

[This transcript covers December 1944 through February 1945]

December 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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b. Changes in Organization

1. First Lt. George H. Smith assigned permanent Squadron Adjutant vice Capt. Bernard M. Coyle who was furloughed to the Untited States.

j. Personnel who distinguished themselves in action.

Charles R. Klebes Jr.  
Wilbur C. Lantz  
Verl J. Miller  
Olan B. Parrish  
John E. Rapp  
Bernard Bloomberg  
Robert W. Brownlee  
George P. Gaffney  
George H. Killen  
George H. Smith

The following personnel awarded Air Medal and Clusters:

Gordon E. Butterfield  
William P. Crandell  
james M. Garner  
James C. Holloman  
Harvey M. Hyland  
Robert E. MacMillen  
Robert H. Martin  
George S. Moule  
William A. Mclaughlin  
Guiseppe Serangeli  
Walter J. Smith  
James L. Webb  
Blaise A. Azzara

William N. Baskervill  
Wilbur R. Beadle  
Walter T. Bielski  
Eugene J. Broos Jr.  
Willard A. Bruce  
Marion C. Burger  
Charles M. Cook  
David D. Cuthbertson  
Clarence L. Dillard  
Richard F. Evans  
Alleson J. Fornister  
Harold H. Frazier  
George Gregor  
Dwain D. Gull  
Nelson Halstead  
Raymond S. Heckman  
Thomas F. Hetzel  
Ferrell L. Holley  
Kenneth R. Hopkins  
Emil F. Jettmar  
Walter F. Joyce Jr.  
Donald M. Kenney  
William E. Krebs  
Wilbur C. Lantz  
Morris D. La Vine  
Roger D. Lewis  
Vernon J. Lyle  
John P. Mako  
John C. Miller  
Verl J. Miller  
William E. McGriffin  
Walter V. McVee  
Edward W. Oviatt  
Howard L. Owen  
Alton W. Parker  
Carl A Pennock  
Donald A. Peters  
John Polanko  
Joseph F. Quinlin  
James R. Rambo  
John E. Rapp  
John C. Rau  
Paul N. Spencer  
Jesse A. Summers Jr.  
Nathan G. Thomas  
Howard L. Trudell  
John J.S. Wisanowski  
Winthrop L. Woodward

December 1, 1944

Started off the month with a stand-down today. These stand-downs drag on everyone from ground crew personnel to combat men. However, the rest of the Group flew today so we'll probably have a mission tomorrow.....F/O Polanko replaced Lt. Semenak as Squadron Athletic Officer today. He started off with a bang and was out measuring off the football field this afternoon. It's also rumored that we will have a basketball court before long. Lt. Semenak will be leaving for the home shores shortly.....All the packages that are supposed to be on the Island, according to the latest rumor, are still among the mission. No doubt we'll still be awaiting their arrival Christmas Eve.....P.R.O. informs us that the holiday is going to be so gala that we wouldn't want to be home. A colossal deal must be in the making, but it's rather doubtful that it will be that good.....Oak leaf clusters to the D.F.C. are now being given out to officers on the same basis as Air Medal clusters – so many hits comprise a recommendation. This automatically drags the value of the once precious medal down closer to the Good Conduct category.....An all colored G.I. show was presented at the Red Cross Club tonite. Needless to say, only half of the personnel desiring to see the show actually got to see it. According to those fortunates who saw it, the show was a success and if the crowd were used as an indication, "IT WAS A WOW".....

2<sup>nd</sup>

Fifteen ships of this Squadron took off at 12:10 hours to bomb Mantua north railroad bridge in Northern Italy. Three chaff ships led each element of twelve bombers. Direct hits were scored by the first box and it is believed that the bridge was knocked out. The second box made their run over the alternate, but only the first ship dropped due to radio error. Anti-aircraft fire was heavy, but inaccurate and all planes returned to the base undamaged.....487<sup>th</sup> is supposed to have an enlisted mens dance at the Red Cross Club next Thursday evening. The girls will be imported from Bastia and attendance will be limited due to the female shortage – twenty girls in this neck of the woods is a lot of women. 488<sup>th</sup> made a success of theirs last Thursday so we should be able to do likewise.....Major Rapp was waltzing around the area this afternoon attired for a dress parade. However, it was nothing of the kind, he was merely going to a G.I. wedding party this evening.....S-2 spends ninety-five percent of their time these days chopping wood. It seems that Capt. Linthicum is afraid of a gas stove and as a result S-2 is the only department using wood. Thus far we've only had one accident due to gas stoves.....The game of "battle ships" has become quite the vogue in the 487<sup>th</sup> of late, in fact the mimeograph department can't keep up with the demand for blanks. They claim it's fascinating, but actually the game is a little juvenile for grown men. Perhaps twenty-two months overseas has something to do with it....."Tall in the Saddle" was featured at the Group movie tonite. Many say it's the best western they've ever seen.....

3<sup>rd</sup>

Twelve bombers of the 487<sup>th</sup> Squadron took-off at 11:09 hours this morning to bomb two distinct targets, Canneto railroad bridge and Mantua East railroad bridge in Northern Italy. Canneto was completely overshoot, but Mantua was crossed with a compact pattern immediately east of center. The bridge was severely damaged although still standing. Heavy enemy anti-aircraft fire was encountered, but due to inaccuracy no planes were holed or damaged.....Touch football teams among the different sections are being organized so before long we should see some pretty good football. Several boys are to be selected for the big Spaghetti Bowl game to be staged on New Year's Day in Florence. It's surprising the number of fine ex-college athletes we have in the Squadron.....When asked if he had just come overseas, one new gunner replied, "Why no, I've been over for thirty days." No doubt his attitude will be different after he spends a couple of years over here because by the time he gets up there, God

only knows how many missions will be considered a tour of combat.....The 1st/Sgt. has been vacationing in Bari for the last few days, but is expected back tomorrow. Sgt. "Greg" Moore is also in Bari visiting his brother who he hasn't seen for over two years.....No show tonite at the 340<sup>th</sup>.....

4<sup>th</sup>

Mission was scheduled this morning, but at the last minute it was called off and a stand-down declared.....Today was rather hectic although we managed to get through it. The formal presentation of our Presidential citation ribbon was staged today by Gen. Cannon. No one knew anything about it until an hour before the formation and when half of the subjects were notified they had but fifteen minutes in which to get dressed. Ninety-five percent of the Squadron was present including officers and enlisted men. The lack of a tailor is quite evident in such a formation – half of the personnel look like unmade beds. However, in spite of the obstacles we were out in front of Group Operations at the designated time – no one knew the exact time of the General's arrival, but in true Army fashion we were there an hour ahead of time. Generals Cannon and Knapp inspected the personnel, not too thoroughly and then amidst a little fanfare pinned the ribbon on the Group flag. Following the half hour ceremony the troops marched in review and off the field. We have been wearing the ribbon for several months, but evidently we weren't supposed to until now....."Shorty" Larson has another new man working with him now which makes a total of three carpenters. Carpentry has risen from a one man job to a department within the last few months, but they always seem to have enough work for an entire division. However, "Shorty" will get by as long as there's at least forty nails for each board.....Bitching about having to get ready for the formation and more bitching after the thing was over constituted most of the day's activities for teh 487<sup>th</sup> Squadron today....."Hail Conquering Hero" was featured at the Group cinema tonite.....

5<sup>th</sup>

A stand-down was declared early this morning after crews had spent the early hours preparing for a mission. Stand-downs around here are no thrill because there is absolutely no place to go other than for a nice lonesome stroll in the hills. Some of the boys go up to the mountain towns occasionally although there isn't much point to it because there's nothing to do once they arrive there.....Trucks loaded with mail bags have been running up and down the road all day which has done wonders for the morale. We haven't received anything as yet, but the anticipation is sufficient for great rejoicing.....Many took advantage of the bright day to construct additions to their tents. Before very long every tent in the area will be completely winterized at which time we'll probably move. Tools would certainly be a welcome shipment to this quarter because no more than three people can work at a time.....A Lt. Col. health inspector of the 12<sup>th</sup> Air Force took us by surprise this morning. He inspected the mess hall and dispensary and then gave the personnel the old one two. We hope that he found everything in inspection order although it's hard to satisfy those operators....."Hail Conquering Hero" was featured at the Group movie tonite.....

6<sup>th</sup>

Another stand-down today, the reason again was the weather. However, we enjoyed a beautiful spring like day here on Corsica. Few G.I.'s will ever eat up the stories about Sunny Italy so prevalent in our travel guides.....Cpl. Nelson started out the day with a bang by unloading a huge truck load of Christmas packages. In fact there were forty-six bags in all on the first load. Later another load of about the same amount came in and still later yet another two truck loads came in. Nelson was up to his ears in mail all day to the delight of all personnel. Everyone in the Squadron averaged about five or

six packages a piece and they say that the docks of Bastia are still loaded. No doubt this is only half of it, but it's a good start.....The Officers Club had a dance tonite which they say consisted almost entirely of 487<sup>th</sup> men. Immediately following the dance all sleepers in the Squadron received a P \_\_\_\_\_ Call. One of the celebrants, Lt. Broos faked a pistol and had everyone afraid to move by saying he would put a slug or two in some poor sleeping soul's tent.....No one left the Squadron today for fear they'd miss out on the packages. Needless to say ninety-five percent of the day was spent sweating out packages, then opening and sampling same....."Barbary Coast Gent" was shown at the Group movie tonite.....

7<sup>th</sup>

Weather over the target area again kept all planes on the ground. It's beginning to look as if missions will be few and far between from here on in.....The football game between pilots and clerks was changed from 3 o'clock to 1 o'clock this afternoon in favor of the dance. The score was tied at 6 to 6. Lt. Love sustained a fractured ankle as a result of a rough block. Bombardiers beat the Armorers, 14 to 13 in their game also played this afternoon.....Arrangements for the Squadron dinner party and dance didn't work out as expected, but everyone seemed to enjoy themselves anyway. The bus coming from Bastia with the female dinner guests broke down enroute so the boys ate alone spare several of the local belles. The steak dinner was served in the Officers mess by G.I.'s. The dance started at 6:30 P.M. attended by approximately twenty girls and sixty fellows. Corsicans are very poor dancers, but everyone managed to move around the floor several times before ten. Coffee, donuts, sandwiches and cookies wer served throughtout the evening in the elaborately decorated Red Cross Club (decorations by 487<sup>th</sup>). Everything considered a good time was had by all.....Four new crews came in today. Some difficulty in quartering them, but everyone was well taken care of by nightfall....."Barbary Coast Gent" was repeated at the Group movie tonite.....

8<sup>th</sup>

Stand-down today. The entire Allied forces must be persuing the enemy about like the 340<sup>th</sup> is according to Allied progress. Much money will change hands at the end of this year when the war is still in full stride with the "Big Three" reminding everyone that the knock-out blow is being prepared. Common opinion is that the Allied strategy has turned into nothing more than a political football. Evidently political differences must be solved before a military victory can be effected – at least it's beginning to look that way.....Lt. Wheaton, who has been confined to quarters for months awaiting Court Martial was acquitted yesterday for insufficient evidence. The inactivity has put considerable weight on Lt. Wheaton so evidently the strain was not felt too deeply.....Lt. Geo. Smith, 1st/Sgt. Parkins and the Duty Sergeant staged an inspection of area and tents late this afternoon. Inspections are rapidly becoming part of this Squadron's routine lately. The mess-hall has inaugurated a new system for last minute eaters in the morning. One member of the mess personnel is stationed at each door anywhere around 8 o'clock and anyone coming after that time is refused service. Apparently an infraction of fifteen minutes would spoil the stew that seems to be so difficult to prepare and equally as difficult to eat. The food put out is merely life sustaining and is certainly not worth arguing over so anyone missing the breakfast is suffering no great loss.....A meeting was called this morning to warn personnel of an expected hurricane, but only a high wind resulted. Also covered at the meeting was the heavy drinking taking place among the combat men, particularly officers. Armorers were assigned to a plane and they will now be held responsible for the guns on that plane – that is the armorer-gunners....."Take it Easy" was shown at the movie tonite.....

9<sup>th</sup>

The 487<sup>th</sup> enjoyed another stand-down today. A mission withing the 340<sup>th</sup> Group these days is a rare exception.....Since the regular footbal games have commenced many of the boys are running around with bruises and limps denoting participation. Many grunts and groans are heard in the mess-hall, and not as a result of the horrible food in front of them. No doubt there will be many broken bones before the season is over.....Pvt. Coombes was brought back from Bastia stockade this morning to fly to Florence for his court-martial. He looked as though he had spent at least six months in a fox hole so it was necessary to clean him up before departure. Major Bugbee, Lt. Hammond, 1st/Sgt. Parkins and several other witnesses accompanied the prisoner to Florence.....Mail has been very slow since the big onslaught of a few days ago. Evidently we shall have to await the arrival of a few more boats in Bastia....."Take it Easy" was repeated at the Group movie tonite.....

10<sup>th</sup>

After a long period of idleness we finally got in a mission today when all of our twenty-one ships participated in an attack on the Calliano railroad bridge in Northern Italy. 7N returned to the field shortly after takeoff due to mechanical failure while the rest of the formation proceeded to their target and successfully dropped their bomb load from 10800'. The first box crossed railway tracks to north of bridge. 2<sup>nd</sup> box hit the south approach of bridge cutting tracks. Heavy, scant & inaccurate anti-aircraft fire was encountered, but did no damage to our formation and all ships returned safely to the base.....More Xmas packages came in today, but there must be a number yet undelivered as many are complaining about not being on the receiving end.....P.X. rations were distributed today with a good supply of candy and fourteen packs of off-brand cigarettes which caused many sarcastic remarks. The home-front can't procure smokes because they're all going to the boys overseas and we're getting Pall-Malls & Raleighs – so what?.....Ideal foot-ball weather found most of the boys engaging in this popular sport – many are getting banged up also.....Sunday nite and no movie as per usual.....

11<sup>th</sup>

A twelve ship mission was scheduled this morning, but just before Squadron alert a stand-down was declared. Weather again spared the enemy the might of the 487<sup>th</sup>.....Another building project is commencing in the vicinity of the mess-hall. Members of each section have been on detail for the last few days although progress is slow. No one will know what is desired until it's completed and even then one can't be sure because the mess-hall has never satisfied everyone, consequently it is being altered regularly.....The Squadron enjoyed another "Beaucoup" package delivery today. Some of the boys have received as many as fifteen packages while others are still without any. It's quite evident that the addressee is not considered when the bags are loaded over in Naples. However, before the season is over everyone in the outfit will no doubt have more than enough.....Extra candy and Christmas goodies are being requested in the Group. All of it will be donated to the children of Corsica, making theirs a Merry Xmas.....Sgt. Barnes is pulling his hair out these days as the presentation of his show draws closer. It seems that a large percentage of the entertainers are in the hospital. This is particularly true of the colored boys as pneumonia is rampant in their outfit – more than half of the entire organization are hospitalized....."The Hair Ape" was shown at the movie tonite.....

12<sup>th</sup>

Slight rain prevented the scheduled mission from taking off. However, around noon it cleared and we enjoyed another spring-like day famous in Corsica. Despite the inactivity of the Island it affords the

most beautiful weather we have yet encountered during our sojourn abroad. No doubt the climate here is similar to that of the French Riviera, but the Riviera has a lot more to offer than this God-forsaken area.....The entourage that accompanied Pvt. Coombes to Florence for his General Court-Martial returned to the Squadron this evening after spending five days in the city. Pvt. Coombes was sentenced to twenty years behind bars, and he got off rather easy considering the fact that they could have shot him for the charges against him. It will be interesting to note the actual amount of time he serves. However, it's rather doubtful that anyone will ever hear of Pvt. Coombes again.....The line boys have erected a basketball court in the vicinity of the Engineering Office and are now playing regular games. An effort is being made to build one in the area also, but little progress has been made thus far....."The Hair Ape" was repeated at the Group movie tonite.....

13<sup>th</sup>

Crews went out to briefing twice this morning, but the second time a stand-down was declared for the remainder of the day. The boys were quite disappointed as the supposed target was recognized as a "milk-run".....Our old field jackets were finally replaced by the new combat jacket today. In addition to the jacket we also received a new sweater. Frankly the sweaters are not very good examples of American merchandise although appearance isn't very important in Corsica. Opinions on the jackets vary – some don't care for them, but all like the warmth they afford.....Malta scotch was distributed to those who ordered it today. The price per quart ranged from ten to fifteen dollars. Not everyone was able to get in on the purchase although it's rumored that another hop to Malta will be arranged before the holiday.....The Group's all G.I. show performed for the first time last night at a Signal Company a few miles this side of Bastia. Despite the fact that several of the entertainers were indisposed the show turned out to be a great success. All concerned have a lot of confidence now so the show should prove to be a gala production as it progresses....."Mazie Goes to Reno" with Ann Southern played at the Group movie tonite. However, rain prevented that last reel from going on.....

14<sup>th</sup>

Eighteen ships of the 487<sup>th</sup> took off at 12:30 hours to bomb a railroad bridge at Calliano, Italy. The formation reached the target at 13:53 but due to a solid undercast were unable to drop their bombs. A heavy, scant & inaccurate barrage of anti-aircraft fire was encountered enroute, but no damage was inflicted on our formation. All planes with bomb load intact returned safely to this base.....The orchestra played last night at the Red Cross Club for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Enlisted Mens dance. This time the boys from Headquarters entertained the Corsican belles and a good time was had by all.....A number of the combat boys have completed their tour and are eagerly awaiting the documents that will return them to the Zone of the Interior. However, they wait in fear that the papers won't bounce.....Hard working details are fast whipping the mess-hall into a comfortable frame building and hoping that this time the finished product will please the "Powers that be." The mess-hall has always been a problem because of the lack of material to make a durable affair. However, when the present job is completed it should suffice for the duration of our stay on the Island.....Delivery of mail and packages has taken another slump with a "Poco" affair for the past four days. Many of the boys haven't received a single Xmas package and are berating our illustrious Uncle Sam for inefficiency....."Mazie Goes to Reno" was repeated at the movies tonite.....

15<sup>th</sup>

After two postponements, twelve of our aircraft finally took off at 12:10 hours to bomb Voghera railroad bridge in Northern Italy. The formation navigated through an 8/10 cloud coverage to the target

area. The first box made four passes dropping their bomb load on the fourth pass from 9600' and covered the right portion and right approach of both bridges. The second box dropped on third pass from 9900' and covered left approach and left portion of both bridges. No flak or other enemy opposition was encountered and all planes and crews returned safely to the base.....A U.S.O. troupe presented their show "Crazy Days" at the E.M. Red Cross at 6:30 for E.M. and 8:30 for Officers. Both performances played to capacity crowds and were well received. An occasional show by our own country-men helps to boost morale and we should have them more frequently.....The 340<sup>th</sup> Group orchestra and show travelled to the Quartermaster Laundry to give the boys in that section a lift – apparently it wasn't well advertised or the boys attached to the outfit are too "war-weary" and beyond the lifting stage. About sixty men showed up to comprise an audience for a twenty-four man show. Needless to say the performers were disgusted – no picture was shown at the 340<sup>th</sup> tonite.....

16<sup>th</sup>

An early morning mission was scheduled, postponed and finally abandoned in favor of a stand-down, due to inclement weather over the target area.....Much rejoicing took place in the Squadron area this A.M. when eight combat men learned that their "going home" papers had finally come thru – they don't even mind being detained a few days for the formal presentation of merited decorations. It has been some time since any combat men departed for the home shores and helps considerably to boost the morale of those working for "relieved of assignment" papers.....The Gunners #1 football team defeated the Clerks in a hotly contested game – score 7-6.....Work still continues on the mess-hall and the situation is generally mixed up for the time being. However, the project should be completed in the very near future with the desired effect. In spite of handicaps, the cooks tonite served a steak dinner – steaks these days are a rarity and needless to say a welcome change.....A "Beaucoup" delivery of first-class mail arrived today, but the bulk of Xmas packages are still among the missing....."Ghost Catchers" starring Olson & Johnson was presented at the Group movie tonite.....

17<sup>th</sup>

Another scheduled mission was postponed today due to bad weather in Northern Italy. A nice, clear, sunny day was enjoyed in Corsica and those who were not playing football took to the mountains for a brisk hike.....Capt. Williams & Lt. Bloomberg left the Squadron today on the first leg of their long trip to the States and home. A few more will follow within the next few days. Every day brings us closer to Xmas and many of the boys are without a single Xmas package from home – maybe by some stroke of fortune they'll be in our hands for Easter. The most provoking part of the deal is the fact that the folks at home go to no end of trouble to get the packages off only to be double-crossed by the Army. A little – very little – first-class mail came in today and although it was old mail we were glad to get it. No movie tonite, it being Sunday.

18<sup>th</sup>

Stand-down all day. One of those miserable rainy days when there's nothing to do, but stay in your tent. A scheduled decoration ceremony was postponed because of the continuous rain, but no one was disappointed. Most of the awards are clusters to the Air Medal and combat men are reluctant to stand at attention for approximately 1 ½ hours to receive the little leaf. Ground men likewise see no point in just looking on as the guard of honor. It would be a good deal if a new method for presenting the awards was initiated – something informal and less tiresome than the present system.....Just about this time last year one of our original combat men, S/Sgt. William E. Durie, departed for the U.S. after completing a tour of 50 missions – today he was visiting his old buddies in the Squadron area. He is

back in the saddle again for his second tour and is currently assigned to the 310<sup>th</sup> Group. He was hoping for a assignment with his first love, the 340<sup>th</sup>, but it just didn't work out that way.....A sizeable amount of first-class mail and a few Xmas packages came in today to brighten an otherwise dull day.....No picture was shown tonite at the movie because of the bad weather.....

19<sup>th</sup>

Rain again recorded another very uneventful day for the 487<sup>th</sup> Squadron. Several pleasure bound ships managed to get off this morning, but the mission was cancelled. Apparently we are going in to what is known as a Corsican winter, which consists mainly of much rain and bleak weather. However, with a good warm tent the season shouldn't be too unbearable.....Rumor has it that our much discussed Christmas packages are now sitting over in Pisa with the lack of transportation keeping them from us. No doubt we'll have them by early summer providing we're lucky.....More combat men departed for the United States today after completing their extended tour of duty. The fortunates were namely: Lts. Crandell, Reimer, Smith, W.J., Sgts. Bishop, Killen and Simonson. Within the next few days there should be more to follow because many of the combat men are nearing the end.....Judging from the Allied radio the German counterattack on the western front is reaching quite serious proportions. They claim it to be the fiercest action taken by the enemy since the Normandy landing. The Germans have gained back some more ground and BBC has gone so far as to say that the blow may delay the war's end for many months. It's amazing how the what we thought to be destroyed German Army can rally and deal us such a devastating blow. Perhaps the war should have been over before they had the chance to regroup if it weren't for the great power politics concerned.....Again tonite the movie was cancelled due to inclement weather.....

20<sup>th</sup>

Today was just one continuous onslaught of rain. No planes were able to takeoff and none were able to land, consequently the boys in Italy had one more day added to their passes. Rome passes were to have started again today had the boys been able to take off, but that was also discontinued in favor of the weather. From all indications it will be some time before the weather clears sufficiently to allow air transportation although Rome is now an all-weather field.....Little work, if any was accomplished in the Squadron today as the majority of the personnel spent the day in their sack or very close to it. A rain soaked tent is very uncomfortable to work in and anyone who can postpone their work is likely to do so on such a day. Some of the boys remained in their tents all day and didn't even bother to come out for chow – that is those who were fortunate enough to have Xmas food.....No mail whatsoever came in today and we're still without the majority of our Xmas packages to say nothing of back mail. No doubt Easter will find us still sweating out Christmas packages.....The mess-hall remains in the incompleated stage, making it extremely uncomfortable during these rainy days....."Crime by Night" was shown at the Red Cross Enlisted Mens Club tonite. This was the first time a show was held at the Club and it worked out pretty well.....

21<sup>st</sup>

Rain continued today with a drenching intensity. The Squadron area resembles the ground surrounding a swollen river – the ground is hard and doesn't absorb water, consequently the rain forms huge puddles and runs through the hilly area like a natural waterfall. Very little stirs until chow time and then G.I's present a bleak picture running to and from the mess-hall in their various and sundry water repellent costumes. Only time will tell, but it looks now as though the rain will never stop.....This marks the third consecutive day without mail although judging from past performances the rain has no effect on

mail services – it's never good rain or shine. Many of the boys are still without Christmas packages which is almost uncanny at the late date, but it certainly looks as though very little effort if any, is being made to expedite matters. No doubt Christmas Day will find us still wondering where our gifts are.....The carpenters were about the only people who worked today and they continued with the mess-hall construction. According to rumor the Squadron will move to Northern Italy between the first and fifteenth of next month which would be apropos of the completion of the mess-hall.....Forty-five fellows in the Squadron have signed up for the resident Algebra class which is to begin as soon as the books arrive. If the text books take as long as mail does to wend its way to the Island, classes will commence some time in September 1945.....There was no movie shown in the Group tonite as a dance was held at the Red Cross Club and rain prevented an outdoor showing.....

22<sup>nd</sup>

The lull in operations was broken this morning when eighteen bombers of the 487<sup>th</sup> Squadron took off to bomb Lavis railroad bridge and Chiari railroad bridge in Northern Italy. Both targets were bombed, but a heavy haze prevented observations although it is believed that the bombs landed within the target area. One ship was holed as a result of the scant anti-aircraft fire. 7V was forced down at Rimini before going over the target as a result of engine trouble.....After three days of rain it was a relief to see the sun today. However, it was cold and quite miserable as the dampness remained with us. As soon as the rain stopped everyone who found that their tent leaked during the deluge was out making the necessary repairs.....Sgt. Barnes nearly lost his mind tonite trying to locate transportation for his band who was playing for the grand opening of the new enlisted men's club at Wing. They arrived late, but nevertheless in time for a gala opening.....The mess-hall is now practically completed, even to the paint on the walls. They were striving to have it finished by Christmas, but it's rather doubtful that the change will improve the taste of the food although it is definitely more comfortable....."Our Hearts Were Young and Gay" was shown at the outdoor movie tonite.....

23<sup>rd</sup>

Eighteen crews went out for briefing and to the planes this morning, but a stand-down was declared just before take-off time. Weather today was rather nondescript – it looked like rain this morning, but before noon it turned into snow. However, it melted as it hit the ground which dispelled any idea of a White Christmas anyone might have had. The mountains are well covered with snow, but clouds deprive us of the effect.....Christmas packages came in yesterday and also this evening. Apparently the folks at home aren't aware of our daily menus over here because many of the boys received Spam and the famous Vienna Sausages. Lt. Polanko was the happy recipient of four lovely cans of the Angels food.....EM were completely befuddled this evening when they gazed down the tables to see Col. Chapman and Lt. Kienle enjoying a D.I. supper. Whether he know it or not Col. Chapman sort of christened our new mess-hall.....Two ships left for Rome this morning loaded with men who will spend Christmas in the Eternal City. Preference was given to Catholic men so that they would be able to attend midnite Mass at the Vatican. Two more planes are to leave tomorrow providing the weather permits.....Volunteer details have been busy the last two evenings decorating the mess-hall with pine trees and holly. However, the Christmas spirit isn't very prevalent among the Squadron members....."Our Hearts Were Young and Gay" was repeated at the Group movie tonite.....

24<sup>th</sup>

The day before Christmas and all is well except the weather. Rain continued throughout the day although it cleared up by evening and nothing remained but the puddles. The regular Sunday services

were about the only thing that drew the men from their tents. However, many of the boys volunteered to decorate the mess-hall which was very nicely done. One large Christmas tree adorned the center of the room decorated with cotton, chaff and lights. There were also holley wreaths and pine branches in each window. A lot of hard work was put into the assignment and it was excellently done.....Packages and a little mail came in this evening which needless to say was a good morale factor. We are still a way behind on the Christmas packages although the last few days have brought forth more than we actually expected to receive before the holiday.....The Officers Club was open this afternoon and ninety-five percent of the officers were showing the effect of the good liquor being served. However, everyone managed themselves very well.....Christmas Eve turned out to be quite eventful – at 7:30 "Sunday Dinner for a Soldier" was shown to the enlisted men in the Squadron mess-hall. Following the movie, ice-cream, cookies and coffee were served to everyone. It's hard to believe, but there was actually so much ice-cream that after everyone had had all they could possibly eat a considerable amount was thrown away. The ice-cream was made for us by the Red Cross in Bastia and was excellent, but just too much.....A mid-nite Mass was celebrated at the Red Cross Enlisted Man's Club for all Catholic men. The turnout was amazing considering all the activity that preceded the holy hour.....In spite of the great effort put forth by the Squadron, it is the sincere hope of all that this will be the last holiday celebrated by the 487<sup>th</sup> Squadron abroad.....

25<sup>th</sup>

Christmas day was greeted in the Squadron this morning with an excellent fresh fried egg breakfast served from 7:30 to 8:30. Dinner wasn't served until 3:00 o'clock, but it was well worth waiting for. The cooks really worked hard and their efforts were well rewarded by the enthusiasm shown by every man in the organization. Ground officers were the guests of the enlisted men in their new mess-hall. No one could complain of not having enough as mess-kits were unable to carry the burden of turkey, oyster dressing, fresh mashed potatoes, green beans, fruit salad, pickels, mince pie, cheese and coffee. The only complaint was that everyone ate entirely too much.....Many of the boys saved their Malta scotch for the occasion and the results were quite active. "Dutch" Huyser had apparently consumed much liquor before dinner time as he was considerably under the weather – more so than we've ever seen "Dutch" before. A favorite trick of the drinking enlisted men seems to be greeting the "wheels" – It's always good for a laugh.....Lts. Cline and Lewis were slightly wounded in a jeep accident this morning as a result of too much Christmas cheer. The jeep was pretty well incapacitated although the men suffered nothing but a colorful loss of blood.....S/Sgt. Bill Burie, a former 487<sup>th</sup> Squadron combat man presently with the 310<sup>th</sup> spent the day with us. He left the Squadron shortly after Christmas last year and has recently returned to this theater for a second tour with the 310<sup>th</sup>.....Too much celebration made for a very quiet Squadron area this evening – most of the boys slipped into the sack at a very reasonable hour. No doubt too, some of the boys spent the evening reflecting back on the folks at home, praying that they would be able to join them for the next Christmas celebration.....

26<sup>th</sup>

Strictly an operational day and seventeen bombers of this Squadron took off to bomb Pordenone railroad bridge in Northern Italy. Direct hits were scored on this vital bridge by the first and second boxes although a radio malfunction caused the third box to freak bomb five miles from the target. Anti-aircraft fire was light, scant and inaccurate causing no damage to the participating aircraft. Some crew members disagreed as to the accuracy of the bomb pattern, but that's not unusual and the photos will tell the true story tomorrow.....There were more washouts in the Squadron Christmas than there were today due to the fact that most of the liquor was consumed Christmas Eve. However, some hangovers were deep rooted enough to last several days – naturally a few have sworn off liquorous beverages

for life. It seems that regardless of the location such proclamations always follow a holiday.....Lt. Love is back in the Squadron now limping around in a foot cast. He broke his ankle several weeks ago in an active "touch football" game.....Major Bugbee, Sgts. Barnes and Olson departed for Naples today to attend a Special Service Show Convention being held for three days at Caserta. We expect them to return full of ideas on G.I. entertainment abroad.....Two ships returned from Rome this evening with the boys who had spent Christmas in the Eternal City. Most of them came near losing their lives at the Vatican's mid-nite Mass. They say that those who did get into St. Peters didn't see anything so those of us who spent Christmas on Corsica didn't miss much by not being there. However, the boys did enjoy their dinner at the G.I. restaurants in the Rome area.....Two huge loads of Christmas packages came in again today and this evening. After all the moaning that took place about the Christmas packages before Christmas the same amount is going on now as to what can be done with them. With so many coming in at one time it's difficult to adjust yourself to the onslaught. One can really enjoy a piece of candy in public now as everyone else has more than they can handle themselves....."Step Lively" was shown at the Red Cross Club this evening. No one swooned when Frank Sinatra appeared on the screen, however.....

27<sup>th</sup>

Early alert this morning for eighteen crews to bomb Boronvixa [Borovica] railroad Viaduct in Yugoslavia. The formation was over the target at 11:19 hours, but due to elevations immediately south of the target and cloud cover, only one box dropped their bombs and it is believed that this pattern landed within the target area. Opposition was nil and all ships returned safely to the base.....Approximately sixty bags of Christmas packages came into the Squadron during the day. About now everyone is so sick and tired of looking at fruit cakes and the like that interest in packages has dwindled. However, there'll be a day when all these goodies will come in mighty handy providing the boys have sense enough to hold on to them for that rainy day. S/Sgt. Truman Thompson has the title of receiving the most novel gift thus far received in the Squadron – it was two packages containing rag dolls for distribution to the neighborhood children. We are now eagerly awaiting the arrival of the first class mail we haven't been receiving for the past month.....Two choice films were shown in the "Rialto Theatre" (mess-hall) this afternoon to a record breaking crowd of G.I.'s – reason being that it was compulsory. One of the pictures dealt with the ever prominent sex problem. The sex film was corny although new to most of us, but the Articles of War never vary....."Step Lively" was repeated at the Group movie tonite.....

28<sup>th</sup>

Twelve bombers of this Squadron went back to Boronovica [Borovica] railroad Viaduct this morning, but all bombs were returned due to cloud coverage. Lt. Klebes led the formation and said that everywhere was clear excepting the area directly over the target. No doubt they'll go back to Boronovica [Borovica] within the next few days.....Two deliveries of first-class mail came in today – one "beaucoup" and the other very "poco." If the mail situation ever gets straightened out it will be quite an accomplishment. Perhaps if anything comes of that rumored move to Italy we'll be a lot better off as far as the mail is concerned among other things....."Relieved of Assignment" orders came through for many of the combat boys today and not fifteen minutes after they arrived preparations for departure commenced. Supply was like a bedlum with both officers and enlisted men turning in equipment as most of them expect to leave in the morning. Absolutely nothing overshadows the enthusiasm of a man preparing to depart from his unit. Very few enlisted ground personnel have had that pleasure, however, and it doesn't look as if they're going to for a long time. It's also quite obvious that little is being done toward this end.....Lt. Cline received his orders to go home today, but he will

be detained until his accident of Christmas day is settled. Perhaps he'll think twice before indulging the next time.....A new crew as added to the 487<sup>th</sup> Happy Family this afternoon. Combat crews greeted the new arrivals like long lost relatives....."Atlantic City" was shown at the Red Cross Club tonite.....

29<sup>th</sup>

Favorable weather again today permitted eighteen bombers of this Squadron to take off for the fourth consecutive mission. They were over their target of Pordenone railroad bridge in Northern Italy at 12:15 hours dropping their bombs with precision accuracy. The central span of this vital railroad bridge was knocked out as a result of this successful attack. The flight escaped all opposition and all planes returned safely to the base.....Sgt. Fuiks, Squadron Public Relations clerk, has another new man working with him now. T/Sgt. Wohlkamp, who formerly had the job is now holding forth in the Orderly Room. The new man, S/Sgt. Lowe, is fresh from the States and really getting his teeth into the work. Too bad there isn't more new talent to release the war weary members of this organization.....More packages and mail came into the Squadron tonite and were distributed shortly after supper. We still have plenty of undelivered mail to look forward to – all the Xmas packages haven't made their appearance as yet either.....Pvt. A.D. Rice has changed his abode to a pup-tent outside the communications tent upon orders from the Orderly Room. No doubt he'll be walking a tour with a sack of rocks on his back tomorrow. No one is quite sure of his misdemeanor, but it's rumored that he refused to get up for a bomb load.....High winds this afternoon and evening were almost threatening to our little canvas city. There is nothing more uncomfortable than a tent in a high wind....."Atlantic City" was repeated at the Red Cross Theatre Club tonite.....

30<sup>th</sup>

Two elements of B-25/s took off this morning at 10:25 hours to bomb two different railroad bridges at Calliano, Italy. Due to cloud coverage the first element of nine ships bombed the alternate which was Crema Railroad bridge. However, the pattern missed it's target and landed in the marshaling yards to the west. Two ships of this formation were holed as a result of anti-aircraft fire. The second element of six ships bombed Calliano #1 railroad bridge, but the bomb pattern was unobserved and no one would estimate the accuracy. Three ships were holed out of this element. One man from another Squadron was brought back dead from the raid this afternoon.....It's beginning to look as though we'll never see the end of Christmas packages. More came in this afternoon and were distributed this evening. First-class mail is still at a premium.....Pvt. Rice was walking his punishment tour in front of the Orderly Room this afternoon when his 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. brother appeared on the scene. It seems that Rice knew his brother had arrived in the Theater, but wasn't aware of the exact location. No doubt it was a little embarrassing to have to entertain in a pup-tent.....Lt. Snaper left the Squadron yesterday on an emergency furlough. It seems that his father is about to undergo a serious eye operation. Although it was only an emergency we don't expect to see Lt. Snaper again. Several combat men also departed for the States today after completing their tour of duty.....Lts. Cormack and Evarts were elevated to the wearing of the silver today. Promotions for the officers is rather automatic so it never comes as a very great surprise.....Lt. Van Etten departed for home this morning after completing fifty-three missions and a bout with the Medical board at Florence.....Major Bugbee and Sgts. Barnes and Olson returned from the Special Service Convention at Caserta today full of ideas on how to stage a Broadway production on nothing but the idea. At least the Committee composed of four officers and one WAC captain tried to explain the procedure. No doubt the enthusiastic five could make millions if they could portray the same idea to professional theater men, providing it worked. Sgt. Barnes didn't seem to be too impressed.....There was no 340<sup>th</sup> show tonite due to lack of a film.....

New Years Eve and all were sober, at least in the morning. Twelve ships of the Squadron took off this morning to bomb Revereto railroad bridge in Northern Italy. They were over the target at 13:04 hours dropping their bombs with precision accuracy. The first box crossed the north approach cutting the tracks and the second box extended across the central portion of the bridge with direct hits observed. Heavy, intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire harassed the formation holing 11 out of the 12 participating airplanes, however, no one was injured.....A pleasant day was enjoyed by all on Corsica today. It's rather unusual during this season, but the sun was actually shining. However, strong winds which developed into a gale late this afternoon swept the area through the evening.....Celebration of New Year was limited this season due mainly to the complete lack of anything to celebrate with or over. At this time last year we were in the same boat and the location is about the only thing that's changed throughout '44. However, the supply Section took it upon themselves to procure liquor from Naples for the festivities – the stock consisted of five hundred dollars worth of Italian whiskey, Gin and Cherry Brandy, better known as "poison." And judging from the number of firearms discharged at midnite, the stuff produced the desired effect. Most of the firing that took place in this Squadron was up on the knob (combat crew area on the hill) although combat men weren't the only ones intent on noise making. Big guns were heard firing in the distance, but other than that little was done to welcome in the New Year. "Up In Mable' Room" was shown in the Squadron mess-hall as a part of the New Year Celebration. Most of the show-goers had already seen it so the audience was limited to very few.....The Officers Club had a dance this evening which put a few officers of this Squadron in the festive mood. Lts. Azarra and Dearborn returned from the ball around midnite and proceeded to wake up the entire Squadron area to wish them well in the New Year. The gesture wasn't too well received.....It's rather general, but nonetheless true that not many will be able to display any great enthusiasm until the home going date is before them -LET'S HOPE THAT 1945 WILL SEE THAT HAPPY DAY.....

## January 1945

[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

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

i. Losses in Action

1. Missing in action in raid over Trento Marshaling Yards in Northern Italy, January 20, 1945
  1. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Morris D. La Vine
  2. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Stanley J. Gluczkowski
  3. F/O Paul R. Farone
  4. S/Sgt. George Gregor
  5. S/Sgt. Joel B. Mayer
  6. Sgt. Jesse A. Summers Jr.
2. Wounded in action in raid over San Margherita N. Railroad Bridge in Northern Italy, January 15, 1945
  1. Sgt. Robert W. White
  2. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Harold H. Frazier

j. Personnel who have distinguished themselves in action.

1. Eugene J. Broos Jr.
2. Edwin P. Bugbee
3. Wayne R. Carter
4. Harold H. Frazier
5. Carl Genian
6. Ferrell L. Holley
7. Gene Metz
8. James J. Connolly

The following flying personnel of this organization have been awarded Air Medals and Clusters there to for the period covered.

Bernard Albert  
Walter Allor Jr.  
Dominic Angelini  
James W. Austin Jr.  
Wilbur R. Beadle  
Theodore J. Bennett  
Wildore Bousquet

Eugene J. Broos Jr.  
Willard A. Bruce  
Noble H. Byars  
Robert W. Carlson  
Gerald W. Carstensen  
Edwin C. Clothier  
Hubert Conwill  
Luke J. Crosby  
David D. Cuthbertson  
James R. Dempsey  
Donald C. Dick  
James C. Dinkler  
John H. Downs  
Myron E. Erickson  
Richard F. Evans  
Edgar E. Evarts  
Stewart Farnham  
Harold H. Frazier  
Charles F. Fredericks Jr.  
Pierre P. Garvin  
Carl Genian  
George Gifford  
Robert N. Gist  
Dwain D. Gull  
William D. Hale  
Nelson Halstead  
Werner M. Hartman Jr.  
James V. Heming  
Keneth R. Hopkins  
Kenneth W. Hovermale  
Romeo J. Ingley  
Frank L. Jones  
Walter F. Joyce Jr.  
Christy M. Kara  
Herman H.W. Kiel  
Charles R. Klebes Jr.  
David Konigsbert  
Francis J. La Pierre  
Morris D. La Vine  
John E. Leatherwood  
William A. Lee Jr.  
Robert E. Lehmkuhl  
Guy L. Lewis  
Julius Lieberman  
Vernon J. Lyle  
Bryant O. Lyons  
Charles A Maliszewski  
Joel B. Mayer  
Marlan J. Michel

John C. Miller  
Wesley J. Mummert  
Paul E. McDonnel  
Paul S. McMillen  
Walter V. McVee  
James M. Oaks  
Alton W. Parker  
John Polanka  
Clifford J. Ramsey  
John H. Ramsey  
John C. Rau  
Frank N. Reynolds  
Arthur H. Rigdon  
James A. Robb  
Thomas P. Rosemarin  
Robert F. Rushton  
Paul E. Sekeras  
Darwin H. Selle  
Vernon A. Short  
Roy A. Simmons  
Marvin H. Smith  
David C. Solether  
George R. Stejakal  
Jessee A. Summers  
Frank L. Thibault  
Joseph F. Thornsberry  
Robert M. Trollinger  
Howard L. Trudell  
Caldwell A. Whipple  
John J.S. Wisanowski  
Ralph L. Woods  
John J. Zugibe

## War Diary

January 1, 1945

New Years Day found the 487<sup>th</sup> Squadron just about the same as it is on any other day. Breakfast was served from seven-thirty to eight-thirty – fresh fried eggs. The traditional turkey dinner was served at 3 o'clock and some thought it was better than the Christmas meal. Little or no work was done today, in fact none of the departments were open for business. A stand-down had been declared last nite. Surprisingly there was little drinking today which is perhaps due to the fact that there was no liquor available. It might be said that a very sane holiday was enjoyed by all.....Lt. Eustis was around bidding everyone a fond adieu this morning just before boarding a plane to Naples on the first leg of his trip to the United States. It's kind of funny seeing him go because Lt. Eustis had become more or less of a permanent fixture around here.....We hear that Lt. Hammond likened himself to an airplane at the Officers club last nite and after running across the room with arms extended, the small Lt. wound up

disasterously in the prone position on the floor.....Many rumors are now floating around concerning the ever prominent topic of HOME. The latest has us following the 319<sup>th</sup> for a thirty day furlough at home and another tour in the Pacific. It sounds good, but anything pertaining to home is music to our ears.....No show was given at the Group movie tonite due to the high wind. We understand that the Colonel will not permit the movie to be presented at the Red Cross Club because of the damage done during the first experiment.....

2<sup>nd</sup>

Early alert this morning, but before take-off time came around a stand-down was declared. The field was closed to all aircraft all day today due to the intensity of the wind. It actually approached the gale category and everyone sat wondering just how much longer their tent was going to stand the strain. Emily, of the Red Cross was down to tell us that the wind had already taken her tent from its anchorage. She was wearing two pair of pajamas under slacks with a heavy winter flying jacket and still claimed to be frozen.....Lt. Kienle left for the States today where he will attend gunnery school for a period of thirty days. Upon his return he will become Squadron Gunnery Officer which is a newly made title, although it has provided two men the opportunity to get home.....Lack of activity has brought forth many good rumors although none of them have any official background. The one about following the 319<sup>th</sup> is the best, but even the one about leaving the Island for Rimini is good.....We are still wondering when we are going to be honored with a quantity of first class mail. Evidently we have received just about all the packages we're going to get. Sometimes it looks as though mail is held up purposely to promote "bitching" and if that is the case it certainly accomplishes its purpose.....A movie was scheduled at the 487<sup>th</sup> mess-hall this evening, but at the last minute for some unknown reason it was cancelled. Evidently there are going to be no more outdoor performances.....

3<sup>rd</sup>

Lavis railroad Viaduct up in Northern Italy was the target for twelve 487<sup>th</sup> bombers this morning. They were over the Viaduct at 12:01 hours unloading their bombs in a compact pattern. The first box was dropped to the right of the wet span while the second pattern crossed the wet span. Anti-aircraft fire was out of range, however, it did reach other elements of the formation. No damage to 487<sup>th</sup> aircraft resulted.....This last week of almost continuous operation has added considerably to the number of combat boys completing their tour. If the situation continues we'll need new crews or just have to cease operation.....In spite of all the rumors about us going home and to Italy, work on the mess-hall continues daily. The new tables have been completed right down to the burning which produces that antiqued effect. Even the concrete floor has been repaired so there really isn't much if anything to be done. However, regardless of how fine the mess-hall is there is someone who can always find a finishing touch to be added. This is without a question of a doubt the best mess-hall we've ever had.....News from the Western front is anything but encouraging these last few days and '45 predictions are enough to frighten the pessimists. It is now hoped by high officials that victory in Europe will be outs this year. Opinions vary so on the German break-through efforts that the ordinary person is at a total loss as to what the strategy is. Some still say it's political complications rather than military.....Planes took off for Naples and Rome this morning loaded with personnel setting out to enjoy a sojourn in the cities. Most of the boys asking for leave in Naples are going to see native friends who they became acquainted with while the Squadron was stationed at Pompei. Rome goers have various reasons – the most common being women.....There was no movie presented by the 340<sup>th</sup> tonite.....

4<sup>th</sup>

Ala railroad bridge in Northern Italy was the target for nine B-25's of this Squadron. Take-off was at 10:00 hours this morning, but the bombers failed to drop as they were unable to identify the target in time. One ship was holed by the heavy, moderate and accurate anti-aircraft fire encountered over the primary.....Sgt. "Greg" Moore went down to the Wing this afternoon for a conference with a "Stars and Stripes" reporter. Evidently the Groups in this Wing are finally going to get some publicity. They may be able to use some of Sgt. Moore's fine oils and pastels depicting combat formations and other phases of our tour in the combat zone.....A large award presentation ceremony took place with many of our men being decorated this afternoon. The ceremony took place in the Red Cross Club rather than outside which eliminated the Honor Guard much to the satisfaction of all concerned. Most of the boys being decorated would just as soon or rather be issued their awards at Supply, however, the Army considers the ceremony a great morale factor.....The first Algebra session convened last nite. Out of the entire Group there were twenty-five tentative students, twenty-two of which were 487<sup>th</sup> men, which is a good indication that the 487<sup>th</sup> is the most aggressive if not the most intelligent. Capt. Linticum swears by the text and thinks that the boys will get a lot out of it. Capt. Oliver is teaching the course....."My Gal Likes Music" with Bob Crosby was shown in our own "Rialto" Theatre tonite at 7:00 P.M.....

5<sup>th</sup>

Rain hampered operations today and probably gave another German held bridge in Northern Italy another day's grace. When it rains here there is no doubt in anyones mind as to what's goin on because it's just a steady downpour. No one leaves their tent for anything less than a meal and most of the time that isn't much of an inducement. The Squadron area being situated on a hill is extremely vulnerable to a heavy rain and during the storm one is reminded of a natural waterfall as the water surges through the area. Around supper time the rain turned into huge hale stones reminding everyone of the Vesuvius performance, but fortunately it didn't last long enough to do any harm. However, at the time tents were as tight as drums and it was feared the hale may rip them. This will be a fine day to look back on when we're enjoying all the comforts of home.....Several combat men were prepared to leave for Naples today, but they waited in vain as the field remained closed all day. With those precious papers in their hand they shouldn't worry too much though as it's bound to clear someday. Fellows on pass in Rome are also enjoying an extended vacation due to the weather.....There was no movie tonite and probably even if there were one, it wouldn't be good enough to draw the men out of hibernation.....

6<sup>th</sup>

Rain was again the most prominent thing of the day. If it wasn't raining at the moment it looked like it was about to, consequently the squadron remained pretty well closed up. All planes remained on the ground and none landed as the field is closed which does have its advantages for the boys stranded over on the mainland. However, it isn't so good for the men awaiting transportation to Naples with those "relieved of assignment" papers.....Mail is also at a complete stand-still, probably due to the weather conditions. However, when the weather is good and the mail is slow we hear it comes in by boat then on occasions like this it's supposed to come from the mainland by air. We could use a little first-class mail about now after this long period of total absence.....Henceforth the outfit will be known as "The Dogface Squadron." It seems that PRO sent a photo of our "Uncle Willie" over to Naples where the famed Bill Mauldin got a hold of it. He was so impressed that he has offered to come over and paint our aircraft with different characters depicting subjects from his cartoons. His arrival was scheduled two days ago, but the non-flying weather has delayed the program. No doubt much publicity will come

of this escapade.....An order went up on the bulletin board today asking volunteer Infantry Officer Candidates. No one showed any particular interest, however.....There was no movie shown at the Group tonite due to the weather.....

7<sup>th</sup>

The Squadron woke up this morning to more rain, but before 10 o'clock the clouds broke and pilots were preparing to take-off for Naples and Rome. A number of the boys who had been waiting around to leave for home took off today. Evidently Rome closed in after our Pilots landed as none of the stranded boys were able to return – one more day added to their already extended sojourn in the Italian Capitol. The boys in Naples weren't so fortunate as that plane took-off a half hour after landing. Group showers have been out of order for several days. Apparently the weather affects the heating apparatus as it ceases operation during and following every rain storm.....Pvt. Bills, formerly T/Sgt. Bills (before an extended leave in Malta) is now working in the Motor Pool. He still claims to be the best crew chief in the 340<sup>th</sup> Bomb. Gp.....Lt. Evans and Lt. Joyce are on a five day rest leave in Cannes, France. Lt. Joyce has a girl friend over there – he met her while on DS in France and claims it's really love.....Arrangements are now being made for the entire band to spend a ten day leave in Cairo, but the date of departure is not yet definite.....Movies are still extinct in the 340<sup>th</sup> Group.....

8<sup>th</sup>

Crews were alerted this morning three times before being briefed for a 1300 hours take-off. Six planes of this Squadron were to participate in the raid with three chaff ships, but the target was changed to Pontetidone railroad bridge and the chaff eliminated. However, a complete cloud coverage obscured Pontetidone and all planes returned with their bombs – delayed action bombs were jettisoned in the sea. By the time the mission arrived back at the field a fifty mile an hour cross wind was sweeping the runway making landings uncomfortable to say the least. Credit for a mission was given although no enemy opposition was encountered.....Some of the boys were able to get back from Rome today although there wasn't enough room for everyone stranded over there. Another plane will probably go over tomorrow to pick up the remainder of the Commandos.....Fourteen bags of packages came in this morning which relieved the monotony, but it's a little late to be getting Xmas packages. They really should have been in long ago according to newspaper talk. We are still mystified as to the whereabouts of our first-class mail.....Col Bailey was supposed to come back from Rome today and he didn't arrive which is quite perturbing to "SKYLINER" personnel. The only thing that's holding them up on the Cairo deal is the go sign from Col. Bailey. If Col. Bailey was never "sweated out" before he certainly must be experiencing the sensation now....."One Body Too Many" was shown in the 487<sup>th</sup> mess-hall this evening. The convenience of this gesture is appreciated in the Squadron particularly when it's too cold to sit though a movie out in the open.....

9<sup>th</sup>

Six 487<sup>th</sup> bombers took off shortly after noon to again bomb the Pontetidone railroad bridge in Northern Italy. Their pattern crossed the right portion of the bridge with direct hits observed. Weather was favorable to good bombing and no opposition was encountered. All planes returned safely to the base.....A "poco" amount of first-class mail was dispersed this morning followed this afternoon by the same proportion of misguided packages and newspapers. All mail is so screwd up now that no one can maintain a coherent correspondence.....It seems that our move to the mainland has been postponed again. We were scheduled to depart from Corsica this month, but it's said now that we won't leave until March. Rumor has it that that move will be to the States.....Cpl. Frank Nasuto is in the midst of

building another barber shop in the center of the Squadron area. Time always encourages improvement.....Anyone going to Rome now must go on Group orders. No more passes to the Eternal City will be issued. Reason for this unpleasant move is still forth-coming.....There was no movie shown in the Group tonite.....

10<sup>th</sup>

Eighteen crews were out at Group briefing this morning when a stand-down was declared. The weather on the Island was good, but clouds obscured the target. There is absolutely no doubt in anyone's mind that the Corsican winter has finally and definitely set in. Much gas is being consumed daily and tents are still cold. With gas stoves in every tent the number of gallons burned per day in the Squadron must be tremendous. No doubt the people at home with their "A" coupons would be envious of our stove fuel.....A fairly good amount of first-class mail came in today making it our first sizeable delivery in quite some time.....Airplane guard started again tonite. It seems that the security unit that has been with us is being transferred off the Island or else going home. The very thought of resuming nitely guard is anything but pleasant particularly during the winter. Needless to say 1st/Sgt. Parkins didn't get much response in the mess-hall at supper time looking for volunteers. The only pleasant outlook is that it may be a prelude to the elimination of the 57<sup>th</sup> Wing. Rumors are still afloat that the Wing will be broken up and sent home in the near future. This is the first airplane guard we've pulled in over eight months, although previous to that we were thoroughly experienced.....The remainder of the boys who were spending a happy holiday in Rome for the past week came back to the Island today. they certainly didn't miss much by being away.....A nitely movie is still missing from the Group's activities.....

11<sup>th</sup>

Crews got no farther than briefing when a stand-down was declared. Communications must be quite bad when such messages can't get though before the last minute. Weather here, although cold looked like a perfect operational day, but the target area was completely obscured by cloud.....Everyone spent the day sweating out the guard roster which didn't appear until the afternoon. Fifteen men beginning with the T/Sgts. were chosen to do the honors with Lt. Broos as O.D. and S/Sgt. Stahlman as Sergeant of the guard. There was a certain amount of humor connected with the innovation in spite of the sad outlook. The way the system is set up at present every man in the organization will pull guard at least every three weeks.....The Squadron has fallen heir to six more Yugoslavs. No doubt jobs will be found for each and everyone of them, but right now one would wonder just where they could be placed. The kitchen can always absorb any number of men – the motor pool may also get several. It's too bad that they can't be used for guard duty.....After several months of wood chopping they finally persuaded Capt. Linthicum to consent to a gas stove. The conversion took place today after much scrounging for the necessary parts.....Public Relations Office is trying hard to get Sgt. "Greg" Moore for his capabilities as an artist. Evidently "Greg" can't handle two jobs and he isn't interested in going into Public Relations work as a steady diet. It will be interesting to see who wins....."None But The Lonely Heart" was shown in the Squadron mess-hall tonite. Opinions varied considerably on the picture's merits although Ethel Barrymore doesn't possess the physical attractions to make her a hit with the ordinary G.I.....Group Special Service is running the pictures at different Squadrons nitely eliminating the regular Group movie.....

12<sup>th</sup>

A stand-down was in effect all day due again to the weather. Rain threatened all day and came down in spurts from time to time, but it wasn't until evening that the deluge started. Huge hail stones came first followed by continuous rain. The surrounding mountains are now almost covered to the base with snow making it quite picturesque and ever colder.....A meeting of all section chiefs was called this evening at 5:15 followed at 5:45 by a general meeting of all enlisted men in the mess-hall. Both meetings pertained to the new guard set up. Plans are quite complete and it looks as though everyone will have their opportunity to pull plenty of guard. The tour will last for three days and seventeen men will be included in each tour – a minimum of sixteen hours guard will be stood throughout the three day period. According to the present plan no one will be excused regardless of their rank or duty and M/Sgts. will pull Group Sergeant of the Guard. A one day pass will be granted at the end of the tour. The Colonel has said that no security unit can be expected in for some time and that this set-up will last for a minimum of two months. Under the present system the soldier will have no other duty while pulling his shift of guard. If the policy is maintained as it's supposed to be there should be no kick coming as it is the fairest way of accomplishing a distasteful task.....Last nites dinner and dance proved to be quite a success. The Corsican girls seem to be warming up and getting acquainted. Col. Chapman and Major Rapp joined the diners in the Enlisted Mens Mess. Evidently our food isn't as bad as we think or else the situation is general throughout the Group.....

13<sup>th</sup>

Crews were dressed and ready for a mission this morning, however, as they were preparing to leave the Squadron area for briefing a stand-down was declared. The sky appeared to be quite clear on the Island, but evidently Italy was well under the weather just as Corsica was by noon. It would take a master weather reporter to predict Corsican weather for more than a fifteen minute duration. Today started out with sunshine, then came showers followed by a steady downpour for the entire nite.....Several bags of packages and newspapers came in late this afternoon. "Nelson" was the only one that was displeased with the delivery.....The band is still awaiting word on their Cairo trip. Col Bailey is back, but thus far has not given a definite date. Sgt. Barnes was expecting to leave Monday although the aspect at present doesn't look very promising.....S/Sgt. Stahlman was relieved as Sergeant of the Guard tonite as his orders came through this afternoon. The happy Sgt. will be departing for home whenever weather permits takeoff.....A U.S.O. show called the "Novelaires" appeared at the Red Cross Club tonite followed by the motion picture "Rhapsody In Blue." A capacity crowd enjoyed both performances.....

14<sup>th</sup>

Heavy rains which continued all nite and morning put the "skids" on a scheduled mission for this morning. The downpour was so heavy that very few even bothered to get out of the sack for breakfast. The rain ceased about 10:00 A.M., but the skies remained cloudy and a stand-down was declared for the entire day.....Lt. Snaper who departed for the States on an emergency furlough last week was today promoted to the rank of 1<sup>st</sup>. Lt. Kienle who is also enroute to the States was elevated to the rank of Captaincy.....Wholesale promotions were published for Enlisted combat crew men who have been sweating out their ratings for sometime – ground crew personnel have been entirely forgotten in this respect.....The new guard set-up went into full swing today with a formal inspection of the guard at 3:30 by 1<sup>st</sup>/Sgt. Parkins and the O.D., Lt Cormack. This is scheduled to be a daily routine as long as we must guard the areas, but everyone is in hopes that the idea will peter out shortly as it only adds to the misery of the "lonely watch".....Latest rumor has it that we will be paid in American currency at the

end of February – all of which strengthens the rumor that we are "marked" for the Zone of Interior in the not too distant future.....No show at the 340<sup>th</sup> tonite, it being Sunday.

15<sup>th</sup>

A respite in weather enabled the 487<sup>th</sup> Squadron to get in a mission today. At 11:50 hours fourteen of our ships, three of which comprised a phosphorus and chaff element, took off to bomb a railroad bridge at San Margherita in Northern Italy. The formation reached the designated area at 13:45 hours and released their bomb load very effectively on the objective. The 1<sup>st</sup> box bombed a bridge immediately north of the target crossing the road bridge. 2<sup>nd</sup> box bombed Margherita south rail bridge with good results. The chaff element encountered a heavy, moderate and accurate barrage of anti-aircraft fire from known position in the vicinity of the target – shell fragments slightly wounded Lt. Frazier. However, it was a "milk-run" for the main bombing formation. All planes and crews returned safely to the home base.....Doris Duke Cromwell accompanied General Knapp to the interrogation after the mission.....Lts. Martin, McMillen, Semenak and Moule also S/Sgt. Stahlman left today for Naples and a boat which will return them to the Zone of Interior. S/Sgt. Campo who also had his "relieved of assignment" papers asked for permission to stay on for two weeks and wait for his pal S/Sgt. Handel who is sweating out this relief.....Capt. Linthicum is feeling very much like a "king of the roost" these days with a Yugoslav chore boy who busies himself chopping wood, drawing water, shining shoes and keeping the good Captain's domicile in a liveable condition.....Fresh Pork Chops for supper tonite which were very tasty – too bad they can't find something better than canned carrots to go with such a delicacy – we've had a constant diet of carrots daily for the past month and they invariably hit the garbage can....."Laura" starring the glamorous Gene Tierney was the picture shown at the movies tonite.....

16<sup>th</sup>

Heavy rains which started last nite and continued throughout the entire day, once more cancelled a scheduled mission. The squadron area looked like a sea of mud and only those members with important business to transact ventured outside of their tent. The only activity noticed was at meal times when the G.I.'s trekked their way to and from the mess-hall. A day like today is spent mostly playing cards, reading and writing letters to the home-front. Much "bitching" was done by the guards who remained at their posts in the pouring rain for four hours and saw no one.....Fresh eggs for breakfast has become sort of a habit, so much so that the boys are actually tiring of the morning menu. The cooks decided to vary things a little and this morning served soft and hard boiled eggs – due to the heavy downpour the majority of fellows did not show up for breakfast, consequently the hard boiled eggs were mixed in with the bully-beef served for lunch.....In spite of the rain a capacity crowd turned out for the second showing of "Laura" with Gene Tierney unreelied in our mess-hall.....

17<sup>th</sup>

Fifteen ships of this Squadron took off at 11:40 hours with two separate railroad bridges as their target. The first flight of nine ships was over their objective, the Calliana railroad bridge, at 13:45 hours, but due to failure of bomb-bay doors in lead ship to open no bombs were dropped. The second flight of six ships hit the Revereto railroad bridge from 12800'. The pattern started short extending along north shoreline to north approach of the bridge with some hits believed on railroad tracks of the approach. Heavy, scant, fairly accurate anti-aircraft fire was encountered by both formations from the target area, but no serious damage was inflicted on our planes or crew members. All planes returned safely to the base.....Lt. Krebs our new mess-officer officially took over his duties today, relieving Lt. Mako who

has completed his combat tour and expects to be leaving shortly for the home shores. A fried chicken dinner tonite was a good beginning and it's hoped that the change will be an all around improvement.....After almost two years overseas the 487<sup>th</sup> has finally succeeded in procuring a projector for their own use. It was used for the first time tonite, unneeling "Lost in a Harem" with Abbott and Costello. Present plans are to show a picture each Monday, Wednesday and Friday in our own mess-hall for our own Squadron. Having our own projector may enable us to get better and later pictures – a good deal if things work out.....The good news that Warsaw had fallen was riotiously received tonite.....

18<sup>th</sup>

Twelve planes of the 487<sup>th</sup> Squadron took off at 10:15 hours to bomb the San Michele railroad bridge in Northern Italy. The 1<sup>st</sup> box was over the target at 12:04 hours and dropped their bombs from 12000' with very good results. However, due to a heavy smoke screen, the 2<sup>nd</sup> box proceeded to the alternate target, Salerno railroad bridge, and released their bombs from 12300'. Direct hits were observed on east approach of the bridge also on rail diversion. No anti-aircraft fire or other enemy opposition was encountered over either target – all planes and crews returned safely to the base.....A "beaucoup" delivery of mail came in this afternoon, but no one was satisfied as the bulk of the loot was delayed Xmas cards. First-class mail has been obvious by its absence for nearly two months.....Three new combat crews arrived in the Squadron tonite to replace the many "flak-happy" individuals who completed their tour of duty.....Lts. Cook and McGiffin, La Vine and Peters traded the gold bar for silver....."Mrs. Parkington" was the movie shown in our own mess-hall tonite for the 486<sup>th</sup>, 487<sup>th</sup> & Gp. Hqs. Squadrons.....

19<sup>th</sup>

This morning's mission was cancelled just before crews got into the trucks. It was supposedly a hot target and a stand-down brought forth many hilarious noises.....Much policing of the area and tents took place this morning previous to a scheduled inspection by Maj. Rapp. The inspection was supposed to take place between 9:30 and 12:00 although it was later changed to an all day affair. Evidently everything was found to be satisfactory as there have been no repercussions as yet.....Fire arms inspection was also on the schedule at 1:30 P.M. this afternoon. Lt. Lane and an Ordnance man did the honors. Sgt. Labuda was there to ask if your gas mask was in good shape. Pvt. Thompson found a cocoon comfortably lodged in the barrel of his carbine. Apparently that piece really needed to be inspected.....Mail came in today – some of it was dated January 10<sup>th</sup>, but unfortunately there was very little of it. Getting mail in sequence would really be an unexpected thrill....."Maisie Goes to Reno" was shown at the Rialto tonite.....

20<sup>th</sup>

Twelve bombers of this Squadron took off at 11:30 hours to bomb Trento Marshaling Yards in Northern Italy. Anti-aircraft fire was accurate and intense although despite the opposition a compact pattern was placed within the target area. Six planes were holed and 7L with Lts. La Vine, Gluckowski, F/O Farone; S/Sgts. Gregor, Mayer and Sgt. Summers aboard was downed over the target. It all happened so fast that no one really knows what occurred. Crew members of other planes noticed the distressed bomber on fire just before it headed earthward. Following formations reported two possible 'chutes coming from the downed ship. It's almost six months to the day since we lost a ship – June 22, 1944. Lt. Evans got quite a break as he was supposed to fly 7L today until he was removed from the schedule to accompany the band for a week-end engagement.....Much drinking took place at the Officers Club

tonite which was probably due to the catastrophe. It's amazing to see what a change an accident of that kind brings about among the combat men.....Free Coca Cola and beer was dispensed this morning – two cokes and six beers per man. We can't figure out this free business.....The main topic of conversation these days is the great Russian offensive. Warsaw, Budapest and Crakow are behind them as they approach the German frontier. Some think this is the promised drive to Berlin.....A double feature was shown in our mess-hall tonite – "The Mark of the Whistler" and "The Conspirators" with Hedy Lamar. Needless to say the latter was by far the favorite.....

21<sup>st</sup>

Crews were briefed early for a 10:47 take-off to bomb Pontetidone railroad bridge in Northern Italy. Twelve bombers participated in the raid. The first box crossed the bridge left of center and the second box made a second pass crossing the west approach with their pattern. Anti-aircraft fire was not encountered on this successful mission.....Several cases of scurvy have occurred in the Squadron within the last few days. Evidently the lack of fresh food is causing the epidemic. However, a food ship has been scheduled to go out on a scrounging party in the near future. Up until recently we had been getting fresh vegetables from Sicily and Italy, but the practice has been curtailed lately for some unknown reason. They say that the British have stopped all Americans from landing in Sicily for the purpose of obtaining food – a typical move on their part.....A late arrival of first-class mail was distributed at 8 o'clock this evening. It was about time that we got some first-class mail and even now we're far behind schedule.....The Group showers have been out of order for several days now and the 306<sup>th</sup> looks like a 487<sup>th</sup> enterprise. It's not only a better shower, but also in running order more frequently.....PX rations were distributed in quantity today, and what made them more interesting was the fact that they were free. This combat is really getting rough with much free candy, beer and coca-cola....."Nothing But Trouble" with Laurel and Hardy was shown in the mess-hall tonite.....

22<sup>nd</sup>

09:45 hours was take-off time for twelve bombers of the 487<sup>th</sup> Squadron. They were over the target of Dogna railroad bridge in Northern Italy at noon scoring several direct hits on the north approach and center of the target bridge. This mission was another "milk-run" as no anti-aircraft fire was encountered although weather enroute was not desirable.....News of the Russian offensive is still the greatest we've had since the Allies marched through France. If the Russians continue on as they have been they should be in Berlin by the end of the month. Today's news has them less than two hundred miles from the German Capitol and the encouraging thing is that they are moving so rapidly that it's impossible to keep track of their progress. Naturally all personnel of the 487<sup>th</sup> Squadron are prepared for the cessation of hostilities at any moment – and even better prepared for the long voyage home.....Packages came in this evening and were distributed at 8 o'clock. Everyone is primarily interested in first-class mail, but packages always lend glamor during a lull and particularly when mess-hall food is so questionable.....The Group band returned from El Russe this evening after playing a hundred and sixty thousand dollar engagement – a 488<sup>th</sup> Pilot mistook a plowed field for the landing strip while delivering band members hence the costly entertainment – fortunately no one was injured except the airplane. However, despite the catastrophe everyone boasts of having a wonderful time. Doris Duke Cronwell, the new Red Cross attache to the Wing, was the guest of honor....."Saratoga Trunk" was shown at the "Rialto" this evening at two different showings.....

23<sup>rd</sup>

A stand-down was declared this morning just as crews were about to take-off. It was a miserable dark morning and didn't look like a mission was possible so a stand-down was expected. Strange that such news can't reach us before the last minute which would eliminate a lot of confusion and difficulty. Nothing like combat they say.....Ninety-five percent of the Squadron was scheduled for the presentation of the Cluster to the Distinguished Unit Citation Badge this morning, but almost half of the number were excused when the formation was called. Generals Cannon and Knapp did the honors while all four Squadrons formed a guard of honor and climaxed the ceremony by marching in review – marching in review is obviously and definitely not our line. The cluster was earned for the Group by the sinking of the light cruiser Taranto in La Spezia on September 3<sup>rd</sup> of 1944. The 340<sup>th</sup> is the first Group in the Wing to receive the cluster although all other Groups have the ribbon and are no doubt already recommended for the cluster.....The postal department amazed us today with two deliveries of first-class mail – one this morning and another this afternoon. "Nelson" was the only one made unhappy by the phenomena.....Rain threatened all day and by late afternoon we had showers although it didn't develop into much. The weather here is surprisingly pleasant for this time of year – so much different than that of Sunny Italy. However, rumor has us moving to Northern Italy in the very near future.....No movie was shown at the mess-hall this evening.....

24<sup>th</sup>

Despite a beautiful day here on Corsica the mission was called off and a stand-down was declared for the remainder of the day. Clouds between here and Italy was the reason for the stand-down. Everyone was more than slightly disappointed at the calling off of a "milk-run.".....Running back and forth from Bastia for film and to return film is becoming quite a problem. In order to present the movie three times a week it's necessary to make six trips to Bastia. Special Service is supposed to do the honors, but on nice days others can usually be enticed into making the trip – a jeep is always a good inducement.....Sgt. "Greg" Moore has been spending the last few days working out on the line painting the aircraft. He has the "Uncle Willie" cartoons from Bill Mauldin and is in the midst of transcribing them on the planes. Sgt. Gavette and "Dan" Barton are assisting him with the project.....Activity is a minus quantity on the Island these days – in other words much time is spent in the sack. It will really be a pleasure to get down to full scale operation when the weather clears up. However, we're hoping that the war will be over by the time good weather sets in. The Russians are now less than one hundred and fifty miles from Berlin which is really encouraging....."Animal Kingdom" was shown at the "Rialto" this evening. Alexis Smith and Ann Sheridan made the picture a success.....

25<sup>th</sup>

Stand-down was in effect all day which was again due to the weather over the target area. However, many transitions and practice formations were flown throughout the day. Such a day makes for much activity, but not the kind of activity that combat men enjoy – after flying combat missions it's rather difficult to get down to practice flying again.....Rumor now has it that the 340<sup>th</sup> will be moving off of the Island within a short time. The new field is located in the Rimini area, and is no doubt submerged in water at present. The actuality of this rumor is more plausible than the going home trend that we enjoyed so recently. Col. Chapman was supposed to have made the trip over to the new location today, but thus far none of its possibilities have been announced. However, it is said that very little exists in the way of comfort at the new location, of course Italy never was very appealing at this time of the year.....Some old December mail finally found its way to Alesan today. If the Army can keep the enemy as confused about tactics as they do their own personnel with the mail we should have won the

war long ago. Evidently Army mail service is not run by experienced U.S. mail personnel as is the case in so many other incidents.....Capt. Linthicum is looking for a qualified French teacher in order to inaugurate a French class. The Algebra class is coming along famously and many requests for French have been made....."Flame on the Barbary Coast" was shown at the "Rialto" this evening following its run at the hospital. The hospital uses our projector and in return we get their film.....

26<sup>th</sup>

Despite spring-like weather here on Corsica a stand-down was in effect all day. However, a simulated raid was staged and there was more aerial activity over the field than usual. Combat men would actually rather fly combat missions than play around with these simulated affairs.....Work on the "Dog Face" planes was completed today – all twelve now bear the "Uncle Willie" insignia. Sgts. Gavette, Moore, Barton and McCrea have been working on the cartoons for the past few days and have really done a nice job of the Bill Mauldin project. Much photographing and publicity stunts are in the offing which should put the "Dog Face" squadron on the map. PRO is trying to get Bill Mauldin himself over to name the aircraft bearing his cartoons. It is still to be decided whether or not the Squadron insignia will be changed.....Optimism is running wild in the Squadron these past few days as the Russians drive toward Berlin. BBC broadcast an unconfirmed German report that they were within forty-five miles of the German capitol as of this evening. However, official Russian communiques still have them within a hundred and forty mile radius. Much money will change hands in the Squadron regardless of the outcome although everyone will be happy to be on the losing end of a victory....."Hollywood Canteen" was shown at the "Rialto" this evening. The bevy of stars appealed and the picture was a success.....

27<sup>th</sup>

Mission this morning – at last. Twelve bombers of this Squadron took off at 11:45 hours this morning to bomb Po Brassana railroad bridge up in Northern Italy. All three boxes scored direct hits, the first box crossed the south end and approach, the second box covered the central portion and the third box bombed in the pattern of the second. There was no opposition encountered either over the target or enroute and all planes returned safely to the base.....Capt. Winebrenner returned to the Squadron today following an emergency furlough in the States. He was forty-two days at home and if it hadn't been for conditions at home he would have enjoyed every moment of it. The Captain says the States are wonderful, but the coming back is too difficult to make a thirty day furlough worthwhile. The hardest thing he's ever done was to leave home again.....The rumor about moving has become pretty much of an actuality although no definite announcement has been made. Our new field is supposed to be within thirty some miles of the front lines which is an angle that isn't looked forward to with much enthusiasm. Until the field dries we are to live in the war torn buildings of a local village – no doors or windows we understand. Col. Chapman wants to take all available lumber including mess-halls, Officers Club and Red Cross Club which indicates a shortage of shelter or else a hell of a lot of repair work. Regardless of the conditions up there we shall leave Corsica without remorse.....No movies tonight.....

28<sup>th</sup>

Target for today was San Michele Diversion in Northern Italy. Twelve bombers of this Squadron took off with thousand pounders and dropped their devastating load with precision accuracy scoring direct hits on the target. Anti-aircraft fire was absent over the target and all planes returned safely to the base.....Line boys are now getting one day in every ten off. They used to jump on a plane every so

often for a days sojourn in Italy, but since that practice has been halted the new day off policy has gone into effect. There is really no point in a day off on Corsica, but the idea is appealing.....The Squadron carpenters are in the process of building a stage in the mess-hall for the G.I. colored review scheduled for January 30<sup>th</sup>. For all the work entailed the show should be a WOW.....Plans for a two year overseas celebration have been curtailed somewhat by the eventuality of a move. However, it really doesn't make much difference because two years overseas isn't an occasion for celebration. February 15<sup>th</sup> will mark the second anniversary for the 340<sup>th</sup>.....No movie was shown in the Squadron tonite.....

29<sup>th</sup>

Two elements of six ships took off at 10:40 hours this morning to bomb Calliano railroad bridge and Rovereto railroad bridge in Northern Italy. Turbulent air over Calliano made bombing impossible consequently the alternate Marcaria railroad bridge was bombed. Bomb pattern covered west approach and west end of bridge with direct hits observed. Anti-aircraft fire over Marcaria was negligent. Three chaff ships leading the formation to Rovereto hit just to the left of the given gun positions with possible hits in gun areas. Chaff ships dropped phosphorus bombs. However, the guns were not silenced and three ships were holed by anti-aircraft fire injuring on man. The injury sustained by Sgt. While, radio-gunner in 7B, was only slight. Bomb pattern covered the north end and approaches of Rovereto with direct hits observed.....A plane was supposed to leave for Rimini and another for Rome this morning, but both were called off. Everyone is anxious for a complete report on our new field at Rimini as thus far every picture varies. Some say there are buildings to live in and others say there is absolutely nothing but rubble. The Rome trip will prove to be of no information other than the number of Roman gals on the loose and the variation in price.....A class in Calculas will be started in the Squadron providing there are sufficient students to make the session worthwhile. The Algebra class is doing very nicely.....Lt. Hammond is the only man in the Squadron with "Forever Amber" and just about everyone is sweating him out. He reads slowly or else he's rereading passages. At the present time "Forever Amber" and "Strange Fruit" are the most sought after books in the Squadron....."The Falcon in Hollywood" was shown at the "Rialto" tonite.....

30<sup>th</sup>

Lavis railroad Diversion was the target for twelve 487<sup>th</sup> bombers this morning. The formation encountered heavy, scant but fairly accurate anti-aircraft fire which holed two ships although no injury to crew members was incurred. Evidently the Diversion remained standing as the first box overshot and the pattern of the second crossed the tracks immediately north of the wet span.....Gen. Knapp was in the Group again today to make heroes out of combat men and a few of the favored ground personnel. Many of the 487<sup>th</sup> men to be decorated were absent on account of the mission – no one on the mission was disappointed either. It's surprising how they dread the decoration ceremony particularly when the Army considers it quite a morale factor. The formation was held down at the Red Cross Club and our Lt. Smith carried the medal box for the General....."Smiley" Nelson had one hell of a time at supper this evening trying to chew a tough piece of steak with his new partial plate. His facial expression was anything but that of delight although everyone is used to that and few were aware of the reason. "Smiley" Nelson says they're damned hard to get used to and no doubt the Squadron will suffer right along with him.....T/Sgt. Olander was relieved as Sergeant of the Guard this morning when he received those much sought after "relieved of Assignment" papers. Combat men finished their missions and awaiting orders have been pulling Sergeant of the Guard thus far.....Music was heard throughout the area tonite as the 41<sup>st</sup> Engineers played a show in the mess-hall. At least it was supposed to have been a show, but they just brought the band along. However, they made plenty of noise and everyone seemed to enjoy the performance.....There was no movie shown in the Squadron tonite.....

Twelve bombers of the 487<sup>th</sup> Squadron took off at 11:30 hours this A.M. to again bomb the Rovereto railroad bridge in Northern Italy. The first box was believed to have hit the north approach, but due to poor visibility the pattern of the second box was not clearly observed although crews reported it within the target area. Anti-aircraft fire was heavy, moderate to intense and accurate holing three of the participating aircraft. 7M returned with a hole as large as a human head so close to the radio compartment that Sgt. Rigdon missed it by fractions rather than inches. He was only slightly injured by fragments, however.....Much excitement in the Squadron this afternoon when T/Sgt. Webb set off two German teller mines during the excavation of a new latrine. It's surprising to see a new latrine being erected so close to moving time, but they just couldn't stretch the old one. Sgt. Gavette, duty Sergeant in charge of latrines says "it will be a miniature affair to last about twenty days.....S-2 predicts February 17<sup>th</sup> as the end of the European War (ala Hetzner). Between German and Russian reports the Russians are anywhere between eighty and fifty miles from Berlin. However, a late Russian communique this evening had them seventy miles from the German Capital....."Dark Waters" with Merle Oberon was shown in the mess-hall this evening.....

## February 1945

[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

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

i. Losses in Action

1. Fred L Cormack
2. Ospar E Olson Jr
3. Morris Lazarowitz
4. Lawson T Ware

j. Personnel who have distinguished themselves in action.

1. David D Cuthbertson
2. Stewart Farnham
3. Emil F Jattmar
4. William E McGriffin
5. Harry P Naruszewicz
6. Carl A Pennock
7. James R Rambo
8. John C Rau
9. Lawson T. Ware
10. Fleet C Williams

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

1. Bernard Albert
2. Walter Allor Jr
3. Dominic Angelini
4. Blaise A Ansara
5. Theodore J. Bennett
6. Eugene J Broos Jr
7. Robert E Brown
8. Willard A Bruce
9. Marion G Burger
10. Robert W Carlson
11. Thomas W. Cavanagh
12. Louis Carbera
13. Hubert Conwill
14. Fred L Cormack

15. Duke J Crosby
16. David D Cuthbertson
17. Paul V Deneen Jr
18. James C Dinkler
19. Charles F. Donovan
20. John H Downs
21. Warren A Downs
22. George Dranchak
23. William \_ Durie
24. Myron E Erickson
25. Richard F Evans
26. Robert K Evans
27. Edgar E Evarts
28. Paul R Faron
29. Allesson J Forrister
30. Charles F Fredericks Jr.
31. Pierre P Garvin
32. George Gregor
33. Dwain D Gull
34. Nelson Halstead
35. Werner M Hartman Jr
36. David D Heater
37. Raymond S Heckman
38. Thomas A Hetzal
39. Walter B Hogge
40. Emmett C Houston
41. Kenneth W Hovermale
42. Emil F Jettmar
43. Frank L Jones
44. Charles E Jones
45. Christy M. Kara
46. Donald m Kenne
47. Hubert C. Knauff
48. Paul S Kotowski
49. William E. Krebs
50. Wallace L Krueger
51. Francis J La Pierre
52. William A Lee Jr
53. Robert E Lehmkuhl
54. Roger D Lewis
55. Julius Lieberman
56. Vernon J Lyle
57. Bryant O Lyons
58. Paul H. Mabe
59. Morgan C. Mattox
60. Joel B Mayer
61. Arthur W Merritt
62. David J Mershon
63. Marlan J Michel

64. John C Miller
65. Floyd E Mithoell
66. Wesley J Mummert
67. Paul E McDonnell
68. William E McGriffin
69. Charles T McIlvain
70. Walter V McVee
71. Harry P Naruszewicz
72. John M O'Riley
73. Edward W Oviatt
74. Alton W. Parker
75. Olan B Parrish
76. Carl A Fennock
77. Donald A Peterson
78. John Polanko
79. Gerard M Powers
80. Raymond Prient Jr.
81. Joseph F Quinlin
82. James R Rambo
83. John H Ramsey
84. John C Rau
85. Frank N Reynolds
86. James A Robb
87. Darwin H Selle
88. Vernon A Short
89. James C Slaughter
90. Dwayne Q Smith
91. Marvin H Smith
92. David C Solether
93. Paul N Spencer
94. Kenneth O Starr
95. Geroge R Stejskal
96. Harold N Sterling
97. Nathen G Thomas
98. Joseph F Thornsberry
99. Calvert Todd Jr
100. Joseph J Tomasek
101. Ted H Trier
102. Fleet C Williams
103. Donald E. Wilson
104. John J. S. Wisanowski
105. Ralph L Woods
106. John J. Zugibe

February 1<sup>st</sup> 1945

The 487<sup>th</sup> Squadron started out the second month of the new year with a stand-down. Twelve crews were out on the field this morning ready for take-off when the mission was called off and a stand-down declared. It is raining and hazy this morning, but before noon the sky cleared and we enjoyed another spring like day.....Pay call was held in the mess-hall from 3:00 P.M. until 5:00. Lt Hammond has dispensed with the saluting practice and it really helps hasten the paying procedure. Many requests for playing cards were made at the Special Service tent following the happy occasion. No doubt much money will be changing hands in the Squadron for the next few days – games usually last until all cash is centralized.....S/Sgt. Bill Durie is finally back with the Squadron after much dickering back & forth with the 310<sup>th</sup> in exchange for “Bill.” He's glad to be back with the Squadron although he admits that he doesn't like any overseas outfit.....1st/Sgt. Parkins is sweating out the results of a Warrant Officer examination he took down at Wing the other day. He is fairly confident although he claims it was really rough and he wouldn't be surprised if he remained First Sergeant for another year. Passing a board is just the first part of becoming a Warrant Officer, but once you get it it's a good deal providing one wants to make a career out of the Army.....”Strange Affair” was shown at the mess-hall tonite at two different showings.....

2<sup>nd</sup>

Chiusaforte West railroad bridge was the target for eleven B-25's of the 487<sup>th</sup> Squadron this morning. They were over the target at 12:56 hours and dropped their bombs in the smoke of the preceding boxes, consequently the results were undetermined. However, it is believed that the only two ships dropping out of the second box crossed the north approach. A light, scant and inaccurate barrage of anti-aircraft fire was encountered off the right wing on turnoff, but no damage was inflicted on the participating bombers.....Lts. Hale and Spears departed for God's Country after completing their respective tours of duty. It can easily be said that they left without regret. Lt. Broos flew over to Naples with them in order to get a much needed haircut and managed to RON. [?] Broos has been having a hell of a time getting off the Island, but evidently the mention of getting a haircut turned the trick for him. At this point his hair is far enough down his neck to be curled.....The 487<sup>th</sup> Trio singing with the “Skyliners” is contemplating a strike. It seems that they were offended the other nite when a new vocalist trying out took all of the numbers. Naturally it was unintentional although “artists” are temperamental.....Two new crews came into the Squadron today and as usual they were greeted like long lost cousins. Perhaps the number of missions to a tour will be cut down now.....”Sunday Dinner For A Soldier” was shown at the Rialto this evening. Just about everyone had seen the picture after it had appeared here twice before so the attendance was very limited.

3<sup>rd</sup>

Despite a brilliant sun the mission schedule for this morning was off and a stand-down was declared. Evidently Italy was enjoying one of its frequent inclement days.....9<sup>th</sup> Combat Camera Unit was out on the line all day shooting movies of the “Dog Face” Squadron. It looks as though the Squadron is going to get no end of publicity providing all the efforts put forth by the Group PRO reach the proper outlets. Bill Mauldin has not made his promised trip to the Island as yet and consequently the planes are still without names.....We still have nothing definite on the move although it is definite that we will go sometime this month. Capt. Linthicum left yesterday a sort of advanced party for the Squadron. God only knows how long he'll be there before the Squadron catches up to him because the moving date is set back daily.....News on the eastern front continues to be good, but there are so many different reports as to the distance between the Russian troops and Berlin that it's impossible to maintain maps.

The Russians are very conservative in their communiques while the Germans are exactly the opposite, consequently we are more inclined to believe the Nazis. If the German communiques are correct the Russians are already across the Oder river although the Kremlin has made no such announcement. It would be safe to say that they are within a sixty mile radius of Berlin.....”The Man On Half Moon Street” played in the mess-hall tonite. There was also several reels of the 340<sup>th</sup> in combat shown.....

4<sup>th</sup>

Four planes of the eighteen ship formation sent out this morning to bomb Lavis Diversion were holed by intense flak encountered over the target. Lts. Cormack and Olson were slightly wounded while on the bomb run. All three boxes scored hits on the Diversion crossing it in two different places. Today's pattern was one of the most compact that has been accomplished in this Squadron for some time. Captain Sterling spent the evening marveling at the excellent bomb pattern shown on the photographs.....S/Sgt. Paul Gilman has been on the alert for the past three days for a hurried move to Rimini. He is going with the advanced party to set up a control tower on the new field.....One of the Yugoslav's working in the Group was caught fooling around in the tool box of an airplane last nite. Fortunately he understood enough English to halt at the command otherwise we would probably have a dead Yugo among us now. Both T/Sgt. Powers and PFC Pederson claim the capture, but evidently it's a fifty-fifty proposition because Pederson discovered the culprit and turned him over to Powers who was patrolling the area in a jeep. We are still in the dark as to the purpose behind the Yugoslav's mission.....There were two deliveries of mail today and neither one of them amounted to much more than a few packages and letters. Packages are the least of our worries with so much first-class mail outstanding. Even if the little first-class mail we do get in would run in sequence it would have more value to the recipient.....A pictureless evening was enjoyed in the Squadron this evening.....

5<sup>th</sup>

Twelve bombers of the Squadron were over Calliano railroad bridge #5 again this morning. Originally there were chaff and phosphorus elements, but when the target was changed to Calliano these ships were eliminated. Observations had both boxes in the center of the bridge, but photographs showed only fifty percent hits. Anti-aircraft fire was accurate over the target holing two ships in the formation, although no injury to crew members was incurred.....Rumor has it that the move has been postponed again. There is nothing official on it as yet, but it's quite evident as Francs are no longer being changed into Italian Lire and the tearing down of the Red Cross Club was halted this afternoon. However, the Club is about half way down now so unless they rebuild it the place won't have much value. No one can understand why the Club is being taken to begin with because other than the Thursday nite dances it's a total loss.....Capt. Spencer is making a record for Public Relations which will probably be broadcast to the States eventually. It's one of those run of the mill affairs dealing with hot missions encountered during a tour of combat. The record will be made at Radio Rome tomorrow providing they can take off.....The mail situation becomes worse daily. It used to be that on nice days we could expect some kind of a mail delivery, but lately it's considered a great day when a couple of letters come in.....”Hail the Conquering Hero” was shown at the Rialto this evening.....

6<sup>th</sup>

Fifteen bombers of this Squadron took-off at 11:00 hours this morning to attack the Lavis Station in Northern Italy. However, due to unfavorable weather they failed to drop and all bombs were returned to the base. Poor weather over the target was rather surprising considering the beautiful day we enjoyed here on Corsica.....Orders came through today awarding Major Bugbee, M/Sgt. Metz and

T/Sgt. Carter the Bronze Star Medal. Conspicuous on the same order was the Bronze Star to Capt. Clifford W. Swearingen former Assistant S-2 Officer who also contributed his literary art to the Squadron Diary. Capt. Swearingen is to be commended for his progress at the Wing. Congratulations are also due Major Bugbee, Metz and Carter.....A fairly good sized amount of first-class mail came into the Squadron this afternoon. Among the letters were a few belated Christmas Pkgs. which had no doubt made the rounds of all overseas post offices.....Combat men seem to be finishing up and going home daily now. Before very long we'll see another complete turn over of combat personnel.....Lt Rushton spent the afternoon without pants after burning his last pair on a stove. He claims that they were his only pair and that someone will have to come to his aid if he is expected to leave for home tomorrow....."Bowery to Broadway" was shown at the "Rialto" this evening....

7th

Three chaff ships and twelve bombers of the Squadron attacked the San Michele Diversion again. The chaff ships covered Dogna gun positions and proved to be quite effective. Anti-aircraft fire was not encountered over San Michelle and boty bomb patterns covered the bridge inflicting direct hits.....A Public Address system was installed in the Special Service tent, but it was only borrowed from Group and probably won't last very long. If we are allowed to keep it many request programs are being planned and in the meantime Sgts. Barnes, Carstansen and Moore are playing their favorites. The music adds rather a carnival aspect to the Squadron area providing one has nothing to do but listen.....The Group baseball team was awarded an appropriate medal this afternoon for their achievement during the season. It bears an inscription acclaiming them the wing champions. Other than a souvenir or keepsake the medal has no value.....Rumor has it that Capt. Coyle's orders to return to the Squadron were cancelled at the P.O.E. and he was ordered to await the return of the Group. Lt Cormack's mother also of Coulmbia, S.C. incorporated this information in a recent letter after talking to Capt. Coyle. The story is that the Group is to return to Columbia where they will change over to A-26's and train for the Pacific. Going home is the only good part of that story....."Strike Up the Band" was shown in the mess-hall tonite.....

8th

Piacenza railroad bridge and gun positions were the target for eight bombers of this Squadron. The phosphorus element covered northeast portion of "A" gun positions. Bomb pattern due to poor visibility from smoke of other patterns was hard to observe, but was believed to have hit in the area of southern portion of "wet" span. Heavy, moderate to intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire was encountered over the target holing four of the participating bombers. The lead ship had an eighty-eight shell go right through the left wing exploding above the airplane.....Group Special Services came down this morning and politely removed their Public Address system much to the displeasure of the "hep cats" in the Squadron. Evidently they are not in favor of lending it out for indefinite periods of time due to the destruction usually incurred on such a deal....."Bingo" games were resumed in the mess-hall this evening. It had been discontinued ever since the Enlisted Men's Club was flooded out during the early fall rain storms. However, instead of the usual prizes money has replaced the souvenirs of Roma. Our mess-hall is by far the most versatile building in the organization - it can be changed from a dining hall to a theatre and then to a gambling cassino. S/Sgt. Kosak spent the day constructing a ping-pong table also to be installed in the mess-hall.....No movie was shown in the mess-hall tonite.....

9<sup>th</sup>

A hot mission was scheduled this morning, but it was cancelled in favor of a stand-down just before the second alert. Needless to say there was much cheering when the announcement was made. With all these hot missions it's surprising that the minimum requirement for a tour of combat isn't out to sixty missions. Six months ago when a tour consisted of fifty missions with no questions asked the greatest percentage of raids were "milk runs." One could certainly never give the Army credit for being consistant.....Lt. Smith is said to be having considerable difficulty reaching his tent lately. In the last week he has detoured through various slit trenches on two occasions. However, he claims to have eliminated the danger by procuring a very strong flash light.....Some mail came in late this afternoon, but the delivery was so slight that it is hardly worth mentioning. for the past few weeks our mail call has consisted of a few old beat up christmas packages that have probably made the rounds of every theatre of operations and a very limited number of first-class letters that by some strange incident managed to sneak through. It's good that the magazine articles emphasising the importance of mail to a soldier are not one hundred percent true because of that were the case Corsican based fighting men would have perished long ago.....Band members are again vacationing at El Rousse. It's actually a job, but the Enlisted men at least consider it a vacation.....Stars and Stripes are coming in again but spasmodically. When the 306<sup>th</sup> Service Group was handling the maters we received them daily. However, the 340<sup>th</sup> Special Service Department has taken over the task and thus far we received five editions one day, three editions the next and we're now awaiting the third assortment....."Step Lively" with the celebrated swoon crooner Frank Sinatra was shown in the mess-hall this evening. Perhaps it was sour grapes, but nevertheless very few of the boys seemed to care much for the picture.....

10<sup>th</sup>

Mission was cancelled again this morning and a stand-down was declared. Evidently weather conditions over Northern Italy were not conducive to good bombing. However, we on Corsica enjoyed another balmy day. Apparently the Corsican winter is over as the days are consistently spring like.....Fresh Chicken was served for supper tonite. The fowl without a question of a doubt died a natural death because it was next to impossible to dissect it with an ordinary knife. Sgt. Liphardt put on quite a wrestling match with his piece using gestures and clever repartee for the benefit of all diners....."Shorty" Larson left his nails and hammer on the ground today and went on a practice mission. There is no fear of "Shorty" giving up his carpentry because he only went so that he could be pictured bedecked in a parachute.....Capt. Linthicum has many stories to relate concerning the field that we were supposed to occupy since returning from Rimini. We are mighty fortunate to have remained on lifeless Corsica after all.....There was no movie shown in the Squadron tonite.....

11<sup>th</sup>

Stand-down was in effect all day although there was no apparent reason other than poor weather over Northern Italy. It is surprising that we enjoy a beautiful day here on Corsica while Northern Italy is submerged in water and mud and rain never seems to cease.....Two more crews came in this afternoon and were greeted like long lost friends by all combat crew members. Some are of the opinion that if enough new men come in the tour of combat will be cut down. Rumor has it that the new Group Flight Surgeon is in favor of cutting down the missions from seventy to sixty although it is said that he is running into opposition on that score. Needless to say the Flight Surgeon has already made a hit with the combat men.....The boys have found a lady up in the hills that runs a restaurant after a fashion – eggs and french fried potatoes are the main bill of fare. However, T/Sgt. Laiton shot three ducks,

brought them up to the lady yesterday and made arrangements for a duck dinner to be served tonite. Five fellows partook of the feast this evening and from all accounts enjoyed it immensely. Sgt. Moore took up some phonograph records which provided the musical din.....Sgt. Liphardt received a newspaper picture of his fiancé displaying the ring that "Lip" had purchased for her in Cairo and then had blessed by Pope Pius XII. Needless to say Sgt. Linhardt spent the day proudly showing the clipping of his one and only....."Keys To The Kingdom" was shown at the Squadron mess-hall this evening. It is one of the best pictures ever shown in the Squadron.....

12<sup>th</sup>

Crews waited around all morning for briefing, but before the morning was over a stand-down was declared. For all that we know the war may be over although the radio commentators keep blaring away of the progress being made on all fronts. The Russians are still moving in the Breslau area on a hundred mile front west of the Oder, but the immediate threat to Berlin has been diminished somewhat by the regrouping of the Russian forces on the east bank of the Oder at Frankfort. We are expecting big things to come of the Big Three Conference which is now in session somewhere on Russian territory.....A decoration ceremony was held this afternoon. S/Sgt. Robert Brownlee was presented with the Legion of Merit which was awarded to him for his part in the invention of the radio release system being used by our bombers. He is the only man in the Squadron who has ever received this high award. Some of the other ground men were presented with the Bronze Star and the customary aerial awards were dispensed to combat men.....Lt. Broos has evidently decided to remain in Rome for the duration. He has been over there for a week now and apparently has no intention of returning as he sent word to Lt. Donovan that he was lonesome and wanted Donovan to join him in the Eternal City. Needless to say Broos doesn't know that a new system has been inaugurated and that he has to be interviewed by the Group Flight Surgeon before his orders are submitted to the 12<sup>th</sup> AF....."Rhapsody in Blue" was shown at the mess-hall tonite. It was the third time the picture had been shown in the Group, but everyone seemed to enjoy the repeat performance.....

13<sup>th</sup>

San Ambrogio Station was the primary target for fifteen bombers of this Squadron taking-off at 09:00 hours this morning. Chaff and phosphorus ships led the formation into the target and the second box dropped on the primary – their pattern appeared to be immediately east of the center in the yards. The first box bombed the alternate, Calcinato railroad bridge crossing the tracks east of the bridge. Heavy, moderate and very accurate anti-aircraft fire was encountered over both targets, holing three of the participating aircraft. Other squadrons in the formation suffered casualties and severe injuries to personnel so the 487<sup>th</sup> was really fortunate today.....The "Skyliners" held a rehearsal for the recording that they are supposed to make for PRO in Rome within the next few days. Sgt. Fuiks wrote the radio script, the band played and Capt. Thomas with his able assistant listened [...?] no one was satisfied. the band is burned up because of all the plugs for the 340<sup>th</sup> and Capt. Thomas claims the music is too noisy. After another two or three weeks of discussions and arguments the idea will no doubt be junked.....Within the next two days the Group will celebrate their second year overseas. Festivities are being planned, but it doesn't sound like it will amount to much more than a change of menu and the scheduled USO show.....Sgts. Barnes and Hetzner have inaugurated a rumor clinic. They have requested via the bulletin board that all rumors worthy of repeating be turned over to them for publication. It will be a sad day for the 487<sup>th</sup> Squadron if none of these excellent rumors ever bear fruit. The 487<sup>th</sup> is rapidly becoming the rumor factory of the Group.....No movie was presented at the mess-hall tonite. They say that there are only six films on the Island that we haven't seen. It's just the old story of running a good thing to the ground.....

14<sup>th</sup>

Valentines Day was not celebrated in the Squadron today – in fact there were very few of the boys who even remembered that it was once a day for great celebration. Evidently the Group is returning to the old system of a stand-down every fourth day for the Squadron. The 487<sup>th</sup> stood-down in turn today.....Rumors are floating around the Squadron in abundance although there is nothing official on any of them.. the time was when rumors were repeated in hushed tones, but nowadays rumors dominate all conversations. All of them have us going home varying only in the route and details. Actually it's getting to the point where it's a little tiresome listening to everyone's dreams. It will either be a happy or an unhappy day when the official announcement is made.....Much commotion was caused in the mess-hall this evening when S/Sgt. Litwin discovered a small bronze basketball apparently received for proficiency at the game in his beans. T/Sgt. Liphardt took this situation in hand and returned it to the cooks who became very indignant claiming that the trophy did not belong to any of them. Needless to say Liphardt is now very much in the doghouse. The Cooks are getting very sensitive, but there is no doubt about the fact that they could use plenty of constructive criticism.....Lt. Mecham is the first man in the Squadron to finish a correspondence course and apply for a second one. Pvt. "Flash" Gordon is also doing a lot of work with the courses in an effort to make up his missing high school credit.....PFC "Shorty" Larson spent the afternoon erecting a volley ball court in the area. Because of his lack of height "Shorty" plays a losing game, but he still seems to enjoy it. Volley Ball has become a favorite sport since the erection of the net....."Stars On Parade" was shown at the mess-hall this evening. Half of the boys left after the first real claiming that it was the worst they had ever seen. No one had anything good to say for the Columbia Production.....

15<sup>th</sup>

Crews were out at the airplanes when a stand-down was declared late this morning. A little transition was flown this afternoon, but other than that aerial activity in the Squadron was at a standstill.....Two cokes and six bottles of beer were dispensed free of charge this morning which sort of started off the days activities. A fine roast beef dinner was followed by a USO show, "Swingtime" at the 520<sup>th</sup> Service Squadron. Those who remained in the area saw a volley ball game between the Squadron officers and enlisted men – men the officers were on the losing end. Supper consisted of pork chops augmented with the name dehydrated vegetation with a bottle of Tripoli beer and a coke to add color and spirit. Some of the boys from the line had already indulged in the spirits which made the mess-hall quite noisy during the dinner hour. The USO show was repeated at the Red Cross Club this evening to a full house. Here in the Squadron mess-hall "And Now Tomorrow" was shown which was supposed to be followed by ice cream and apple pie. However, someone failed to send a truck up to Bastia for the ice cream so a disappointed crowd had to call it an evening with a show. Thus was the Squadrons celebration of its second year overseas.....Most of the men doing the celebrating have been over her about five months consequently their enthusiasm was much greater than those entitled to celebrate. The men who have been over here two years were more interested in getting home than celebrating an occasion that should be mourned.....SO ENDS A STRICTLY RED LETTER DAY.

16<sup>th</sup>

Mission was canceled again this morning and a stand-down declared. It was rather a dismal day here on the Island and Italy was probably encased by the same soupy sky making accurate bombing impossible. Missions have been might few and far between for the last two weeks. combat men are not consistent as one minute they're wishing a stand-down would be declared and then they're moaning

about not getting their missions in.....Many rumors concerning the transfer of men to the Infantry are floating around the Squadron. Several of the boys came back from Naples and Rome with stories of men with thirty months overseas with the Air Corps being shifted to the Infantry. It will be a sad day for the 487<sup>th</sup> personnel when and if the practice reaches us.....There are so many new men in the organization that it hardly looks like the same old outfit. apparently the new men feel that they have reached Utopia in overseas assignment. Without batting an eyelid they come to Special Service asking for green ink, wrapping paper, radio tubes and such recent best sellers as "Forever Amber." Evidently they believe the home front talk of everything going to the men overseas.....The Ice Cream that we failed to get last nite was served for supper this evening in liquid form over apple pie. Needless to say the anticipation was much greater than the enjoyment derived.....No movie tonite.....

17<sup>th</sup>

Twelve bombers of the 487<sup>th</sup> Squadron attacked Bressanome railroad bridge this morning. three phosphorus ships led the formation into the target dropping their pattern immediately to the northwest of gun positions. Both bomb patters crossed the bridge at center and left of center with probable direct hits. There was no anti-aircraft fire encountered, but four to six ME 109's passed over the formation from 12 o'clock without firing any shots. One B-25 discovered a hole which was believed to have been fired by another B-25. It's getting bad when gunners start firing on their own formation although at a time like that the excitement is great. Half of the gunners didn't even see the enemy aircraft.....The entire Squadron area is restricted for a period of one week as a result of the tent and area inspection made this morning by Major Rapp. Some of the combat men have been relieving themselves in the weeds near their tents which is not a very sanitary manner and was not fully appreciated by the Commanding Officer.....Several of the boys from the area were already on order to leave for rest period in Rome today, but they were canceled and the line men took advantage of the vacancies. The next inspection will probably find this cow pasture looking like Central Park.....Packages and paper came into the Squadron tonite, but they weren't any too welcome with so much first-class mail still outstanding. It will surely be a wonderful day when we can consider ourselves caught up to date in the first-class mail department.....A new man in the Squadron was questioned today concerning the missing articles in the combat crew area. Many of the missing articles were found amongst his belongings, but nothing definite has been announced as yet.....No movie was shown in the Squadron this evening.....

18<sup>th</sup>

The status was all mixed up this morning and no one knew exactly what was going on. First of all a mission was scheduled for early morning take-off, but it was changed and a stand-down was declared at Group briefing. By the time crews got back to the Squadron area an immediate stand-by was in effect and shortly after that an afternoon mission was determined. Early chow was served to crew members and they were out on the field taking off when they were called back due to the weather. All this confusion was supposed to have been caused by the apparent withdrawal of German troops from Italy.....Three chaff ships from this Squadron flew with the 488<sup>th</sup> and dropped the chaff in the assigned area, but phosphorus bombs were returned due to bombardiers error.....Excavation on a new latrine was commenced this morning. Evidently we are to be on Corsica for the duration or the remainder of our natural lives.....Capt. Linthicum, Sgts. Barnes, Goodrich and Walkes spent the day yesterday in conference at the Officers Club. The conference dealt with that part of I & E program pertaining to regular orientation discussions. The committee will inaugurate this system of open discussion on current problems and topics in the Squadron shortly.....Our weeks restriction has really gone into effect. Officers were even stopped from going to Bastia for their rations, two men who are finished

their missions and were prepared to leave for Cairo this morning were halted.....The 487<sup>th</sup> was again without movie tonite.....

19<sup>th</sup>

The 487<sup>th</sup> remained on the ground again today with the exception of a little transition and a plane to Naples. The latter took five combat men who were returning to the States over to the POE. Capt. Miller, Lt. Genian, Sgts. Byerly, Kenyon and Mailzewski made up the lucky five.....The new latrine atop the hill is coming along nicely. It is being dug as a convenience to combat men who found the regular commode too far from their tents which necessitated relieving themselves in the nearby weeds. Perhaps too close association with the Italians brought about this innovation.....Physical examinations of all ground personnel in the Squadron commenced this morning. The entire Group is carrying out these examinations, but the purpose is still unknown. Many of the boys are venturing guesses as to the purpose, but the general opinion is that it's merely a routine check up. We are hoping that is has nothing to do with the Infantry in spite of the many rumors.....Not enough mail has come in within the last few days to even hang out the "Poco" sign. Most of the fellows are so disgusted now that it doesn't make much difference whether it comes in or whether it doesn't. Patience is a virtue that doesn't stand constant abuse and the Corsican mail situation is more than anyone can stand....."Old Acquaintances" was shown at the Squadron mess-hall this evening. An excellent picture that most everyone had seen at least once before.....

20<sup>th</sup>

Lavis Diversion was the primary target for twelve 487<sup>th</sup> bombers this morning. However, heavy haze and smoke pots prevented good vision and the alternate was bombed. Both approaches to Romano di Lombardi were damaged although the bridge was not destroyed. Two enemy fighters were sighted although they failed to attack the formation. Anti-aircraft was out of range and all planes returned safely to the base.....Plans are going ahead for the "SkyLiners" broadcast to take place in Rome sometime the end of this week. Sgt. Fuiks is going to Rome tomorrow as the advanced man. The band will leave Saturday in a C-47 and a B-25. Rehearsals will be held in Rome before the broadcast is made so the project may run into a lengthy sojourn in the Eternal City.....Two new crews came in this afternoon giving the Squadron more combat men than ever before. Right now there are so many radio-gunners that they are being flown as turret-gunners. A tour of combat will be stretched into a much longer period of time now much to the displeasure of the flying personnel.....Our restriction has made the volley ball court quite an entertainment center of late. Hopping around on a volley ball court is more healthful then the usual Roman holiday, but not nearly as pleasant....."Winged Victory" was shown in the mess-hall this evening. The picture was nothing more than two solid hours of flag waving.....

21<sup>st</sup>

Twelve bombers of the Squadron took off this morning at 10:51 hours to bomb Udine Marshaling Yards followed at 12:06 hours by three chaff and phosphorus ships destined for Bressanone railroad bridge. However, both elements returned early with bombs due to cloud coverage.....General Knapp was in the Group today for one of his regular presentation ceremonies. Many 487<sup>th</sup> combat men were decorated along with several ground crew men who were presented with the Bronze Star. Now that they no longer require a guard of honor there isn't so much confusion or ill feelings on decoration day. After two months of combat in the air a man looks like a well decorated Christmas tree.....Several of the boys formerly with the Squadron and now returned to the States have written back with much

information regarding former members. T/Sgt. Copeland ex assistant armament section chief and now ex-soldier is running a bakery in Texas. Lt. Bloomberg of 487<sup>th</sup> fame is reported to have donned a zoot suit. T/Sgt. "Gus" Rounis former radio-gunner with the Squadron has also regained his freedom. Our former assistant operations officer Capt. Hugue is at present major Hugue with a B-29 outfit in Saipan. T/Sgt. Ed. Johnston is at Chemical Warfare school and T/Sgt. Warren Wood is still enjoying a series of furloughs. Discharges must be a dime a dozen in the States now which is rather amazing to men who have been overseas two years with no apparent relief in view. The Army and its intricacies will always remain in the unsolved quantity to most of its personnel....."Conspirators" with Hedy La Marr was shown in the mess-hall tonite for the second time in less than tow months. However, Miss La Marr is always a welcome sight in this outpost of civilization.....

22<sup>nd</sup>

Nine planes took off this morning at 10:00 A.M., six bomber headed for the Lavis railroad station and three phosphorus ships attacked the Bressanome gun positions. Seven of the aircraft were holed and one crew member, Sgt. M. Lazarowitz was slightly wounded as a result of the heavy, intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire. Phosphorus element failed to identify the target and the bombers missed the targt altogether for the first time in ages. Needless to say the zero did nothing for our bombing accuracy this month, but such things are to be expected occasionally.....Our restriction is over Friday at midnite and everyone is eager to get away. In spite of the fact that many of the boys got away very infrequently a restriction is always considered to be very confining. No doubt Rome an Naples will see much of the 487<sup>th</sup> Squadron after the restriction is lifted.....Sgt. Roger Metzner, who was scheduled to sing with the "Skyliners" as the "masked singer" for their recording is in a dither. There is so much opposition, pros and cons that Roger doesn't know what the story is. The story will be unfolded Saturday when the band leaves for Rome.....Combat men not on the mission spent the day in hiding as there were various details. However, Sgt. Gavette, duty Sergeant, never stands short on the details – he always manages to dig someone up. A new washing device for mess-kits is being installed which requires a lot of work.....No movie was shown at the mess-hall this evening.....

23<sup>rd</sup>

Lavis Diversion was again the primary target for this mornings mission, but due to dense smoke screens at Lavis the formation turned off while on the bomb run and went to Legnaro railroad bridge which was designated as alternate. Eighteen bombers of this Squadron attacked the target covering it throughly with their bomb patterns. Two spans were out before the attack was made and our formation lent further to the destruction of this vital railroad bridge. Heavy, scant but inaccurate anti-aircraft fire was encountered over the primary – no ships were holed or damaged.....The only eventful happening of the day was the arrival of "Beaucoup" mail. For the first time in weeks it was really "Beaucoup" including first-class mail and packages. There is still a lot of January mail missing, but todays delivery should satisfy everyone for a while at least.....A new arrangement has been made with the 486<sup>th</sup> which will enable more men to see Cairo. From now on one ship will leave each Squadron alternately every ten days bringing down one group of men and picking up those who had been left on the last trip. One of our planes will leave Monday and already preparation has begun for the fortunates who are going.....Another inspection is scheduled for tomorrow which will either lift our restriction or enforce another week of confinement. However, much precaution is being made today to avoid the fate we suffered last week....."Brazil" was shown at the Squadron mess-hall this evening.....

24<sup>th</sup>

Bressanone railroad bridge was the primary target this morning, but was not bombed due to cloud coverage consequently the phosphorus element returned all bombs. However, the twelve ship bomber formation proceeded on to the alternate, Adda Pizzighettone railroad bridge. A premature radio release signal caused the wing ships to drop first and a general mix-up in the bombing. No claims to bombing accuracy were made following this raid. Lt. Ware was slightly wounded and two ships were holed as a result of the anti-aircraft fire.....The "Skyliners" finally got off today to make their phonographic debut in Rome. They are expected to be away for several days.....Tactical Air Force in the Mediterranean is having a souvenir ashtray produced for all personnel. The outside circumference is to be twenty-one inches with a border showing the five principal campaigns as [...?] old Gothic letters surrounding a cluster in full colors of the aircraft identification markings of all the nations which have participated in TAF since its inception. It is being made by the world famous Ginora China factory at Sesto near Florence and is priced at \$1.25 each. Orders were taken for a hundred and seventy-eight of them today and there will probably be another hundred dissatisfied lads tomorrow when they discover that the orders have already gone in.....Rumor has it that a Squadron plane is to go to Cannes, France every five days for rest leave. Thus far Cannes has only been open to officers – apparently enlisted men aren't supposed to be interested in France.....The first orientation lecture was held in the mess-hall this evening. S/Sgt. Goodrich lectured on the Dumbarton Oaks Conference to the thirty man audience but in spite of the limited attendance the discussion turned out to be quite heated and informative.....No movie tonite.....

25<sup>th</sup>

Stand-down in effect all day. However, operations bulletin board was covered with a training program of transition and practice formation. The boys would much rather go on a mission than participate in the training program so a stand-down can't actually be considered a day off.....Lt. Donovan came back to the Squadron today following a lengthy sojourn in Rome. He was with Lt. Broos who has been over there since the first of the month and is still there. Both of them have finished their missions and neither are very anxious to get home. Blood plasma will have to be sent over to Broos if he remains much longer.....489<sup>th</sup> lost three ships over the target today which is anything but an encouraging note for combat men. Missions seem to be getting rougher everyday, but nothing is done to lower requirement of a combat tour.....Wholesale promotions of enlisted combat men was announced today. Promotions are automatic with combat personnel and there isn't much [...?] over [...?] staff or tech sergeant.....Lt George Smith is now secure in his job as Squadron adjutant after being completely reclassified to a permanent adjutant status. Capt. Jacobs was sent to the Squadron to assume that duty through a mix up in the morning report, but it has been straightened out now and Capt. Jacobs will probably be assigned to another duty or transferred out.....Ten radio-gunners are being transferred from this Group to the 310<sup>th</sup>, three of which will be from the 487<sup>th</sup>. The chosen three are Sgts. Todd, White and Wilson....."Ladies in Washington" was shown at the mess-hall this evening.....

26<sup>th</sup>

Udine Supply Dump was the target for eighteen bombers of the 487<sup>th</sup> Squadron this morning, but a heavy haze hung over the vital target and all bombs were returned to the base. This will be recorded as a mission for the boys and represents their first "milk run" in ages even though they didn't hit the target.....Seven lucky boys finally got off to Cairo early this morning. S/Sgt. Michel found his name on the schedule last nite and being totally unprepared either financially or physically he was forced to cancel his reservation. This is really a rare item with everyone and their brother knocking themselves

out to make the Cairo roster.....General Knapp, Colonel Chapman and Major Rapp were observed by 7T going thru the various motions while a movie camera clicked along. Dan Barton was also photographed with the General. All this was in conjunction with the P.R.O. build up on the "Dog Face Squadron".....We now have six airplanes with more than 100 mission lead by George Laiton's 7X counting 117, but closely followed by Paul Hoffman's "hard luck ship" - old 7M. 7M came back from a mission the other day all shot up again and for a while we thought "Tuff Stuff Jr." wouldn't make it, but the latest report is that she'll be back in combat before long.....No movie was shown in the Squadron tonite.....

27<sup>th</sup>

Take-off for eighteen 487<sup>th</sup> bombers was at 10:40 hours this morning – primary target was Udine Supply Dump and the alternate, Lotta di Levenza railroad Diversion. Both targets were bombed although no startling results were claimed. Bombs landed on the west side of the supply area and the other patterns seemed to surround the railroad diversion without inflicting severe damage to either. The scant anti-aircraft fire encountered was out of range.....With the exception of a few left-overs every ground man in the Squadron has had his physical - tomorrow would finish them all up. Capt. Kendall probably never heard of so many ailments or reasons to go home in his entire career. However, the examination was more or less routine and it's rather doubtful that even the sickliest was found to be a physical wreck.....Today everyone was lamenting Gen. Arnold's statement that most airmen in the European Theater would go immediately to the Pacific when Germany is defeated. A tour of China is something to look forward to alright, but a detour through the States would certainly be appreciated. Morale is apparently a very minor consideration on the part of the High Command.....The new mess-kit boiler was finished and put into service today. It is really quite elaborate and serves a very good purpose although with an imminent move in the offing it seems like a lot of work for the value received....."Together Again" was shown in the mess-hall tonite. It was a new picture and one of the best we've seen in a long time.....

28<sup>th</sup>

Salerno Railroad Diversion was the target for twelve 487<sup>th</sup> bombers this morning. They were over the target at 11:33 hours and a little mix-up in the radio control caused inaccurate bombing. Four of the aircraft dropped prematurely and once returned as a result of the malfunction. There was no flak encountered which gives this mission the title of being the first "milk run" in quite some time. If they aren't hit they're usually at least fired upon, but not even one burst was heard today.....The mail situation has improved considerably within the last week. "Beaucoup" letters came in tonite, some dated as late a February 20<sup>th</sup> which is darn good time in any country and particularly this outpost of civilization. Neslon's disposition still varies with the amount of mail received, consequently we haven't seen a smile for over a week now.....Half of the "Skyliner" band came back to the Island last nite to play a fob at El Rousse. We expected them back permanently by this time, but they haven't made the recording as yet and will return to Rome tomorrow morning. The boys are really getting a vacation out of this deal.....A correspondent artist and Col. Chapman are down in the Squadron this afternoon viewing Sgt. Moore's art work. Many compliments were passed back and forth and the artist seemed very much impressed by Moore's ability as a potential artist.....The western front is moving a little bit now, but it's nothing like the Russian offensive. However, it's steady and may develop into the long awaited drive. Radio secrecy is now covering the drive on Cologne and the latest news has the Allies within nine miles of the great industrial city. The Russians are also still on the move.....No movie was shown in the Squadron tonite.....

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April 12, 2009