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488TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M) AAF
340TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M) AAF

1 FEBRUARY 1945 - 28 FEBRUARY 1945

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S E C R E TSheet No. 1 War Diary, 488th Bomb SquadronAlesan I/G, Corsica

Month of February 1945. Prepared by T/Sgt Don J Goranson, 488th Bomb Sq S-2

DAY	EVENTS
1	Stand-down after crews out at briefing. Catania plane back with liquor for Enlisted Men's Club.
2	Sixteen planes to Lavis rail diversion bridge, Italy. 100% bombing accuracy. About 0700 hours one of the officers' tents burned down but most of the stuff was saved. Lt Burger got his captaincy today and Lt Kanwo-sky made Flight Commander.
3	Stand-down just after pre-briefing time. Weather in Italy. Barber shop caught fire this morning but didn't burn down. Advanced party left for Rimini this morning in a C-47 taking a jeep with them. Lt Hughes of Supply headed the party. One of the Yugoslavs was caught by the guard around 8 F last night. No damage had been done to the plane, but the Yugoslav was turned over to the Group guard.
4	Fifteen planes to Ala rail bridge and station, Italy. Two beautiful patterns and two 100%. Big PX today—the largest we've ever had. The quartermaster must be cleaning house. Lt Hathaway back from his 30 day leave.
5	Mission to Calliano rail bridge # 3, Italy. Good results resulting in 100% bombing accuracy for us. Advance party of carpenter who were have left for Rimini called off. Rumor has it because the runways were bombed but the weather must be the real cause. Capt Tayloe called a Squadron meeting for 1630 hours and explained that our move had been delayed for 30 days. It was almost like being granted a reprieve due to all the rumors spreading around—Squadron Supply has a sign "have you a steel helmet?". Lt Stoszkus of S-2 gave a lecture to the Enlisted Men on the last censorship regulations.
6	Mission to Lavis rail diversion bridge, Italy but the formation returned without dropping their bombs because of weather. First samples of the group insignia came in today—the rest should be in soon. There are reports of two new fighter groups to defend the Brenner Pass.
7	Twelve planes to Dogna North rail bridge, Italy. Our bombing accuracy was 100%. Second box got mixed up and lead plane was on the wrong channel so only numbers one and four dropped. Men back from Capri rest camp. Lt Williams got his captaincy today.
8	Twelve planes and three as an anti-flak element bombed Fiacenza North rail bridge, Italy. Our bombing accuracy was 94%, and the flak was heavy, moderate and inaccurate to accurate. We had two planes Holed.
9	Stand-down. Beautiful day in Corsica but poor weather in Italy. Truck stolen on line yesterday afternoon but not reported until this morning. Could be that the load of chestnuts worth \$44 had something to do with it. "Saratoga Trunk" shown in the mess hall. Christmas tree taken down today so Christmas is officially over for the 488th.

S E C R E TSheet 2 War Diray, 488th Bomb SquadronAlesan L/G, Corsica

Month of February 1945. Prepared by T/Sgt Don J Goranson, 488th Bomb Sq S-2

DAY	EVENTS
10	Stand-down. Formation practice in the afternoon. Windy.
11	Stand-down. Routine.
12	Six planes and three as anti-flak element on Ala rail bridge, Italy. A big miss. Weather cold and windy. Very little mail.
13	Six planes to Calcinato rail bridge, Italy. Another big miss. Presentation of Bronze Star medal to ground men.
14	Twelve planes to San Michale rail Bridge, Italy with no flak. 100% bombing accuracy but our average is gone for the month.
15	Stand-down. Meeting of board of governors of the Enlisted Men's Club to decide on some of the policies. Two new 1st lts. in from the States who used to be squadron and group bombing officers. S-2 remodeling.
16	Stand-down. Bad weather in Northern Italy.
17	Six planes to Lavis rail diversion bridge, Italy with plenty of accurate flake. 8 Q came in with a flat tire, 8 C with 37 holes and 8 X with an 88 right through the wing. It went through without exploding. Altogether a rough mission. S-2 briefed the new men who just came in two days ago.
18	Fifteen planes to Ala station and marshalling yards, Italy. 75% bombing accuracy. The anti-flak element hit their assigned gun positions right on the head. Promotions for ten more enlisted men.
19	Stand-down. Enlisted Men received their shots from the medics today.
20	Sent twelve planes to Romano di Lombardo rail bridge, Italy and Calcinato rail bridge, Italy. Got 25% on the first and 100% on the second.
21	Eighteen planes to bomb Bressanone rail bridge, Italy but bad weather prevented the formation from bombing. Three of the planes got separated from the formation and finally broke out of the clouds at 15,000 feet right over the field. They caused vapor trails and everyone was happy to find that they were B-25's instead of German Ju's. Gas mask and gun inspection, and presentation of Bronze Stars today. Show tonight in movie area but it was cold outside.
22	Same target and number of planes as yesterday only 0820 hours briefing instead of 1020 hours. The first box missed but the second hit on the Southend of bridge. Accurate flak but no planes holed. Inspection of gas masks and guns again all day in front of Supply.
23	Stand-down--Group Ops finally decided it was our turn. Meeting of Officers to plan for party at Ill Russe next Tuesday. Lt Hughes and Sgt Driva, Squadron carpenter, left for Rimini to set up our area and make partial arrangements and repairs on the buildings. The last three nights there have been flares over Bastia--could be there is some interest in the four destroyers in the harbor.

S E C R E TSheet No. 3 War Diary, 488th Bomb SquadronAlesan I/G, Corsica

Month of February 1945. Prepared by T/Sgt Don J Goranson, 488th Bomb Sq S-2

DAYEVENTS

- 24 Third time in a row that the target was Bressanone rail bridge, Italy, but due to solid undercast around the primary target was not bombed, and the first alternate was also covered with clouds so that the second alternate, Bizzighettone rail bridge, Italy was bombed--or rather bombs were dropped around it. We got a snappy 22% bombing accuracy.
- 25 First mission was to Vipiteno rail bridge, Italy on the Brenner route with six planes. The flak was intense and we had three planes held. We got 100% bombing accuracy. Second mission was to Sesto Calende Factory, Italy which is making assault boats. Our six aircraft scored 100% bombing accuracy. Lts. Miller, Holtz, Rosenthal and Silverman left for the 310th Group where they'll take a 10 day course in the new type of Shoran bombing.
- 26 Twelve planes on mission to bomb Spillimbergo ammo dump, Italy but could not get in due to cloud coverage over the target. All bomb returned. Supply taking orders for XII AF scarfs and ash trays. Thirty-three Enlisted Men promoted. New policy on promotions--when a new combat Enlisted Man comes in he is automatically made a corporal, upon flying two missions he makes sergeant and upon completion of eight missions he makes staff sergeant. New crew.
- 27 Twelve planes to the same place as yesterday and this time the mission completed. 100% bombing accuracy. One of the ammo dumps exploded and smoke went up to over three thousand feet.
- 28 Stand-down. A complete stand-down. S-2 got a new officer--Capt Edward J. Glynn. Beer rations along with payday. The end of a not too spectacular month for the month for the 488th. We had 21 missions with 228 sorties dropping 530,500 pounds of bombs.