

## March 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

Edgar E. Evarts  
David D. Heater

### j. Personnel who have distinguished themselves in action

Marion C. Burger  
Hubert Conwill  
Fred L. Cormack  
George Dranchak  
Myron E. Erickson  
Richard F. Evans  
nelson Halstead  
Raymond S. Heckman Jr.  
Walter V. McVee  
Edward W. Oviatt  
Alton W. Parker  
John Polanko

The following flying personnel of this organization have been awarded Air Medal and Clusters thereto for the period covered:

Bernard Albert  
Walter Allor  
James W. Austin Jr.  
Blaise A. Azzara  
Theodore J. Bennett  
Robert E. Brown  
Willard A. Bruce  
Marion C. Burger  
Marvin K. Carlson

Robert W. Carlson  
Thomas W. Cavanagh  
George Chipouras  
Jerome T. Chumney  
Edwin C. Clothier  
Hubert Conwill  
Fred L. Cormack  
David C. Cunard  
Duke J. Crosby  
David D. Cuthbertson  
Henry J. Del Percio  
James R. Dempsey  
William J. Derby  
John H. Downs  
Warren A. Downs  
Myron E. Erickson  
Richard F. Evans  
Robert E. Evans  
Edgar E. Evarts  
James B. Fitzgerald  
Alleson J. Forrister  
Charles F. Fredericks Jr.  
Frank F. Fronck  
Jack J. Frost  
Pierre P. Garven  
Bert M. Gifford  
George Gifford  
Robert N. Gist  
Harry J. Glattle  
Tony J. Gucwa  
Dwain D. Gull  
Nelson Halstead  
Edward J. Hardisky  
Werner M. Hartman Jr.  
David D. Heater  
Raymond S. Heckman Jr.  
James V. Heming  
Thomas A. Hetzel  
Emmett O. Holbrook  
Robert E. Holmes  
Kenneth R. Hopkins  
John K. Houston  
Kenneth W. Hovermale  
Charles E. Jones  
Frank L. Jones  
Christy M Kara  
Adam R. Kelly  
Donald M Kenney  
Herman H. W. Kiel

Lewis A. Kirk Jr  
Howard J. Knaggs  
Hubert O. Knauff  
Paul S. Kotowski  
Wallace L. Krueger  
Francis J. La Pierre  
Morris Lazarowitz  
John E. Leatherwood  
Robert E. Lehmkuhl  
Roger D. Lewis  
Julius Lieberman  
Vernon J. Lyle  
Morgan C. Mattox  
Edwin E. Mattson  
Bryant O. Lyons  
Arthur W. Merritt  
Marlan J. Michel  
John C. Miller  
Floyd E. Mitchell  
Wesley J. Mummert  
Paul T. McCormick  
Paul E. McDonnell  
Charles T. McIlvain  
Paul S. McMillen  
Walter V. McVee  
Harry P. Narwszewicz  
William D. Nixon  
James M. Oaks  
Frederick C. Oldfield  
Guy E. Olson  
Casimir Olszewski  
Edmund F. Papiernik  
Alton W. Parker  
George W. Patterson  
William A. Paul  
Carl A. Pennock  
Donald A. Peters  
Calvin D. Pickell Jr.  
John Polanko  
Harold Price  
Leslie C. Price  
Raymond Priest  
Joseph F. Quinlin  
James R. Rambo  
Clifford J. Ramsey  
John E. Rapp  
John C. Rau  
Ira Rifkind  
Arthur H. Rigdon

Edward R. Rittersbusch  
Thomas H. Rosmarin  
James W. Russell  
Daniel F. Savage  
Darwin H. Selle  
Vernon A. Short  
James C. Slaughter  
Dwayne Q. Smith  
Marvin H. Smith  
David C. Solether  
Kenneth O. Starr  
George R. Stejskal  
Harold Sterling  
Telmo L. Suarez  
Kenneth G. Tapert  
John E. Taylor  
Frank L. Thibault  
Nathan G. Thomas  
Joseph F. Thornsberry  
Joseph J. Tomasek  
Robert M. Trollinger  
Howard L. Trudell  
Charles W. Watson  
Jay A. Wight  
John J.S. Wisanowski  
Ralph L. Woods  
Caldwell A. Whipple  
Nick Yeonopolus  
John J. Zugibe

## War Diary March 1945

March 1, 1945

Started out this month with poor weather and a stand-down. It looked as though it would rain at any moment throughout the day, but unfortunately we were spared the discomforts of a storm. Despite the soupy sky two planes took off for Rome – one carrying men going on rest leave and the other was returning members of the band who had been over here to play the dance at El Rousse. All band members will be over in Rome at least another four days and their orders have been extended.....Cpl. Balawedjer and his staff spent the entire day preparing for the Squadron dance tonite. It was made a little difficult by the absence of the band, but a recording machine with a public address system was substituted and worked out very nicely. Early chow was served in the Enlisted mens mess-hall and the guests consisting of approximately twenty girls were served a G.I. dinner at six o'clock. All told the dance was about as successful as any event of its kind could be on the Island of Corsica.....Lt. Broos finally returned from Rome a few days ago looking no worse for the wear. Both he and Lt. Donovan are now preparing to depart for the "Old Country" consequently they have been entertaining scavengers for the past few days. Sgts. Whipple and Woods have been doing the honors in this case.....The area

was like a cemetery all morning and afternoon following the announcement of a stand-down. Bastia entertained all those who could get there and the "sack" took care of the personnel who remained in the area. Enlisted men went to Bastia expecting to indulge in much ice-cream only to find that the schedule has been changed again....."Enter Arsene Lupin" was shown at the "Rialto" this evening. It was rather late in getting started as we had to wait until Group had shown it.....

2<sup>nd</sup>

Crews were on the trucks enroute to Group briefing this morning when a stand-down was declared. Inclement weather both here and over the target caused the cancellation of the mission. Clouds were low and threatening all day with a very occasional burst of sunshine which is quite different from the spring-like days we have been enjoying up until recently.....T/Sgt. Paul McMillen, worried about the increasing flak over Italian bridges, states that when the Germans cease operations in Italy he will drop his P.X. rations to them instead of bombs as a token of his appreciation. Paul has over thirty missions now and we thought he was crazy when he gave up the mess-hall for the wild blue yonder. He'll probably finish up and be home before we even leave Corsica.....A new man transferred into the Squadron today from a NORBS Ordnance Depot near Bastia. He came in upon the recommendation of Sgt. Todd and will fly as tail-gunner. It seems rather strange that new men can come in and start flying when there are plenty of old men who have been trying to get on flying status ever since they've been in the outfit. Considerable dissatisfaction has arisen from this deal.....Another quota of men were due to leave for Cannes this morning, but weather prevented take-off. Officers are still the only Group personnel entitled to leave in France....."77" is still down in Cairo awaiting a four hundred inspection consequently the Squadron will have to send a crew-chief down. No doubt every crew-chief on the line will speak for this job.....No movie was shown tonite.....

3<sup>rd</sup>

Primary target for today was the San Margherita railroad bridge, but turbulent weather forced the formation to Peschiera railroad bridge, the alternate. Gun positions at San Margherita were attacked by the phosphorus element, but the twelve ship bomber formation missed the bridge completely and their pattern covered a nearby village. The phosphorus element either silenced the anti-aircraft guns or else they had moved out because no flak was encountered.....Shortly after the mission, all Pilots were herded into a truck and taken down to Group for a general chewing. The main bitch was the fact that the men are carrying on too many personal conversations over the interphone during the mission. Perhaps the "chewing" wouldn't have been so severe if they had hit the target today.....The area was in ship shape today in anticipation of an inspection, but the inspection never took place. Saturday has been designated as the regular inspection day.....A line formed at the mess-hall over an hour before "Meet Me in St. Louis" was to be shown. By the time everyone was in, the mess-hall was packed all the way to the rear. Rather than have two showings the boys "sweat" it out in discomfort although most agree that it was light and entertaining to the war weary 487<sup>th</sup> veterans.....

4<sup>th</sup>

San Ambrogio railroad Overpass was the target for twelve 487<sup>th</sup> bombers this morning. Bomb patterns covered the tracks and crossed the intersection which should net us 100% bombing accuracy for the mission. Weather was excellent and no anti-aircraft fire was encountered, classifying this as a "milk run" for the 487<sup>th</sup> Squadron.....Group Provost Sergeant, PFC D'Olivo was down in the area yesterday equipped with pistol and all the airs of a big shot detective to pick up our tailor. We were under the impression that he was a Yugoslav, but investigation proved him to be a deserter from the Italian Army.

How he ever got into the Yugoslav detachment attached to Group is a mystery.....Infantry volunteers were requested by a memo placed on the Bulletin Board this morning. T/Sgt. Liphardt and Cpl. Burke jokingly submitted their names – much to their chagrin the Orderly Room accepted the applications. Needless to say they were both relieved to find out that the Orderly Room was also joking. However, the request for infantrymen is in all seriousness. A number of the boys are quite worried, but it is thought that only undesirables will be forced to go. No one has greeted the prospect with much enthusiasm because there's a possibility that more drastic measures to procure infantry recruits will be made later.....No movie was shown in the Squadron.....

5<sup>th</sup>

Stand-down was in effect throughout the Group today on account of weather conditions over the target. However, weather conditions on the Island were rather pleasant and many took to the mountains providing they could procure transportation. All the S-2 enlisted personnel accompanied by T/Sgt. Liphardt and Cpl. Burke went out in search of scenic delights equipped with camera. No doubt we'll be seeing many picturesque scenes of Corsica in the near future.....A small graveyard has been consecrated near the Supply tent. White crosses bear the names of two Squadron dogs who made one mission too many across the busy road. They are not being mourned, however, because for every dog lost at least two more appear on the scene daily. The dogs aren't exactly of the show animal variety, but they always seem to win the affection of the Squadron. Capt. Klebes' "Lily Marlen" is even beginning to look nondescript in breed, perhaps as a result of her associations.....Packages and a few letters came in late this evening which did nothing for Cpl. Nelson's disposition, but he distributed it anyway....."A Tree Grows In Brooklyn" was shown in the jam packed mess-hall tonite. We always seem to acquire many guests when a good picture is on the program.

6<sup>th</sup>

Twelve ships of the 487<sup>th</sup> Squadron took off at 10:08 hours to bomb a railroad bridge at Ora, Italy. The formation's 48,000 lb. bomb load was released from 11300' with only a fair degree of success. The first box bombed the road bridge south of target while the first element of second box is believed to have hit the railbridge. Second element dropped short of target due to premature release. Heavy, scant and inaccurate anti-aircraft fire was encountered, but no damage was inflicted on our aircraft. All planes and crews returned safely to the base.....1st/Sgt. Parkins spent a good deal of his time this P.M. constructing a dog house for the two Water Spaniels presented to himself and Major Bugbee by their friend, "The Ole Man" from the Mountains. The pups are only two weeks old and were the center of attraction for the numerous apparent dog fanciers we have in our midst. Lt. Oviatt was today receiving congratulations on his promotion to the rank of captaincy.....Just about half of the contingent who have spent more than twelve days in Rome making a recording with the "Skyliners" returned to the Squadron today, The other half are expected to return tomorrow – the experience turned out to be a "furlough" for everyone connected in any way with the orchestra.....Five planes of this Squadron did some local flying tonite in preparation for anticipated nite missions in the near future – an ordeal which no one, particularly combat crew members, relish.....No movie was shown in the Squadron tonite.....

7<sup>th</sup>

At 10:10 hours this morning twelve 487<sup>th</sup> Squadron planes took off to bomb the Peri Corinche railroad Fill and enemy gun positions in Northern Italy. The formation reached the designated area at 12:01 and released their bomb load, but not too successfully. The first box started at river bank and extended across the north end of the Fill. The second box bombed short and to the right of the Fill. Phosphorus

element did not drop because flight was slightly south of course and Bombardier could not pick up target in time. Anti-aircraft fire was heavy, moderate and accurate, slightly holing three of our ships. All planes and crews returned safely to the base.....General Knapp was on hand at 2:00 P.M. this afternoon to present awards to the flying personnel. The ceremony took place in the Enlisted Mens Red Cross Club as has been the custom since the cold weather set in.....Capt. Jacobs who was recently assigned to the Squadron as Personnel Equipment Officer today took on a new duty – that of mess officer. Lt. Krebs who has been acting in that capacity for the past few months was glad to be relieved of the duty – so tis said.....Major Bugbee and the rest of the "Skyliner" troupe returned from Rome today after an eventful 14 day rest period in the Eternal City. Everyone enjoyed doing the recording so much that they advocate monthly transcriptions – especially since it takes so much time to get things in order – at that rate all concerned could spend at least four days out of every month at their regular Squadron duties....."The Thin Man Goes Home" with William Powell and Myrna Loy was the screen attraction shown in the mess-hall tonite.....

8<sup>th</sup>

The railroad bridge at San Margherita in Northern Italy was once more the target for twelve ships of our Squadron. The bombers together with three ships loaded with phosphorus bombs for enemy gun positions at Ala took off at 09:16 hours and reached the target area at 11:23. Due to a complete cloud coverage over the railroad bridge the main formation did not drop and returned the bomb load to the base. However, the phosphorus element is believed to have covered the gun positions at Ala with a high degree of success. Heavy, moderate and accurate anti-aircraft fire was encountered, holing five of our airplanes. All planes and crews returned safely.....Lts. Lantz, Robb, Sgts. Angelini, Gerbara, Ramsey and Dinkler departed this morning for Naples to await the vessel which will return them to "Gods Country." All of them have completed a tour of combat and are anxious to become U.S.O. Commandos back in the States. Fresh eggs for breakfast this morning had everyone on deck early so as not to miss the delicacy. There is a noticeable difference in the number of men who eat breakfast when fresh eggs are on the menu – otherwise it's not worth getting out of the "sack" for. This afternoon at 5:30 the recording which took our orchestra members fourteen days to make was played over the amplifying system for the benefit of the entire Group. The result was pleasing to the ear especially our own Dallas Hunton's rendition of the "Talking Blues".....There was no movie shown in the Squadron tonite.....

9<sup>th</sup>

Nine ships of the 487<sup>th</sup> Squadron took off at 12:35 hours to attack targets in the Brenner Pass Line. Three ships with a phosphorus bomb load attacked gun positions at Ala while the main formation attacked the railroad bridge at San Margherita. Both flights released their bombs successfully on their objectives. The gun positions were well covered and the railroad bridge received several direct hits. No enemy anti-aircraft fire or other opposition was encountered thus chalking up another "milk run" for the boys.....Lt. Wheaton who has been "relaxing" in the Squadron for the past six months, left today for the 57<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group and we hope an assignment to some specific duty.....Fresh eggs for breakfast and chicken for dinner made the day seem like something special. If there had been a delivery of mail everything would have been perfect, but such a day cannot be found in the Army.....Lts. Bruce and Donovan spent the afternoon getting ready for the return trip home when they learned their papers were in Group. "Lake Placid Sarenade" was the picture shown in the mess-hall tonite.....

10<sup>th</sup>

At 10:35 hours fifteen of our ships took off to bomb a railroad diversion bridge and gun positions near Carsarsa in Northern Italy. Due to a heavy undercast from the Initial point to the vicinity of the target, the formation returned to the base with their bomb load intact. No anti-aircraft fire or other enemy opposition was encountered.....1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Briar today reported in the Squadron as a replacement for one of our S-2 officers – just which of the officers is to go home on rotation is not known and probably won't be decided until Capt. Linthicum returns from his extended tour in Cairo.....Clusters to the Distinguished Unit Badge were distributed today to original ground crew members. Additional battle stars are expected to be given out at a later date.....Sgt. Hetzner has been entertaining his cousin, a B-24 Bombardier from the Foggia area. He was quite impressed with the set-up in Corsica as compared with his own outfit.....No movie in the area tonight.....

11<sup>th</sup>

Twelve of our aircraft were in the air at 10:44 hours to participate in an attack upon a railroad fill at Staz Cerano in Northern Italy. The formation was over the target area at 12:27 and dropped their bombs from an altitude of 11700'. A compact pattern struck the embankment immediately to the right of the tracks. A barrage of heavy, moderate and accurate anti-aircraft fire was out of range for our formation, consequently no damage was inflicted on our planes and all returned safely to the base.....A new Red Cross girl was on hand at the interrogation today and gave the boys a new incentive for eating those "soggy" donuts – many favorable comments were heard about the "new Gal".....Sgt. Rexford whom everyone thought would by this time be enroute to the U.S., today returned to duty after being released from a general hospital in Naples – better luck next time"Red".....PFC Joe Sita who has been on the sick list for the past five weeks was recently transferred to a General Hospital for a complete check-up. "Joe" is in need of U.S. rehabilitation and we're hoping for the best in his case.....Fresh eggs for breakfast again today supplemented with fresh oranges brought to the Island from Tripoli – better food always makes for a higher standard of morale.....No movie shown in the Squadron tonight.....

12<sup>th</sup>

A stand-down was in effect all day for our Squadron, although the rest of the Group continued attacks on targets in the Brenner Pass Route.....Ideal weather on the Island induced all the boys to engage in games of Volley Ball and Baseball. The first practice of the season for the baseball team took place this afternoon. Many members from last year's winning team are still with us and many more potential aces can be obtained from the combat crews, which should produce another winning aggregation.....Sgts. Conwill, Leatherwood, Zugibe, Kelly and Cavanagh were celebrating today with mission whiskey they have been saving for the past few months. Between them they had accumulated two full quarts and today was the day picked to kill the bottles. Needless to say all concerned were gloriously inebriated and provided much laughter during the supper hours.....Another U.S.O. show "The Blues Busters" provided entertainment for the Group with two performances played to capacity audiences and were well received. In addition to this entertainment at the E.M.'s Red Cross Club, the picture "Destiny" starring Gloria Jean was shown in our own mess-hall.....

13<sup>th</sup>

A railroad bridge at Perca in Northern Italy was the target for twelve of our bombers today. Takeoff was at 10:15 hours. The formation was over the bridge at 12:25 and dropped their bombs from 11100',



but not very successfully. The first box cratered tracks west of bridge. The second box crossed the east approach. The first box dropped on 1<sup>st</sup> pass, 2<sup>nd</sup> box on second run over the objective. No anti-aircraft fire or other enemy opposition was encountered, chalking up another "milk run" for the boys.....Rumor has it that we shall be leaving the Island the end of this month for the vicinity of Rimini. Our stay on Corsica has been too long and most everyone is anxious to be on the move even though it entails much work for all concerned. Being on the Mainland once more should boost morale for another period. If a change of location will do anything for the "war-weary" 340<sup>th</sup> personnel, particularly the ground men, we better get going.....A sizeable amount of first-class mail for two days in a row is something unusual for this Squadron, but a well accepted gesture.....Sgt. Lowe and PFC Powell have taken over the duties as Sergeants of the guard, replacing S/Sgt. Whalen and Mabe who have received their papers returning them to the U.S.....No picture was shown in the Squadron tonite.....

14<sup>th</sup>

Cittadella by-pass in Northern Italy was once more the target for twelve of our aircraft. One plane, due to engine trouble was forced to return shortly after takeoff, but the alternate ship took over and the formation reached their objective at 13:30 hours dropping their bombs from 10300'. The first box hit to the right of the wet span landing and approach to the wet span. Second box dropped short and walked up to the bridge with possible hits. No anti-aircraft fire was encountered on this mission. However, two enemy fighters approached the formation at the Initial Point, but were chased by our escort. All planes and crews returned safely to the base.....S/Sgt. Whalen, Mabe and Powers left the Squadron this morning for Naples and a boat which will return them to the States for rehabilitation after flying a combat tour.....The ideal spring like weather enjoyed on the Island these days is bringing out our Athletes in number. Volley Ball, Baseball and tossing around the foot-ball is the order of the day.....Packages, but no first-class mail came in this afternoon which isn't too good for morale. However, a very good picture "My Reputation" starring Geroge Brent and Barbara Stanwyck brought the day's activities to an end.....

15<sup>th</sup>

Rovereto railroad bridge was again the target for twelve 487<sup>th</sup> bombers this morning. Three phosphorus ships preceded the bombers over the target and succeeded in silencing a few of the guns. However, one ship was holed and its Pilot, Lt. Evarts, was slightly wounded as a result of anti-aircraft fire. Both bomb patterns crossed the center of the bridge, one in the smoke of the other. Direct hits were believed to have been scored on the target.....Today marks the nineteenth day for the boys down in Cairo and Alexandria. It's a good deal for them, but no doubt Cairo will be off the list for the 487<sup>th</sup> personnel from now on. Funny how one man can make the entire organization suffer for his pleasure. Capt. McGiffin is really in the dog house this time, but it won't make any difference to him because his orders are in to go home. All this was brought up at a general bitch meeting held by the "wheels" tonite for all combat crew members.....Six bottles of beer per man were dispensed today. Several cases of Ale were included in the ration, but they say it was none too good.....Sgt. J.G. Johnston has been relieved of his assignment as switchboard operator and assumed the duty of I & E clerk working with Capt. Shear all in one day. No doubt he'll find this work much more interesting and to his liking.....No movie was shown in the Squadron tonite.....

16<sup>th</sup>

The Squadron sent up two six ship formations today, the first of which bombed San Ambrogio railroad bridge. Bomb pattern hit on north approach, but no hits were believed to have been scored on the

bridge. Flak was not encountered and all planes returned safely to the base. Second mission of six ships was our first to Austria and caused no end of apprehension on the part of combat crew men. The Brixlega west railroad bridge fifty miles south of Munich was the target. All apprehension was in vain as no opposition was met and the well placed bomb pattern crossed the east side of the bridge.....After twenty days in Cairo and Palestine all men except Capt. McGiffin returned to the Squadron tonite. Loaded down with purchases and almost completely out of funds they reminisced their pleasant sojourn. Naturally a very good but expensive time was had by all.....Work on the excavation of a new latrine was commenced this morning. With rumors of moving afloat the project doesn't seem very logical, but such activity is consistent with Army tradition.....General Knapp was present today to make heroes out of numerous men by pinning on Silver Stars, D.F.C.'s, Bronze Stars, Air Medals etc. The decoration ceremony was held outdoors this time and twelve men from each Squadron were provided as honor guard....."Hargrove Square" was shown in the mess-hall tonite – no good.....

17<sup>th</sup>

Twelve 487<sup>th</sup> bombers took off at 10:23hours this morning to attack the Aldeno railroad Fill in northern Italy. Only six ships bombed the primary with the main pattern hitting tracks to the right of target. Some bursts were observed on the Fill, possibly from one a/c of first box which dropped on primary. The first box bombed the alternate, Bozzolo railroad bridge scoring hits on the wet span just right of center. Anti-aircraft fire encountered was inaccurate causing no damage or losses.....Cpl. "Herb" Grupp spent the day bidding everyone a fond farewell. He is leaving tomorrow morning for Naples with his rotation papers in hand. "Herb" was so happy his head was going around in circles.....T/Sgt. Liphardt returned from Cairo this evening wearing a bright red berrat. No one knows the purpose behind his many chapeaux other than to extract laughs which is sometimes rather difficult to do in spite of his efforts.....The regular weekly inspection of tents and area took place this morning and although we have had no report on the findings it's assumed that all is well. An inspection is scheduled every Saturday, but it actually only takes place occasionally.....No movie was shown in the Squadron tonite.....

18<sup>th</sup>

Salarno Railroad Fill was the target for twelve 487<sup>th</sup> bombers taking off at 12:10 hours. The first box scored direct hits in center of Fill, but the other box dropped short of the target. There was no anti-aircraft fire, in fact one crew members said it was the milkiest of "milk runs." Such missions does wonders for the morale of all concerned.....Communications Sections made so much noise last nite in an effort to give Cpl. Grupp a going away party that section-chief "Joe" Walsh got a chewing this morning. Everyone in the area was well aware of the fact that Grupp was about to depart for the homeland. In spite of a morning after complex "Herb" took off this morning bright and early.....Cpl Runyon and Lacy Burke spent the day in digging the hole that will eventually be the new latrine. It was a punishment for some misdemeanor committed recently.....Sgt. "Al" Spador returned from Naples this afternoon two days AWOL because he failed to show up at the airport yesterday when two Squadron ships were over. We don't expect any more than a warning to come of the affair.....S/Sgts. Crosby, Furie and Leatherwood were promoted to the rank of Tech Sergeant today. All three are on their second tour and this is probably their reward. F/O Solether was also promoted to Second Lieutenant.....A Sqd. meeting was called this evening to inform all personnel that the Inspector General would be in the Group for the next week. Show the man that you are a soldier was the general trend of the meeting. 1st/Sgt. Parkins conducted the session.....

19<sup>th</sup>

The Squadron ran three missions this morning taking off at 11:50, 12:20 and 12:34 respectively. The first target was Perca railroad bridge in Northern Italy and the pattern landed north of the target possibly hitting the tracks. Muhldorf railroad bridge in Austria was attacked by the second formation with good results. They bombed in the pattern of a previous box scoring hits on the west end of the bridge. San Michele Fill caught the bombs of the remaining element directly in the target area. Strangely enough all three missions were "milk runs" – no flak whatsoever was encountered. Three missions in one day is unusual for the Squadron, but it really makes the boys feel that they are back in the war again which after almost one year in Corsica is a novelty in itself.....7R has now over 600 hours on both engines and "Uncle Willie" Hoff can be seen daily taking meticulous care of his "baby." 7X crewed by T/Sgt. Hoff is running him a close second with 580 hours on both engines. All ships in M/Sgt. Aul's flight have over one hundred missions which is responsible for the flight Chief's big head.....Much confusion appeared today when Lt. Hammond decided he would wait until tomorrow to leave for home. Something like that is unbelievable to us, but "Sack" has been amazing us for the past two years....."Girl Rush" was shown at the "Rialto" this evening.....

20<sup>th</sup>

Twelve bombers and three phosphorus ships took off at 08:30 hours this morning to bomb Campo South Railroad bridge and Vipiteno gun positions. Both boxes were within the target area scoring hits on the north end of the bridge. Phosphorus probably hit gun positions, but observations were difficult due to intense flak. Five ships were holed and one crew member, Sgt. Heater, was wounded as a result of the accurate anti-aircraft fire encountered over the target. Needless to say the boys will not request a repeat performance at Campo South.....The Adjutant General has not appeared on the scene as yet, but we're living up to instructions by keeping the area in Central Park order and our person similar to that of a USO Commando. He is expected to be here any day during the week. Major Rapp has decreed that all recommendations for awards will be submitted whether the man is through flying or not which is in compliance with the new rule that all awards be back on orders before a man's rotation papers are put through. Consequently, all operators are going to extremes in order to forestall that last cluster which may hold them up. Some have gone so far as to erase hits on the chart which entitles them to a cluster to their Air Medal. No doubt a regulation on this practice is forthcoming.....Baseball practice has started in earnest and there are many potential players for the team this year. If it turns out to be anything like last year's team we may be the theatre champions this season.....Lt. Hammond finally got off for Naples this morning. He seemed to have some difficulty leaving the fair haired lass in the mountains and really wasn't too anxious to go home. Such a thing is hard to believe, but nonetheless true in this case.....Lt. Krebs, escorting a bottle of "Old Quaker" around the area made quite a picture tonite. He claimed his cohorts were enroute to the cross-roads where many liquorous and probably poisonous beverages are dispensed.....No movie in the Squadron tonite.....

21<sup>st</sup>

Brennero Marshaling Yards was the target for twelve 487<sup>th</sup> bombers this morning, three phosphorus ships took off to attack gun positions and one returned early due to mechanical failure. One box hit in the south center of the target area, but the second box overshot with possible hits on the tracks. Anti-aircraft fire was scant and inaccurate consequently, no damage was done and all planes returned safely to the base.....At 5:00 P.M. this afternoon the area was almost totally devoid of officers, reason being a Squadron Officer's dance at Il Rousse. A shuttle service was in operation all day and the last one left immediately after the mission. Many women and Beaucoup liquor are supposed to be the main

attractions. A stand-down will be in effect all day tomorrow for the purpose of recuperation and return to the Squadron.....PFC Powell and T/Sgt. Woltkamp have assumed the duties of Sergeant of the Guard. No doubt they will be replaced by some combat crew member who has finished up and is awaiting his orders. Up until now that has been the common practice, but when the last two went home there were no more combat men eligible.....News on the Western Front continues to be encouraging since the fall of Cologne and the taking of Coblenz. The bridge across the Rhine collapsed at either side of the famed Ramegan structure. Russia isn't saying much and her lines are remaining fairly static, but all indications are pointing toward an all out drive for Berlin in the very near future....."National Velvet" with Mickey Rooney was shown at the "Rialto" this evening.....

22<sup>nd</sup>

A promised stand-down was in effect all day for the purpose of recuperation on the part of officers who attended the dance at Il Rousse last nite. It is difficult to judge whether or not the affair was a success – if getting drunk is the criterion it was a WOW. Stories brought back about our stable officers sleeping in linen closets and jitter-bugging with fellow officers were a few of the highlights. Beaucoup women was merely a boast which turned out to be a disappointment because only four Corsican belles appeared on the scene. Most officers showed the extent of their celebration today.....Wholesale promotions of enlisted men were announced today. A combat man goes right up the ladder in nothing flat once he starts flying.....Fresh eggs have been on the breakfast menu for so long that we wouldn't know how to act without them. Apparently the Quartermaster has been deluged with the choice morsals.....No movie in the Squadron tonite.....

23<sup>rd</sup>

Eighteen bombers of the 487<sup>th</sup> Squadron were in the air at 10:58 hours this morning enroute to Vo Sinistro railroad bridge in Northern Italy. All bombs were within the target area on the tracks and approach, but only the third box centered its pattern directly on the target. The primary target was not bombed because the interphone in the lead ship went out at the I.P. and the second box then took over the lead. All planes returned safely without even seeing any flak, chalking up one more "milk run" for the 487<sup>th</sup>.....General Eaker was in the Group today and presided at the decoration ceremony this afternoon. Many men from the Squadron were decorated and a twelve man guard of honor was also provided. It is rumored that General Eaker told the men that he would try to get furloughs for all the Group before going to the Pacific. Rumors are so contradictory that it's difficult to ascertain exactly what the General did say.....1st/Sgt. Parkins and a small group of friends took a ride around the Island today. The highlite of the day was an excellent dinner at a restaurant in Bonofacchio.....A U.S.O. show was put on at the Red Cross Club tonite and "The Suspect" played in the Squadron.....

24<sup>th</sup>

Perca railroad bridge was the target for six 487<sup>th</sup> bombers this morning. They were over the target at 13:40 hours scoring direct hits on the center of the bridge. Bombing was so accurate that the bridge appeared to be demolished. This raid will be chalked up as another "milk run" as no opposition was encountered.....It's beginning to look as though the 340<sup>th</sup> will actually move off of Corsica sometime between now and the fifteenth of next month. In a way the move will do us good, but we've been here so long that it seems like home. They tell us that all buildings in the vicinity are condemned and that we will again set up a completely canvas organization which will necessitate the taking of all lumber. No doubt the next few weeks will consist of numberless details all in preparation for the move.....Capt. Linthicum called a combat crew meeting at six o'clock tonite which was nothing more than a routine

escape procedure lecture. These affairs are like a streetcar – always one coming.....Sgts. Goodrich and Walkes gave forth with another orientation lecture tonite on "War Criminals." The meeting was only attended by eight men, but they at least claimed it was an interesting discussion. In some respects its more desirable to have a small attendance, but the purpose of the lectures is to benefit everybody.....The baseball team called a practice game again tonite figuring that they need much practice after the 489<sup>th</sup> beat them three to one the other night. Hetzner says that they have plenty of good material to work with this year so we should see some real results before the season is over.....

25<sup>th</sup>

The 487<sup>th</sup> had fifteen ships in the air at 10:10 this morning headed for Northern Italy. Three planes carried chaff and the bombers attacked Vo Sinistro railroad bridge which was the alternate target. The primary was not attacked due to cloud coverage. The first box fell short of the target and the second box started on the bridge and walked over, consequently the degree of damage was not determined by observation. Anti-aircraft fire was inaccurate and no damage was incurred on the formation.....Everyone is preparing for the move which is supposed to take place soon. 488<sup>th</sup> and 489<sup>th</sup> are going first, but we will follow in their footsteps. This move promises to be one of the most complicated because everyting that's removable is to be taken.....Optimism has again swept the Squadron with the mass crossing of the Rhine announced today. No one can figure out how it can last much longer, but it always does.....Capt. Kendall gave a lecture on Malaria control tonite with the aid of manycharts. He informed us that this is to be an hourly performance each month from now on. The boys found more interest in the activities of the many canines who also attended the meeting. It will be a sad day for those dogs when the 487<sup>th</sup> departs from the Island.....No movie tonite.....

26<sup>th</sup>

Stand-down was in effect all day due to weather conditions. For the first time in several months we experienced a constant downpour of rain on the Island. It started last nite and continued throughout the day leaving combat men and many ground men no alternative, but to stay in the sack. The Squadron area was a very sad and drenched looking plot of ground all day. However, tents are so completely winterized that no ill-effects were felt by the occupants.....Two Yank correspondents have been in the Squadron for the past two days working with Sgt. Fuiks on PRO material. They were supposed to leave on a tour of the Island today taking photographs which will constitute Sgt. Juiks' long dreamed of "Holiday in Corsica" feature. T/Sgt. Lehmkuhl will go with the touring party and pose as one of the hilarious G.I.'s enjoying himself on a "Holiday in Corsica." The trip was postponed until weather permits.....Sgt. Stellato is taking orders for cigarette lighters that are to be picked up on the Tripoli trip which was scheduled for today, but cancelled on account of the weather. The lighters are novel but nothing to write home about as far as efficiency is concerned....."Objective Burma" was shown at the mess-hall tonite.....

27<sup>th</sup>

Rain continued last nite and throughout the day consequently, the Squadron enjoyed another stand-down. It doesn't seem like a great deal of water has fallen, but the shower has been constant. There is nothing more depressing than a rain especially when under canvas.....Capt. McGriffin returned from Cairo several days ago and has been pretty tame ever since. Evidently he is going to have to pay for overstaying his leave with no apparent good reason. The punishment has not been made known as yet, but whatever it is it won't be anything like what an enlisted man would have to pay for such a misdemeanor. If nothing else the Captain had a good time anyway.....All the boys who volunteered or

who were volunteered by the Squadron for the Infantry were alerted today. Capt. Kendall gave them the old one, two and they're now ready to leave for the twelve week intensive training program. Some were surprised to learn that they had been chosen and others were already aware of their fate – no one was delighted by the news. There were six in all. 1st/Sgt. Parkins having a little fun, called Nelson and told him to report to the dispensary at once for his "six three." Nelson completely stunned by the news said "c'est la guerre" and reported to Capt. Kendall who carried out the physical in all seriousness. Lt. Smith being unable to see Nelson suffer any longer finally informed him that the whole affair was a practical joke much to Nelson's relief. No doubt Nelson wasn't as appreciative of the humor as were the instigators.....The dreary day ended with an equally as dreary supper – stew à la Ivan Johnson.....

28<sup>th</sup>

Weather over Corsica cleared today, but apparently the target area was observed by heavy rain clouds again as a stand-down was in effect throughout the day. After two days of rain the pleasant atmosphere brought all the athletically inclined out for the various sports Special Service has to offer.....Lt. Azzara was back at his civilian profession today. From all appearances he was only available to the "wheels" as he limited his barbering to the rank of Captain and above. No doubt we will be provided with a professional Italian barber upon our return to the Mainland. Frank Nasuto has improved with practice, but judging from the appearance of most Squadron heads he still could use plenty of experience. A lot of the boys have been letting their hair grow until they got off the Island.....77 finally got off to Tripoli and Sicily today for a load of fresh food. Tripoli is supposed to be closed again consequently, they will only be able to land, return bottles, and take off again, but they should be able to make a pretty good haul in Sicily....."A Song To Remember" was shown in the mess-hall tonite. Lovers of good music really enjoyed the performance.....

29<sup>th</sup>

Another stand-down was in effect all day. Apparently Northern Italy was again hidden under rain clouds. A stand-down on Corsica is nothing more than additional "sack" time because there is nothing else to do.....The Squadron got word today that S/Sgt. Summers who went down over Trento Marshaling Yards on January 20<sup>th</sup> is now a prisoner of war. The War Department has not advised his Mother of the fact as yet although she had a letter from her own Son in Germany. It is not known whether or not any of the other crew members got out safely.....Sgt. J.G. Johnston who was recently sent up to Group on detached service as I & E Clerk has been transferred to Group Headquarters. Most anybody but Johnston would consider it a break.....Major Rapp and Capt. Linthicum took off early this morning and spent the day at our new base in Rimini. They seemed very well pleased with the lay-out. Tentative plans are to have all offices in buildings, or rather one building, and the Clerks will occupy the building across the street. The mess-hall will be in Neeson huts being left by the Fighter Group. No doubt plans will be altered many times before we actually make the move so its best to expect nothing and then be surprised if that's possible.....Squadron movies are to be shown outside from now on which will be much better because the smoke in the mess-hall after the first reel is unbearable. However, there was no movie shown in the Squadron tonite.....

30<sup>th</sup>

After standing down for three days eighteen bombers of the Sqd. took off at 13:41 hours this afternoon to bomb Romano di Lombardi railroad bridge on the Brenner Line. All three bomb patterns centered on the bridge and direct hits were achieved by the bombing accuracy. No flak was encountered and all planes returned safely to the base.....A parties, B parties and advanced parties are being assembled for

the move. The bulk of the Squadron is not supposed to leave until April 12<sup>th</sup> although it looks like operations will cease as of the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> of April from this field..... War news is so encouraging that the boys have all but their A-bags packed. The Armies are running through Germany just like they did France several months ago. Late announcements have the 1<sup>st</sup> Army one hundred and fifty miles into Germany and one hundred eighty miles from Berlin. Commentators are excited and apparently ready to announce the end at any moment. There is a security black-out over the Armies and its difficult to ascertain their exact locations – naturally everyone is most optimistic..... "Tonite and Everynite" was shown at the Squadron outdoor theatre tonite. The outdoor theatre consists of a screen at the bottom of a hill with spectators sitting around the hill itself. It is not the most comfortable arrangement and was said to be quite chilly last evening.....

31<sup>st</sup>

San Michele North railroad bridge was again the target for six 487<sup>th</sup> bombers this morning. There was no flak encountered and the formation made a second run scoring possible hits on the bridge. Needless to say all combat crew members are crazy about San Michele – absence of flak would make any target a favorite.....P.X. rations were dispensed in abundance this morning and early afternoon. With the nine bottles of beer we received yesterday and the amount of rations received today, the convoy to Rimini shouldn't be too bad. However, today's rations are to last for three weeks and it will probably be a hell of a lot longer than three weeks before we get more.....Lt. Smith was paying officer this afternoon. Evidently the saluting practice has been dispensed with permanently as Lt. Smith also requested that there be no saluting. Needless to say much money changed hands this evening in the heavy gambling that always follows the big day. Money doesn't seem to mean much to the boys over here – they seem to forget that these lush days will be over someday and that they'll actually have to go back to work again.....Six men from the Squadron left for Naples today and the Infantry Replacement Depot where they will commence the much publicized twelve week training program for front line duty. Unfortunately they left with hard feelings and claims that they'll be back.....There was no movie shown at the Squadron outdoor theatre this evening.....

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