

June 1945 - September 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, 487th Bombardment Squadron, 340th Bombardment Group

Prepared by: Sgt. Richard C. Hurley, 487th BS.

j. Personnel who have distinguished themselves in action

Stanley J. Czarnowski
Joseph McKinna
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June 1, 1945

The military training and I&E programs continue as scheduled during the last month. Truants are investigated, but little is done to remedy the situation as everyone absent is usually prepared with an iron clad excuse.....Three officers and five enlisted men were transferred to the 515th Air Service Group and from there they will ferry aircraft to the Zone of the Interior....."When Irish Eyes Are Smiling" was shown at the Group movie tonite.....

2nd

All combat rotation has been suspended as of this date. From now on combat personnel eligible for rotation will be drafted into ferrying service.....The Orderly Room personnel are slowly going crazy with changes in records and additions to the old. Everyone concerned has concluded that red tape is more abundant in the going home procedure than it was coming across.....Pvt. Powell, former Sergeant of the Guard, returned from the hospital today finding a cane necessary to navigation following a sojourn in 66th British General Hospital as a result of injuries incurred in a truck accident....."San Diego I Love You" was the poorer than mediocre picture shown at the Group movie this evening.....

3rd

Thirteen ground men departed for Naples and the 7th Repl Depot this morning on the first lap of their trip home. No one seemed to regret the separation.....Rome Rest leaves are still in effect....."San Diego I Love You" was repeated at the Group movie tonite.....

4th

340th APO has closed and personnel of the Group are now being serviced by another APO in Riccione. Statements from the CO are necessary for anyone desiring to make a money order in excess of their monthly pay. Just one more duty for the clerks.....Lt. Krebs and Cpl. Larson left for Pisa today where they will attend a class on packing for shipment....."Ministry of Fear" was shown at the Group movie tonite.....

5th

DFC's that eight officers have been sweating out for sometime finally came through today. There are still several outstanding which are holding up rotation orders on the officers concerned.....Routine duties mixed in with the military program occupied the day....."Ministry of Fear" was repeated at the Group movie tonite.....

6th

PT has sort of dwindled off to two leisure hours on the beach and drill has been replaced by orientation lectures, but retreat is still a part of the routine.....Capt. Naruszewicz was returned from the 515th Air Service Group for lack of night flying time. Night flying has commenced in the Squadron and he will be included in the next few schedules and probably be returned for ferrying service.....No movie at the Group area tonite.....

7th

More orders were received today awarding decorations to combat men who have been anxiously awaiting them for the past month.....Cpl. McFetridge who replaced S/Sgt. Kosak as records clerk is doing a nice job and has been reclassified as a clerk. His former classification was that of armorer....."Enter Arsene Lupin" was shown at the Group movie tonite.....

8th

The largest number of men to make rotation left this morning. There were forty-five happy boys in all.....Ille Rousse Rest Camp closed a few days ago and all 487th men there on detached service were returned to the fold today....."Enter Arsene Lupin" was repeated at the movie tonite.....

9th

Capt. Lyons and Lt. Azzara were transferred to the 515th Air Service Group today for the purpose of ferrying aircraft back to the States.....Rest Camp quotas at Capri and Rome are temporarily suspended as of today.....The "Skyliners" played for a dance at the Officers Club tonite instead of the usual Friday night orgies....."See My Lawyer" was shown at the Group movie tonite.....

10th

Major Rapp and three enlisted men went to the Rest Camp at Lido, Venice on the first quota allotted to this Squadron for the newly established rest center.....Capt. Spencer is commanding the Squadron in Maj. Rapp's absence....."See My Lawyer" was repeated at the Group movie tonite.....

11th

Nothing exceptional or out of the ordinary happened today although if rumor becomes fact many things will be happening in the very near future. Rumors pertaining to every phase of the Squadron and Air Force are afloat....."Barbary Coast" was shown at the Group movie tonite.....

12th

Lts Pickell, Price and Olson have been transferred to the 57th Fighter Group at their own request. The three pilots were desirous of flying fighter type aircraft.....Five officers and one enlisted man were transferred to the Air Service Group for the purpose of ferrying aircraft to the Zone of the Interior....."Barbary Coast Gent" was repeated at the Group movie tonite.....

13th

There has been much controversy as to whether or not the Group is entitled to the American Theater Ribbon. Today's Daily Bulletin made it very definite that we will not be entitled to wear the ribbon. However, this is only one man's interpretation of a War Department Circular.....Combat men are being switched around the Group for the purpose of making up crews to fly Group planes home. We lost one officer and three men in the shuffle.....As usual – no movie at the 340th tonite.....

14th

More order came in today awarding combat men in this organization the decorations to which they are entitled. Since the act was performed previous to May 12th points are added to the adjusted rating scores of these men.....A Group Reclassification Board seems to be working overtime reclassifying personnel of this Squadron. We have been awaiting the inauguration of such a board for over two years now....."In Society" with Abbott and Costello was shown at the Group movie.....

15th

Retreat on Friday nite has been suspended and all flights participate in beach activities. Only on Monday and Wednesday is retreat enacted in this Squadron – that is besides the inspection and formal retreat held on Saturday afternoons....."In Society" was repeated at the Group theatre area tonite.....

16th

Inspection of quarters and personnel was held by Lt. Col. Bailey today and unfortunately he was not satisfied with the results. Quarters were not up to par and several of the men were in need of haircuts among other things. Sunday afternoon drilling was threatened for offenders of next week's inspection.....Metropolitan Lire of large denominations can no longer be accepted in GI channels consequently any now on hand will have to be unloaded.....Fellows returning from the Venice Rest Camp yesterday were well pleased with the accommodations provided at the Rest Hotel....."Woman in the Window" played at the movie tonite.....

17th

Some sections celebrate Sunday as a whole holiday while others must be content with a half holiday. Trips to the local towns, lolling on the shores of the Adriatic and sack time are the main diversion of a

holiday at Miramare di Rimini....."Woman in the Window" was repeated at the Group movie this evening. A very good picture starring Joan Bennett and Edward G. Robinson.....

18th

Routine activities consumed the day. Everyone is in the process of sweating out another rotation list and no doubt many will be disappointed as the Squadron must declare some of the men as essential. It is rumored that all with the exception of very few with over eighty-five points will be released and sent home on rotation shortly....."Up on Mabel's Room" was shown at the 340th movie tonite.....

19th

Wholesale promotions of enlisted men were announced today. Ratings had been frozen up until now and were only opened up when the Group was put in Category 2 – redeployed through the States to the Pacific. Much celebrating followed the pleasant announcement although there were still certain individuals not entirely satisfied. Unfortunately, not everyone in the Army can be a Master Sergeant.....The Group Officers Club is now putting on three dances weekly – Monday, Wednesday and Saturday....."Up in Mabel's Room" was repeated at the 340th movie tonite. Professor Ceccarilli, well known Italian hypnotist, played at the British Garrison Theatre in Riccione.....

20th

Circulars on redeployment seem to be stressing the fact tht men returning to States are on a duty status and may be required to pull details while enroute. Letters received in the Squadron from fellows who have returned to the States also make mention of the abundance of details.....Major Bugbee returned from Rome today after making a recording on the military program adopted by this unit....."Strike Up the Band" was shown at the Group Theatre tonite.....

21st

More promotions were announced today – all of them were within the enlisted combat crew personnel. Combat men don't usually go throught the sweating out procedure because promotions with them are more or less automatic.....The "Skyliners" have put out an urgent request for talent as the latest large rotation lists have played hell with their personnel. If the call for talent isn't heard soon the band will be forced to break up....."Strike Up the Band" was repeated at the Group movie tonite.....

22nd

After a long sweating period and much checking Lt. Lane finally made his Captaincy. More promotions for enlisted men were also announced today. It's getting to be like a rat race around here lately....."On To Tokyo" was shown in the War Room this afternoon – attendance was compulsory and if anyone happened to miss it the picture was repeated at the 340th movie area tonite.....

23rd

The Squadron was really sharp today in anticipation of the inspection and both quarters and personnel went through the ordeal with flying colors. Lt. Col. Bennett did the honors this week in the 487th.....Five members of the Squadron went before the Reclassification Board this evening and had their MOS changed. Sgt. Barnes who has been talking about it for over a year now is finally an

055.....The Colored 332nd Fighter Squadron put on their show, "Good & Crazy" at the British Garrison Theater this evening. "Blonde Fever" played at the 340th

24th

More enlisted men were made happy today by the announcement of more promotions. The boys who just came into the organization are really getting a break out of the openings left by men returning to the States on rotation. However, some of the old men remaining with the outfit are just getting what they should have gotten two years ago.....Capt. Klebes and Captain Spencer left for a five day sojourn in Cairo this morning. They flew in a ship of another Squadron – no airplane from the 487th has gone to Cairo fro the past few months.....Nine officers and six enlisted combat men left for the first lap of their homeward journey today....."Blonde Fever" was repeated at the 340th this evening.....

25th

Lts. Jones and Solether were transferred to the 515 Air Service Group today to commence ferrying service back to the States.....Sixteen enlisted men were transferred to the 57th Fighter Group. The order transferring them just came out from 12th Air Force without warning. They were apparently chosen by MOS. All men had less than eighty-five points although they expected to be detailed to remain with the 340th and be redeployed to the Pacific through the States. It is rumored that the 57th will go directly to the Pacific....."Thin Man Comes Home" was shown at the Group Theatre tonite.....

26th

More transfer lists are being sweated out by the men with less than eighty-five points and there's no telling what will happen to the men with over that amount. All men with the two, eligible for discharge indicted their desire so there is really no point in rushing them home. At least that what the Army thinks....."Thin Man Comes Home" was repeated at the Group movie tonite.....

27th

The wearing of ties is mandatory only at inspections, decoration ceremonies and organizational dances and parties. Up until this time it was a required piece of the uniform when attending functions such as the show in Riccione. It's about time someone got on the ball and lifted the stupid order.....Four officers and one enlisted man left for a five day rest period in Cannes today.....No movie at the 340th tonite.....

28th

Another order transferring under eighty-five point men to the 350th Fighter Group, however, they have been retained in the Squadron on DS for an indeterminate period. The command expects one more such list.....Another wholesale list of promotions came out today....."Princess and the Pirate" was shown at the Group movie tonite.....

29th

Rumors and routine duties kept the Squadron buzzing today. Clerical work becomes more involved every day. Administrative Inspectors are coming so frequently that they aren't very often treated as visitors. However, its all in preparation for return to the States and no one is complaining....."Princess

and the Pirate" was repeated at the Group movie tonite.....

30th

The shock of a lifetime came today when all men with over eighty-five points were transferred to the 310th and 321st Bomb Groups – equally divided among the two. Some say its a good deal, but the thought of remaining over here until transportation for dischargees becomes available doesn't sound very good after spending well over two years away from home. It will all come out in the wash and only then will we know what kind of a deal it actually is..... "Between Two Women" was shown at the Group movie tonite.....

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July – September 1945

[Transcriber's note: Some entries are truncated. Please see the original document for the full details.]

War Diary, 487th Bombardment Squadron, 340th Bombardment Group

Prepared by: Captain George H. Smith, 487th BS.

July 1, 1945 – Rimini Airfield, Italy

Beautiful day for sack time. The squadron looks completely deserted. Seems that no one gets up any more before noon. From the looks of the beach this afternoon our squadron is well represented. The day was brought to a close at the group movie.

2nd

Wonderful rumor going around that all combat crews will fly the Squadron ships back to the states. All crew members are very happy with the exception of tail gunners. According to rumor they shall return by boat. Poor Boys! Another movie at group tonight.

3rd

It's no longer a rumor but an actual fact. We're going home! The 488th Squadron leaves today. We leave tomorrow. Seems that everyone was quite busy today. Either packing or hiding from the hundred and one little details to be taken care of before tomorrow morning. The mess hall gave us a treat tonight. Steak and ice cream.

4th

Today is the day! The pilots were really on the ball. Record take-off. Buzzed dear old Mira Mare for the last time. Headed for Naples, where every man had clothing check, records check and naturally some had shots. The Squadron looked completely deserted after the combat crews left. Even the cooks felt sorry for the ones left behind. Steak again for supper.

5th

Ground Echelon.....Nothing new. All work and No Play. Air Crews....Some left Naples for Tunis. main element stayed over in Naples.

6th

Air Crews left Naples for Tunis. Good weather all the way. The remainder of the outfit spent the day on the beach. Wonderful swimming even though the water was contaminated.

7th

Air Crews left Tunis for Marakech. Some were held overnight because of bad weather. Entire hop, very poor visibility. Usual duties performed by the ground echelon. Good movie at Group tonight.

8th

Ah! at last, a day of rest. The beach is crowded with G.I.'s and eye ties. Our Squadron was also well represented at the Red Cross in Riccione. The Combat crews weren't quite so lucky, they had to fly. Took off from Marakech Morocco early in the morning and landed late in the afternoon at Dakar. So far no accidents.

9th

Back to the old grind. Rumors are that we'll be leaving soon. Air crews started out this morning from Dakar to Roberts field, Liberia. Forced to turn back because of bad weather. Few were too anxious to get home. No accidents reported as yet.

10th

Big News; Chubby Smith, Adjutant promoted to Capt. Anything can happen now. Smitty was quite happy so the boys had a real holiday. Largest part of Air echelon was held over in Dakar another day. Few more squeezed through to Roberts Field.

11th

Major Rapp is flying home! He's leading the entire squadron. Landed at the Ascension Island today. The remainder of the outfit are spread all over Africa, from Marakech to Roberts. The forgotten men, back in Mira Mare are receiving exceptional chow and sweating out a boat. Movie tonight.

12th

Stripes were given out to some of the men in the Squadron today. chow and swimming still out of this world. Air Crews took off from Roberts Field, Liberia to the Ascension – Approximately fifteen planes. All arrived safely. Tonight most of the Engineers are pulling a twenty five hour inspection on their planes getting them ready for that long over water hop. South America next stop.

13th

Rumors are spreading like wildfire that the squadron will be in Naples waiting for a boat by the end of the month. Air Echelon arrived, very tired but alive, in Natal, Brazil. Everyone went broke buying silk hose, and cowboy boots.

14th

Looks like we're finally going home. 486th Squadron leaves tomorrow, Mess hall, Orderly room and supply are finishing up any last minute jobs. Will probably close tomorrow. Air crews left Natal for Belim. Some went on from Belim to Atkinson Field today. Remainder layed over in Belim.

15th

Everything was closed today and everyone alerted for shipment, according to the poop form Group we leave tomorrow. Two Squadrons left today by trucks. Air Echelon.. The tail end of the Squadron moved on up to Atkinson field. Major Rapp is probably home on furlough by now.

16th

Took our last look at Mira Mare this morning. Left by truck. Traveled over those wonderful Italian highways to Rome. Everyone was rather touchy in spots after the trip. Everyone hit the sack early, dreaming of home. Air crews pushed on the Borrinquin field, Porto Rico. Next stop, God's Country! Naturally, a few stragglers, but no accidents of importance reported.

17th

Another day in those miserable trucks but also another day closer to home. Arrived at Staging Area No. 1, Bagnoli Italy, just outside of Naples. After tasting that stuff they call chow everyone was praying for a boat. Air Crews left Porto Rico this morning for Savannah Georgia but were called down at Morrison Field, Florida because of bad weather at Savannah. At least they're in the States. All men processed at Morrison including a short arm. "Duchess" made the trip, thanks to Lt. Conard. Believe it or not, they actually serve milk in Florida.

18th

The Air Echelon made their final hop today. Landed at Savannah, Georgia. Every man went through Customs and all pilots turned in their ships. The Ground Echelon spent the day unloading equipment. No news as to departure of outfit.

19th

The remainder of the Air Crews landed at Savannah. Some moved up to Charleston, South Carolina where clothing was issued and all men received orders taking them to their Separation Station. Ground personnel slightly disgusted with rumors. latest....No one gets out of here in less than a week.

20th

Air Echelon on leave!
Ground Echelon still sweating out a boat.

21st through 31st

Air Echelon on leave.

25th

No passes for the fellows in Naples. Orders came out to the effect that the 487th Squadron would board the boat tomorrow. Scheduled to depart on the U.S. A.T. Cristobal. Boys slightly disappointed in the size of the boat. Sister ship to an LST.

26th

The 487th Squadron boarded the ship today at noon. Our unit was selected to pull Guard duty during the trip back. This pleased every one because it meant that each man would have his own private sack. The ship doesn't leave until tomorrow but everyone feels good at the thought of leaving Italian soil for good.

27th

Miserable night on the boat. The 486th Squadron has to pull K.P. all the way back. Lucky boys!?? By four PM the boat was loaded and at 1700 hours sharp we got underway. Merry hell was raised by all. They eye tyes had a field day, picking up cigarette butts.

28th

First day on the Schooner. Meals served twice a day. By the time the last man is served lunch the first man is in line for dinner. Weather exceptionally warm and calm. The starting of a good trip.

29th

Still in the Mediterranean. Weather was much cooler last night and today but sea is still calm. Beginning to get windy. Chaplin Cooper, of this organization, held Protestant services Sunday Morning and evening. Catholic services were presented by the ship's Chaplin. Large attendance at both services.

30th

Beginning to get rough. Some of the boys expect to make the rest of the trip by rail. Rumor going around that we land at Hampton Roads Virginia.

31st

The end of the month. Sea still rough but personnel in high spirits. Quite a few lost their cookies today. Catholic services were held tonight on top deck. Still pulling Guard duty.

August 1945 – At sea / Seymour Johnson Field, Goldsboro, NC.

1st

Sea considerably smoother today. Even the food tasted better. Had our first entertainment tonight. The shop Chaplin presented some of the boys with musical instruments. We now have our own orchestra. Plus a few characters with their comedy acts.

2nd

Beautiful day. Deck was packed with suntan seekers. Boat drill as usual. Ship is so crowded they couldn't get all on deck for drill.

3rd

The main attraction today is the Latrine. Looks like a chow line. Chow is greasy pork, Dill pickels and ice cream. All was lost in the line of duty. Naturally the wheels condemned the ice-cream. According to ship's paper we are scheduled to arrive at Hampton Roads Tuesday morning.

4th

News of the Atomic bomb was announced over the Radio today. Seems to have left everyone in a coma. No one can seem to grasp the meaning of such power. More entertainment by the orchestra.

5th

Very choppy sea all during Church services. Nothing new to report. Tuesday is definitely the big day and can't come too soon for anyone.

6th

Everyone busy packing this morning. If the ship paper is correct tomorrow's breakfast should be our last chow line on the ship. The deck was crowded tonight with men trying to catch the first glimpse of the dear old U.S. No luck.

7th

A day never to be forgotten. Shortly after dawn the coastline rose up through the fog. The ship finally docked at 0930 hours and debarkation began. Finally everyone was unloaded and boarded a train destined for Camp Patrick Henry Virginia where we were greeted by the Commanding Officer of the Post. The telephone center was the center of attraction for most of the Group.

8th

All equipment was forwarded to Seymour Johnson field this morning. By 2100 the last man was enroute to the Reception station to receive that long awaited furlough.

9th August through 31 August..... Squadron on leave!

September 1945 – Goldsboro, NC

1st

Group back in operations at Seymour Johnson field, Goldsboro, North Carolina. Men reporting from Reception Stations all hours of the day. Any officer desiring discharge can get out immediately.

2nd

Nothing new. Usual details being carried out daily. Men still coming back from furlough. Rumors are that we're going to Columbia, South Carolina. Men being processed, starting tomorrow.

3rd

A few of the high point men of the squadron have been transferred to Squadron U for separation. The remainder of the outfit other than a few slaves in the orderly room are spending their time in the sack.

4th

The ground echelon is starting to straggle in. Quite a few of the men won't be returning. All men with eighty points or more are being held at Reception Centers for discharges. Orderly room still in a turmoil – no one knows the score.

5th

Nothing new to report.

6th

Processing still in full swing. Some of the crew members are busy getting their flying time in for back flying pay. Ground Echelon still coming in.

7th

No Changes. High Pointers – still being transferred out. Another Battle star awarded to the Group – Air Combat Balkans.

8th

Weekend passes being given to everyone desiring one. Area looks deserted. Most of the men took off for one of the larger towns in this vicinity.

9th

Another day of rest.

10th

Back to the old grind. Ground echelon still coming in. The 340th Bomb Group is well represented every afternoon at the post movie. Rumor concerning Columbia becoming stronger.

11th

Everything running smooth. Greatest part of the Squadron has been processed and awaiting orders.

12th

Flight line and post movie are centers of attraction. Most of the men are perfectly contented to remain in the sack during the day. Some are anxious to get on the move. Main topic of discussion, naturally, is the point system.

13th

This was a very happy day for a few of the men in the Squadron. Ten percent of each squadron was granted ten day furloughs. Looks like we're going to be here for a while. Orderly Room slaves are still knocking themselves out with paper work.

14th

Some more of the Ground echelon came in today. Nothing new to report. Everyone spends the morning in the sack and the afternoon at the movies. Plenty of sunshine and exceptionally warm weather.

15th

Letters received from several Tail-Gunners requesting information concerning the Balkans Battle Star. Otherwise nothing new to report.

16th

Day of Rest! The greatest part of the Squadron strength has taken off for the weekend.

17th

Usual Day, Very little activity.

18th

The Ground Echelon still coming in. Rumor that we're leaving for Columbia, South Carolina with the near future.

19th

Many of the old faces in the Squadron are missing. Due to the war's sudden ending, the discharge pace has been stepped up considerably.

20th through 28th September

Nothing to report. All men eligible for discharge have been transferred. The remainder of the outfit is packed and awaiting shipping orders. Shipment is no longer a rumor but pertinent poop.

29th

October 1st is set for the day to depart from this hole. You can be sure that no one will regret leaving. All baggage has been loaded and the orderly room is working like mad to complete any last minute items that have come up.

30th

Another day of waiting. Orderly room ceases operations tomorrow. Nothing new to report.

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