooperation during his regime and turned the meeting over to Major Rapp. It's beginning to look as though the original enlisted ground crew will be all that remains of the old 487th. Capt. Parrish assumed the duty of Ass't. Operations Officer. Lt. George Smith who was grounded for medical reasons after forty-four missions as a bombardier is now Squadron Adjutant. Major Bugbee is also back with the Squadron after his tour of detached service in Group Hq. Lt. Lane is functioning as Supply and Transportation officer although he's still wearing the Infantry insignia and will do so for thirty days after his transfer goes into effect. Capt. Tasker is still in hospital....."Song of the Open Road" was the picture shown at the Group movie tonite.....

22nd

This morning at 09:50 hours twelve bombers of the 487th Squadron took off to bomb the Faenza defense area. Both frag patterns landed within the target area causing large explosions. It is believed that great damage and heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy during this successful raid. Anti-aircraft fire was encountered northeast of the target area, but it was inaccurate and no damage was done to the raiding bombers.....Many combat crew members are nearing the "seventy mark" with no immediate hope of relief as replacements just aren't coming in. High officials must expect the war to be over soon, but we don't seem to share the feeling.....Representatives of the Adjutant General's Office were inspecting the Squadron today. They inspected everything from mess-kits to administrative files not leaving a stone unturned. Apparently the inspectors were well satisfied as we have heard nothing to the contrary as yet. All men had the privilege of speaking to the Major representing the Adjutant General and it is rumored that eleven combat crew members approached him on the question of enlisted combat men being barred from the Medical Disposition Board. No doubt there will be reprisals on this score.....Everyone is getting in readiness for the big meal tomorrow- its rumored to be sensational. However, the fanfare of last Thanksgiving is obvious by its absence. The boys are more interested in getting home than they are in turkey dinners....."In the Meantime Darling" was shown at the cold outdoor 340th Group movie tonite.....

23rd

Thanksgiving Day – A mission was scheduled this morning but before noon it was canceled and a stand-down declared. Perhaps the reason was weather but we're inclined to think the holiday might have had something to do with it.....In the way of celebration, we had fresh eggs from Catania for breakfast and then waited until three o'clock came around for the big meal. At 3 o'clock half the Sqd. was standing in line and the meal was really worth waiting for. It consisted of a huge portion of turkey, fine dressing, potatoes, vegetables, fresh salad, fruit salad, cranberry sauce, fresh bread and butter, coffee and apple pie. Two bottles of beer were also distributed to each man. All ground officers were invited and accepted the invitation to dine at the Enlisted Men's mess-hall. They say the Officers Mess

was really a MESS with everyone full of Thanksgiving cheer although the same menu predominated up there.....Where all the liquor came from is a mystery but there must have been plenty available judging from the number who were really feeling their oats.....Major Bugbee and 1st/Sgt. Parkins celebrated the glad day up in the hills hunting partridges. They made a pretty good haul and returned in time for dinner with their French companion.....There was a Thanksgiving Dance held at the Officer's Club tonite which caused no end of furor in the wee hours of the morning. Light sleepers spent a very restless nite as a result of this dance.....Lt. Bloomberg paid for nine hundred eggs in Catania and arrived back at Alesan with a mere six hundred last nite. Those Eyeties are shrewd operators – and at twenty cents per egg they couldn't be considered small time.....”In the Meantime Darling” was repeated at the Group movie tonite.....

24th

As the combat men prepared to depart for the line the mission was called off and a stand-down declared. No one was very sad about the turn of events because there were many big heads from the night before and secondly the scheduled target was a hot one.....Many of the boys particularly the officers were nursing terrific hang-overs today. According to reports on the fights that took place there must have been plenty of liquor available which automatically made the officers dance a success.....This makes the third day in succession that there has been no mail whatsoever in the Squadron. No doubt the delay is due to Xmas packages although we have only received twelve bags of those thus far.....Everyone seems to be betting on the war's end and they vary from the end of the year to next summer. However, a lot of fellows have lost so much on bets so far that they hesitate to wager any money on such an uncertainty.....Around eleven o'clock tonite Lt. Bloomberg was heard running around screaming “fire” but before help arrived his happy home was a mass of flames. The decontamination truck was brought up and water poured into the tent and when everything was well soaked the last flame died. Lt. Bloomberg claimed it to be the best ten in the area, but that's only one man's opinion. At least he has the distinction of being the first man to lose his tent as a result of fire this season. There were three other occupants who were just as sad about the whole thing as Lt. Bloomberg, but they suffered in silence.....”The Merry Monahans” was shown at the Group movie tonite.....

25th

Stand-down was in effect all day. We seem to be getting back to those missionless days again although we really can't complain as the weather on the Island has been pretty favorable in comparison to what we had last year at this time in Sunny Italy.....The Educational program has actually started with a class in Algebra. However, until enrollment is completed it won't be known how successful the project is. If there are enough students a class will be held in each Squadron otherwise a combined Group class will be held. We are told that this is only the beginning and that other subjects will be offered shortly.....Major Rapp made a through inspection today but his reaction is still unknown. It is said that he doesn't miss much so the boys are holding their breath. All Air Corps equipment found in the wrong hands was confiscated.....The Group band has finally chosen their new name. No one in the orchestra is particularly satisfied with it, but “The Skyliners” was the most appropriate suggested. There was some deal whereby they had to have a name in a hurry so it was a rapid choice. They may be getting some new instruments and music by submitting a name.....T/Sgt. Bills was picked up tonite after spending nine days in Malta without a pass. Upon returning he was ushered to the guard house where he will await a court martial.....”The Merry Monahans” was repeated at the Group movie tonite.....

26th

Magenta had the boys really sweating this morning, but just before Squadron alert a stand-down was declared. Showers threatened all morning and in the afternoon we had rain lasting well into the evening.....Five planes picked up the boys stranded in Rome for seventeen days today and a new bunch went over for three days. Littoria opened up sooner than expected with its new steel runway which will put a stop to these unlimited passes enjoyed heretofore as a result of the field's condition. The boys brought back today were more than slightly relieved to see 340th aircraft as their funds ere rapidly decreasing. No doubt Army finance and the Red Cross were tapped more than once during the lengthy sojourn.....P.X. rations were distributed today that weren't worth the bother. They rather consisted of fourteen packages of "off brand" cigarettes, one tropical Hershey bar, four packages of gum and a package of cookies. This is the worst two week ration we've ever had, at least since leaving the desert. It is said that all shipping is being utilized for ammunition to the western front, but according to recent travelers in Naples the shortage has had no effect on the Neapolitan black market.....In accordance with the general practice there was no movie presented by the 340th tonite.....

27th

Another miserable, wet, gloomy day and a stand-down that always goes with such weather. It rained all nite and morning and for a while it looked like a recurrence of the flood disaster that befell us over a month ago. However, the rain stopped later in the day and only the gloom remained with us. "Sacks" were the most popular spots in the area which will probably be the case for the next few months.....Last nite the orchestra played for a dance in Bastia and remained over nite. The 487th is well represented in the Group band and since Sgt. Barnes manages it the outfit is more like a Squadron project.....Many vicious rumors concerning Xmas packages are circulating. Most prominent is the one about ours burning on the Naples docks. If that was actually the case it will be a mighty sad day. We hear that the boys in Italy and France are getting theirs regularly so there must be a tie-up somewhere. Such inefficiency is inexcusable particularly when the distorted facts about our "splendid" mail service is bally-hoed to the sky by the American press.....The rain held off long enough to show "National Barn Dance" at the outdoor movie tonite.....

28th

Another rainy morning, but the skies cleared around noon and enabled our crews to prepare for a mission. At 12:48 hours, fifteen of our aircraft took off to bomb the Magenta railroad bridge in Northern Italy. The formation was over the designated area at 14:50 hours and released their 48,000 lb. bomb load from 11,400 ft. with excellent results. The first box had a compact pattern on the west end of the bridge with direct hits observed. 2nd box believed in the same area. Heavy, moderate and accurate anti-aircraft fire was encountered, holing two of our ships. S/Sgt. G. H. Killen was slightly wounded on the chin by a piece of flak which penetrated the ship in which he was riding. No other enemy opposition was encountered and all planes and crews returned safely to the base.....Another day and the eagerly awaited Xmas packages did not make an appearance neither was there any first-class mail at this point a "beaucoup" delivery would do wonders for the morale of the "forgotten soldiers" on the Island of Corsica.....Fried chicken for supper tonite and unusually tasty.....The war news on all fronts continues to be good, but not good enough for most of the 340th war-weary warriors – the smash thru to final and decisive victory is our aim, but quickly....."National Barn Dance" was repeated at the movies tonite.....

29th

Stand-down was in effect all day. It was our turn to stand-down although none of the Squadrons flew today. Unless its a supreme effort we'll stand-down until the rest of the Group files a mission. Most combat men are definitely not in favor of stand-downs because it just prolongs their overseas tour and funny as it may seem almost everyone is interested in getting home.....Combat crew replacements came into the Squadron late this afternoon and Sgt. Parkins had a hell of a time finding quarters for them. Naturally this is a great boost for our combat men who are rapidly approaching the seventy mark.....Coffee and donuts were dispensed in the mess-hall this afternoon by the new Red Cross girl. She demanded a smile from T/Sgt. Beadle before giving him the sinkers.....Mail is at least constant these days, it ranged from Poco to nothing and mostly nothing. Apparently the postal authorities are too busy getting Xmas packages to Napoli Commandos to bother with Corsica.....The Group orchestra has enlarged to sixteen pieces now and can hardly keep up with its engagements. They should be putting on their show shortly....."Up in Mable's Room" was shown at the Group movie tonite.....

30th

Another stand-down for this Squadron – perfect weather on the Island, but heavy rains in the vicinity of the target. If it's not here it's there which means that we can't expect to get many bombing missions in until after the winter months.....The monotony of these missionless days is broken by the numerous games of touch foot-ball being played throughout the Group. Plans are now in progress for competitive games between sections in the Squadrons and at a later date the Squadron will vie for the Group championship.....Sgt. Moore has endeavored to brighten the appearance of S-2 by painting the interior of their shack with a coat of white paint – the result: a trifle better than before.....A small delivery of Xmas packages arrived today in conjunction with a "poco" amount of first-class mail – not enough to boost morale, however everyone is expecting the bulk of holly wrapped remembrances from home within the next few days. The first of a series of dances for enlisted men was held tonite at the Enlisted Mens Red Cross Club. The 488th Squadron was host to twenty-five Corsican belles and from all accounts a good time was had by all. The only draw-back was that the girls had to leave at 10:00 P.M. which is much too early to wind up a G.I. affair. Next week the 487th Squadron will entertain the girls and it's hoped that we can treat them to dinner in our mess-hall and start the dance at 6:30 thereby giving everyone a chance to jostle the dollies around before they return to their Mamas. "Up in Mabel's room with Marjorie Reynolds and Dennis O'Keefe was repeated at the movies tonite.....

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