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SQ Bomb - Hdq. #1
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SQ-BOMB-489-HI
Feb 1945

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SQ-BOMB-489-HI FEB 1945

Headquarters 340th Bomb Gp (M)
APO 650, c/o Pm
New York, N.Y.

489th Bomb sq (M)
OUTLINE HISTORY
February 1945

SUBJECT: Historical Records.

TO : Commanding General, Twelfth Air Force, Through Channels.
Attention - Historian.

1. Outline History of the 489th Bombardment Squadron (M) for the period of 1 February 1945 to 28 February 1945.

a. Present designation.
(1) 489th Bombardment Squadron (M).

b. Changes in organization.
(1) None.

c. Strength for month of February.
(1) At beginning.
(a) 89 officers.
(b) 358 enlisted men.
(2) At end.
(a) 87 officers.
(b) 364 enlisted men.

d. Station.
(1) Alesan L/G, Corsica.
(a) Arrived: 19 April 1944.
(b) Departed: --

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e. Movements of unit or echelon.
(1) None.

f. Campaigns.
(1) Italian.
(2) From September 1943 to (Still in progress).

g. Operations.
(1) Rail interdiction of targets in Northern Italy.
(2) Missions for period : 17.
(3) Sorties for period : 215.

h. Commanding Officer on important missions.
(1) Major Leonard Kaufmann, Jr., on mission to San Michele RR/B on 14 February.
(2) Major Leonard Kaufmann, Jr., on mission to Udine M/Y, Italy, on 21 February.
(3) Major Leonard Kaufmann, Jr., on mission to Bressanone S. RR/B, Italy, on 17 February.
(4) Major Leonard Kaufmann, Jr., on mission to Lavis Station M/Y, Italy, on 22 February.

i. Losses in action.
(1) On mission to Vipiteno RR/B, Italy, on 25 February.
(a) Missing in action.
1. Herrin

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2. Butler
3. Hurd
4. Jefferys
5. Manwell
6. Griffin
7. Matchette
8. Spann
9. Westra
10. Beckwith
11. Crecenzi
12. Frisch
13. Gearhart
14. Beverly
15. Clayton
16. Schoenholtz
17. Van Overberg
18. Taylor

j. Losses not in line of duty.
(1) None.

k. Decorations and awards.
(1) Air Medal.
(a) Bauer, George J., Capt.
(b) Caruk, Pete, F/O,
(c) Chambers, Leven T., 1st Lt.
(d) Chapman, Perry G., 2nd Lt.
(e) Curry, William T., Sgt.
(f) Drenner, Robert Hunter, 2nd Lt.
(g) Grant, Henry, B., Jr., F/O.
(h) Horner, Earl R., 2nd Lt.
(j) Lundgren, Selmer C., Sgt.
(k) Miller, Raymond O., 2nd Lt.
(l) Porter, Donald G., F/O.
(m) Ross, John, Sgt.
(n) Sawyer, Walter S., Jr., 2nd Lt.
(o) Yates, Christopher, 2nd Lt.
(2) 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
(a) Trastman, Morris S., S/Sgt.
(b) Bauer, George J., Capt.
(c) Boiston, Ernest Paisley, 1st Lt.
(d) Bourgue, Paul V., S/Sgt.
(e) Caldwell, Howard S., 2nd Lt.
(f) Chambers, Leven T., 1st Lt.
(g) Chapman, Perry C., 2nd Lt.
(h) Counselman, Howard E., F/O.
(i) Coyle, James A., 2nd Lt.
(j) Drenner, Robert Hunter, 2nd Lt.
(k) Grant, Henry B., Jr., F/O.
(l) Jones, Wesley, 1st Lt.
(m) Spann, Albert L., Jr.,2nd Lt.
(3) 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
(a) Clayton, James J., Jr., 2nd Lt.
(b) Gilmore, Joseph H., S/Sgt.
(c) Matchette, James, 1st Lt.
(d) Strasburger, Alvin, 1st Lt.

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(4) 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
- (a) Carruth, Robert A., S/Sgt.
- (b) Devine, William R., S/Sgt.
- (c) Dunn, George H., Jr., 1st Lt.
- (d) Gaudette, Andrew, S/Sgt.
- (e) Griffin, Lawrence E., S/Sgt.
- (f) Manwell, Thomas, S/Sgt.
- (g) Masterson, Walter R., T/Sgt.

(5) 4th Oak Leaf Cluster
- (a) Daniels, John C., 1st Lt.
- (b) Gaudette, Andrew, S/Sgt.
- (c) Gearhart, Gayle C., 1st Lt.
- (d) Hostetler, John C., 1st Lt.
- (e) Kilik, Edward, T/Sgt.
- (f) King, James N., 1st Lt.

(6) 5th Oak Leaf Cluster
- (a) Clarke, Lawrence J., Jr., S/Sgt.
- (b) Crescenzi, Joseph D., S/Sgt.
- (c) Eller, Paul K., S/Sgt.
- (d) Franks, John J., 1st Lt.
- (e) Hancock, Kenneth B., 1st Lt.
- (f) Heilig, Edward B., 1st Lt.

(7) 6th Oak Leaf Cluster
- (a) Cummings, Milton L., S/Sgt.
- (b) Herrin, Scott, 1st Lt.
- (c) Reinhard, Myron H., T/Sgt.
- (d) Sies, Maurice G., T/Sgt.
- (e) Wheeler, Paul R., T/Sgt.

(8) Purple Heart
- (a) Borden, Alan C., Capt.
- (b) Hutton, Harley A., T/Sgt.
- (c) Philipson, David M., 1st Lt.
- (d) Riddle, Walter C., Jr., 1st Lt.

(9) Bronze Star
- (a) Christensen, Merrill W., M/Sgt.
- (b) McCrann, Eugene, S/Sgt.
- (c) Robertson, Harold E., Cpl.
- (d) Westbrook, Forest L., T/Sgt.

1. Number of photographs being submitted.
   (1) None.

2. Inclosed are WAR DIARY, 489th Bombardment Squadron (M) for the period 1 February 1945 to 28 February 1945.

LEONARD KAUFMANN, JR.
Maj., A.C.
Commanding

LK/wfg

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S E C R E T

WAR DIARY

489th Bombardment Squadron (M) Alesan L/G, Corsica

Month of February 1945

DAY EVENTS

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1 - No mission - weather.
General morale of personnel of the squadron as well as of the Group continues at a very high level with the Russians relentlessly pushing westward toward Berlin; they are now only forty-five miles away at one point. Hope as to the early end of the war is as high as it was last summer when the Allied armies were overrunning France, if not higher.

2 - Carrying forty-four one thousand pounders, elevin of our planes plastered the Chiusaforte (west) railroad bridge in Northern Italy. Mission efficiency was 86% and bombing accuracy was 100%.
Another new crew arrived fresh from the States.

3 - Here is what the latest BBC news has to say as to the progress of the war:
"The Russians now are ten miles from the River Oder between Frankfort and Kustrin and are appraoching the river on a front of more than sixty miles. On the northern flank they've captured a town thirty-five miles from Stettin. The trapped German troops in East Prussia and at Posnan and Schneidemulehl are suffering heavy losses.
"French and American troops have broken into Colmar. Allied aircraft have been smashing retreating columns....
"During the last thirty-six hours the RAF has dropped more than 4750 tons of bombs on German rail centers behind the Western Front.
"Last night more than 1200 bombers attacked Wiesbadem, Karlsruhe, and Wanne-Eichel.
"American troops on Luzon converging on Manila now control all the major roads and railways in the central plain. American bombers have sunk a Jap destroyer.
"In Italy there have been sharp patrol clashes all along the front."

4 - The weather in Corsica is surprisingly mild. Occasionally both the days and the nights are uncomfortably cold; but this is only occasionally. Rain and wind are generously interspersed with clear skies and considerable warmth. If I were asked to express my opinion of winter in Corsica, I would say that it is much better than one could reasonably expect in view of the position of this island.

5 - There is nothing particularly worthy of record.

6 - Last night we had some surprising news; namely, that the impending move to Italy has been postponed for thirty days. No reasons have been given. Most of the men are disappointed, for they are anxious to get off the island.

7 - Following is an Intelligence Summary of operations of the 57th Bomb Wing for today:
"Continued excellent flying weather prevailed over rail targets on the Brenner Pass line and in northeast Italy, and for the fourth

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DAY | EVENTS

CONsecutive day all of the missions dispatched reported good results. Bombing was particularly accurate against the targets on the important Piedicolle and Tarvision lines to Austria, where three spans were observed out after the attack on the Canale D' Isoniza railroad bridge, while direct hits were scored on the Cagna and Chiusaforte rail bridges. Three ME-109's made an unaggressive pass against the formation bombing the Lavis Rail Diversion bridge, but there were no claims. One B-25 is missing over enemy territory."

8 - We sent nine aircraft to the Piacenza railroad bridge, Italy. The bridge and probably the approaches leading up to it were well covered.

9 - Somewhere between here and the target area the flying weather was poor enough to prevent a mission. Over the island we enjoyed ideal weather.

10 - Stand-down.
The war news continues to keep our morale on a high level. All over the world the Allies are making remarkable progress in the sure and steady beating down and subjugation of the enemy. At the present moment the Big Three, Roosevelt, Stalin, and Churchill, are meeting at some undisclosed place in the Black Sea area, where they are making plans for the final effort against the Nazi enemy and for the eventual peace.

11 - Stand-down - weather.

12 - We sent fifteen planes to our familiar hunting grounds in the northern part of Italy and probably knocked out another railroad bridge.
This afternoon Brigadier General Knapp formally decorated a number of our personnel with Air Medals, Distinguished Flying Crosses, Legion of Merit Medals, and Bronze Star Medals.

13 - Here is the latest BBC news as it was broadcast at dictation speed for Allied forces in the overseas service:
"On the Western Front United Kingdom and Canadian troops are fighting southeast of Nijemegen. There has been fierce fighting in Cleve where Scottish troops have cleared the western part of the town. The northern parts are also in our hands. Our troops are more than half way through the Reichswald forest....In northern Alsace American 7th Army troops have consolidated their bridgehead over the Moder and driven back strong counter attacks.
"Marshall Koniev's Russian forces have crossed the Oder on a hundred mile front and got nearly one-third of the way to Dresden in Saxony....
"On the 8th Army Front in Italy Allied patrols have been active along the whole of the River Senio and 5th Army patrols have probed deep into the German lines...."

14 - Reports on the mission dispatched to Northern Italy are not as yet available.

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S E C R E T

DAY EVENTS

15 - Stand-down - weather.
Today marks the completion of our second year overseas. There was nothing unusual about it, the occasion not even being celebrated. With a stand-down the order for the day, camp activity was at a minimum.

16 - Stand-down - weather.

17 - Our planes were sent to the Bressanone South Railroad bridge, which went down as a result of well-placed thousand pound demolition bombs. After leaving the target, the formation wasattacked by six ME 109's, which made feeble passes but failed to inflict any damage on our bombers. The P-47 Thunderbolt escort took up pursuit, but failed to make contact.

18 - The mission to Italy today was completely abortive. The lead bombardier failed to pick up the target soon enough to get a sight on it. All planes returned with their full bomb load, except for bombs having a delayed fusing.

19 - The tremendous Russian winter offensive has temporarily slowed down. The Eastern Front is well within the German border. There will probably be a short interval before the final knock-out punches are delivered. The most recent meeting of the Big Three in the Black Sea area was more concerned with the forthcoming peace than with the last phase of the defeat of Germany, which undoubtedly was settled at the previous conference of the great allies.
Stand-down.

20 - Here follow a few casual remarks which are set forth as they occur.
The canine population continues to be on the increase. Every few days there appears a new face - and what a variety: huge hounds, small mites, thoroughbreds and mongrels. One of our flight leader captains is master of three dogs and probably will acquire another one before he is through combat flying.
A number of the boys are enjoying themselves immensely by indulging in their favorite sports: Some of them are regular fishermen, bringing in real delacacies which they cook in regal style; some of them hit the trails many times during the week; still others play basketball on the fine court which has been laid out in the area.
We ran a successful mission to Northern Italy, knocking out another bridge.

21 - This squadron put eighteen airplanes into the air to bomb the Udine Marshalling Yards, an important center through which the Germans feed supplies and men to their Italian Front. Weather prevented the dropping of any bombs.

22 - Today, the 22nd, our airplanes were out in force again. The other Groups of this Wing put forht a big effort. All morning these Corsican skies were filled with formations of Mitchells headed northward for Italy.

23 - The Group, including this squadron, ran off another mission.

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DAY | EVENTS

Interrogation reveals that the bombing was probably successful, but we shall not know for sure until the photos and P.I. Report are available.

24 - The target for this squadron was 700 yard length of track where the San Michele diversion closely parallels the main Brenner Pass line. The second box bombed on the first pass and probably cratered both lines. The other two boxes bombed on a later pass but no photos show their patterns.

25 - Today stark tragedy struck, not once but three separate times when three of our planes were hit by flak over the target, a rail bridge less than fifteen miles from the Italian-Austrian border. One plane sustained a direct hit in its loaded bomb bay while it was making the bomb run; it blew up. Another plane was hit by flak and crashed into a mountain side. The third plane to be lost to us had one engine shot out and when last seen was headed for neutral Switzerland, where we hope it will make a safe landing.

26 - Today four new crews arrived. And we got three new airplanes to replace the ones we lost yesterday. The Air Force operates fast when it comes to replacing airplanes.

27-28 - These two days brought forth nothing worthy of record.

WALTER F. GREVE, JR
Sergeant, Air Corps
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