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SD-Bomb-489-HI
APR 45

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SD-Bomb-489-HI-APR 45

Headquarters 340th Bomb Gp (M)
APO 650, % PM,
New York, New York.

489th Bomb Sq (M),
OUTLINE HISTORY
April 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 April to 30 April, 1945.

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

b. Changes in organization.
(1) None.

c. Strength for month of April.
(1) At beginning.
(a) 173 officers.
(b) 346 enlisted men.
(2) At end.
(a) 207 officers.
(b) 367 enlisted men.

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d. Station.
(1) Alesan L/G, Corsica.
(a) Arrived : 19 April 1944.
(b) Departed : -- 2 April 1945.

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e. Movements of unit or echelon.
(1) From Alesan, Corsica to Riccione, Italy.

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 : 38.
(3) Sorties for period : 403.

h. Commanding Officer on important missions.
(1) Major Leonard Kaufmann, Jr., on mission to Artillery positions in Vicinity of IMOLA (code target-"Dick East") M-239331, Italy, on 9 April 1945.
(2) Major Leonard Kaufmann, Jr., on mission to San Margherita N. RR Br. F 686933, on 11 April 1945.
(3) Major Leonard Kaufmann, Jr., on mission to Troop Concentration at MEDICINA Reserve Area #2 M-102478 and immediate area, on 15 April 1945.
(4) Major Leonard Kaufmann, Jr., on mission to Polesella (south) Ferry, M-232989, Italy, 23 April 1945.

i. Losses in action
(1) None

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

k. Decorations and awards.
(1) Air Medal.
(a) Dunst, Benjamin, S/Sgt.
(b) Dupuis, Clyde A., S/Sgt.
(c) Dykes, O.C., Sgt.
(d) Edwards, Joseph D., S/Sgt.
(e) Felts, James E., S/Sgt.
(f) Gillespie, Howard M., 2nd Lt.
(g) Hanson, Frank L., F/O.
(h) Harvey, James C., 2nd Lt.
(i) Hennum, Leroy R., 2nd Lt.
(j) Hughes, Roy E., 2nd Lt.
(k) Lee, Don O., 2nd Lt.
(l) Lessard, Robert J., S/Sgt/
(m) Levitan, Murray M., 2nd Lt.
(n) Mc Keever, James Frederick, 2nd Lt.
(o) Morgan, Donald Q., 2nd Lt.
(p) Nick, Michael G., Sgt.
(q) Palmer, William F., 2nd Lt.,
(r) Pender, Thomas F., S/Sgt/
(s) Rohla, Theodore R., 2nd Lt.
(t) Salkin, Norman, S/Sgt.
(u) Steele, William H., 2nd Lt.
(v) Stewart,Jr., William N., Sgt.
(w) Tarjon, Rupin R., 2nd Lt.
(x) Uschuk, George, S/Sgt.
(y) Walter, Frank A., 2nd Lt.
(z) Woods, Kenneth R., 2nd Lt.

(a) Ashwood, Edward a., 1st Lt.
(b) Billings, Willie G., 2nd Lt.
(c) Brumm, Robert E., 2nd Lt.
(d) Carlson, Donald a., S/Sgt.
(e) Chamberlain, Don M., S/Sgt.
(f) Chavarria, Edgar, 2nd Lt.
(g) Cole, Irving A., S/Sgt.
(h) Collins, Delmas E., S/Sgt.
(i) Craver, Francis L., 2nd Lt.
(j) D'Agostino, Philip J. , S/Sgt.
(k) Deike, Marvel L., 2nd Lt.
(l) De Mitis, Dominic A., S/Sgt.

(2) 1st Oak Leaf Cluster.
(a) Maurer, Otho D., S/Sgt.
(b) McKeever, James Frederick, 2nd Lt.
(c) Morton, Oscar M., T/Sgt.
(d) Neely, Woodrow W., S/Sgt.
(e) Olsen, Ralph A., 1st Lt.
(f) Porter, Donald G., F/O.
(g) Puckett, James K., Jr., S/Sgt.
(h) Rives, Millard E., S/Sgt.
(i) Ross, John, S/Sgt.
(j) Schaefer, Edwin F., 1st Lt.
(k) Schnick, Raymond G., XXXXXX. S/Sgt.
(l) Sharp, John W., S/Sgt.

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(2) 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
(m) Skandera, Michael, 2nd Lt.
(n) Squires, Lewis E., S/Sgt.
(o) Ustruck, Russell,L., S/Sgt.
(p) Walter, Frank A., 2nd Lt.
(q) Ashwood, Edward A., 1st Lt.
(r) Carlson, Donald A., S/Sgt.
(s) Cole, Irving A., S/Sgt.
(t) Collins, Delmas E., S/Sgt.
(u) Curry, William T., S/Sgt.
(v) D'Agostino, Phillip J., S/Sgt.
(w) Deike, Marvel L., 2nd Lt.
(x) De Mitis, Dominic A., S/Sgt.
(y) Di Domenico, Nello J., S/Sgt.
(z) Dykes, O.C., Sgt.

(a) Hauquitz,Jr., Clarence C., 1st Lt.
(b) Holden, James W., T/Sgt.
(c) Howerton, Glenn F., 1st Lt.
(d) Huber, Jr., Charles R., 1st Lt.
(e) Kamer, Jr., Frank Z., 1st Lt.
(f) Kimber, Arthur C., 2nd Lt.
(g) Lessard, Robert J., S/Sgt.
(h) Lidy, Roman M., S/Sgt.

(3) 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
(a) Hauquitz,Jr., Clarence C., 1st Lt.
(b) Manns, Francis, 1st Lt.
(c) Miller, Raymond O., 1st Lt.
(d) Moore, George T., T/Sgt.
(e) Neely, Woodrow W., S/Sgt.
(f) Porter, Donald G., F/O.
(g) Puckett, James K., Jr., S/Sgt.
(h) Rives, Millard E., S/Sgt.
(i) Rolek, Matthew H., 2nd Lt.
(j) Ross, John, S/Sgt.
(k) Schaefer, Edwin F., 1st Lt.
(l) Schoonover, Orville G., 1st Lt.
(m) Sharp, John W., S/Sgt.
(n) Skandera, Michael, 2nd Lt.
(o) Smith, Joseph W., 2nd Lt.
(p) Thomson, John M., T/Sgt.
(q) Benedict, Alden K., S/Sgt.
(r) Bourque, Paul V., S/Sgt.
(s) Cladwell, Howard S., 1st Lt.
(t) Cary, Byron R., 1st Lt.
(u) Chapman, Perry C., 1st Lt.
(v) Coyle, James A., 1st Lt.
(Curry, William T., S/Sgt.
(x) Drenner, Robert Hunter, 1st Lt.
(y) Grant, Henry B., Jr., 2nd Lt.
(z) Holden, James W., T/Sgt.

(a) Horner, Earl R., 1st Lt.
(b) Houston, Jack M., 1st Lt.
(c) Howerton, Glenn T., 1st Lt.
(d) Huber, Jr., Charles R., 1st Lt.
(e) Kamer, Jr., Frank Z., 1st Lt.
(f) Lundgren, Selmer C., S/Sgt.

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(4) 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
- (a) Martin, Charles L., 1st Lt.
- (b) Maxwell, Delbert R., S/Sgt.
- (c) Miller, Raymond O., 1st Lt.
- (d) Rolek, Matthew H., 1st Lt.
- (e) Schoonover, Orville G.
- (f) Stoner, Rovert V., 1st Lt.
- (g) Yates, Christopher L., 1st Lt.
- (h) Bauer, George J., Capt
- (i) Benedict, Alden K., S/Sgt.
- (j) Bourque, Paul V., S/Sgt.
- (k) Caruk, Peter, 2nd Lt.
- (l) Cary, Byron R., 1st Lt.
- (m) Chambers, Leven T., 1st Lt.
- (n) Coyle, James A., 1st Lt.
- (o) Drenner, Robert Hunter, 1st Lt.
- (p) Horner, Earl R., 1st Lt.
- (q) Houston, Jack M., 1st Lt.
- (r) Hunt, Edward V., T/Sgt.
- (s) Jones, Wesley M., 1st Lt.
- (t) Lauria, Alphonse S., T/Sgt.
- (u) Lundgren, Selmer C., S/Sgt.

(5) 4th Oak Leaf Cluster
- (a) Martin, Charles L., 1st Lt.
- (b) Mc Andrews, George J., Jr., S/Sgt.
- (c) Miller, Raymond O., 1st Lt.
- (d) Stewart, Roy, Jr., T/Sgt.
- (e) Strasburger, Alvin, 1st Lt.
- (f) Trastman, Morris S., T/Sgt.
- (g) Yates, Christopher L., 1st Lt.
- (h) Boiston, Ernest Paisley, 1st Lt.
- (i) Caruk, Peter, 2nd Lt.
- (j) Drenner, Robert Hunter, 1st Lt.,
- (k) Lauria, A lphonso S., T/Sgt.

(6) 5th Oak Leaf Cluster
- (a) Mc Andrews, George J., Jr., S/Sgt.
- (b) Stewart, Roy, Jr., T/Sgt.
- (c) Boiston, Ernest Paisley, 1st Lt.
- (d) Carruth, Robert A., T/Sgt.
- (e) Cooper, Charles L., T/Sgt.
- (f) Couchman, Carl F., S/Sgt.
- (g) Kastelic, Rudolph L., 1st Lt.
- (h) Lauria, Alphonse S., T/Sgt.
- (i) Ledahl, Reuben H., S/Sgt.

(7) 6th Oak Leaf Cluster
- (a) Mc Andrews, George J., Jr., S/Sgt.
- (b) Salop, Abraham, 1st Lt.
- (c) Stewart, Roy, Jr., T/Sgt.
- (d) Boiston, Ernest Paisley, 1st Lt.
- (e) Carruth, Robert A., T/Sgt.
- (f) Cooper, Charles L., T/Sgt.
- (g) Gaudette, Andrew, S/Sgt.
- (h) Couchman, Carl F., S/Sgt.
- (i) Kastelic, Rudolph, 1st Lt.
- (j) Ledahl, Reuben H., S/Sgt.

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(8) 7th Oak Leaf Cluster
(a) Salop, Abraham, 1st Lt.
(b) Boiston, Ernest Paisley, 1st Lt.
(c) Bruegl, Herbert J., T/Sgt.
(d) Hostetler, John C., Capt.
(e) Kastelic, Rudolph L., 1st Lt.,

(9) Distiguished Flying Cross
(a) Salop, Abraham, 1st Lt.
(b) Hostetler, John C., Capt.
(c) Kastelic, Rudolph L., 1st Lt.

(10) 1st Cluster to Distinguished Flying Cross
(a) Frazee, Robert D., 1st Lt.

(11) 8th Oak Leaf Cluster
(a) Boiston, Ernest Paisley, 1st Lt.
(b) Bruegl, Herbert J., T/Sgt.
(c) Kastelic, Rudolph L., 1st Lt.

(12) 10th Oak Leaf Cluster
(a) Major Leonard Kaufmann, Jr.

(13) Purple Heart
(a) Cooper, Charles L., T/Sgt.
(b) Deike, Marvel L., 2nd Lt.

(14) 1st Cluster Purple Heart
(a) Mac Eachon, William H., S/Sgt.
(b) Lower, Kenneth E., S/Sgt.

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

2. Inclosed are WAR DIARY, 489th Bombardment Squadron (M) for the period 1 April to 30 April 1945.

Leonard Kaufmann, Jr.
LEONARD KAUFMANN, JR.
Major, Air Corps
Commanding

LK/rcm

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WAR DIARY

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

Month of April 1945

DAY	EVENTS

1 - All day the final packing of squadron equipment has been taking place. Since we have been located here so long, the job of pulling up has been a huge task. Now we are just about ready to leave. We are supposed to start rolling at 9:00 tomorrow morning.

2 - This is our last day on the island of Corsica. For many of us, this interim of our lives has been the most pleasant we have enjoyed since coming overseas. True enough, we have been beset with monotony, food has not always been good, we have seen many of our buddi killed, and occasionally we have been in great danger. But many things helped to off set the dangers and the hardships, to make us feel as we do in regard to Corsica. Many of us made the acquaintance of civilians who have become good friends of ours. Then there was all the natural beauty about which so many of us are so enthusiastic. The climate, temperate and healthful, also made its contribution to our warm feeling for Corsica.

Our motor convoy pulled away from Alesan about 10:00 a.m. By nightfall all personnel and equipment had been loaded on boats in Bastia Harbor. The flight personnel will remain behind and will join us later at our new place of operations.

3 - Sometime shortly after daybreak we pulled out of the harbor at Bastia. Now we are steaming eastward toward Italy; we will disembark at Leghorn.

Late in the evening we put up at a staging area just outside of Florence.

4 - Early this morning our convoy started out on the last lap of our journey. We were only on the road a very short time when we began the long haul through the beautiful San Benedetto Alps. The road rises precariously heavenward, presenting vistas of rare alpine beauty. From the summit down toward the Adriatic side there is a duplication of what you have just seen on the way up. By the time that Rocca S. Casciano is reached the countryside had become just pleasantly rolling and remains that way until Forli is reached. From there on to Rimini you travel over plain country, and from Rimini on to Riccione, our destination, the road skirts the sea.

5 - All day everyone was busy getting set up. Moving always entails a very great deal of work and this move was no exception to the rule.

6 - The establishment of the squadron at this new area is progressing rapidly and satisfactorily. No missions are being run from here, but we are hitting at the enemy from Alesan, Corsica, where a skelton ground force is "keeping 'em flying." Very shortly, perhaps in the next day or so, all personnel and all our airplanes will be located here. Being considerably closer to the extreme northern part of Italy, Austria, and Southern Germany, we should be able to run more missions

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S E C R E T

DAY | EVENTS

than we were running from Corsica.

7 - Another day has slipped by, and we are now another day closer to the end of this conflict.

Today the remainder of our personnel arrived. The field in Corsica will soon be covered over with grass and underbrush.

This is by far the finest living quarters we have ever had since coming overseas. The squadron is set up in what was once a ritzy residential section adjoining the resort town of Riccione. The houses the personnel are living in are in fairly good condition. From Rimini south to Riccione the bordering seashore has been developed into a huge playground, which in time of peace was one of Europe's famous resort centers. Now it is run down and badly battered as a result of the war. But some day it should assume a holiday semblance again.

8 - Today we ran our first mission from this field, the Rimini Airdrome. The target was the Vo Sinistro Rail Fill. The results were not particularly successful, although some damage was probably done.

Indications are that this will be the most comfortable place at which we have ever been located. Here are a few reasons for this feeling: We live in attractive houses in a residential community where many of the civilians are still living. Many of the residences are equipped with fine furniture, and practically all of them have running water with toilets and baths. Our offices, too,are in buildings. Very close by is the seashore, which we should be able to enjoy this summer if we are still here.

9 - In close support of the British Eighth Army, which constitutes this side of the Italian Front, we bombed artillery positions in the vicinity of Imola. This was a close support mission, our bombing being just forward of the front line. It is doubtful whether the mission was successful.

10 - Again in close support of British Eighth Army troops, this Group put forth a maximum effort with two missions today. Both were aimed at troop concentrations at the front line. The results are not yet available at the time of this writing.

11 - A ride through the rolling countryside surroun ding this area is revealing. Spring has just come here. In startling contrast to the happy landscape are the terrible evidences of death and destruction. Here surrounded by hew tender grass is a burned out tank; over yonder is a downed airplane. Here is a farmhouse, now a heap of rubble; there at a bend in the road is a grave marked by a white german cross. Everywhere in this smiling countryside are evidences of fierce battles just recently fought. Like Anzio the fighting in this vicinity was bloody and prolonged. Even remote hamlets did not escape the horrors of war.

12 - Close support continu es to keep us very busy.

13 - This morning the radio aired some exceedingly sad news: Presi-

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DAY EVENTS

dent Franklin Delano Roosevelt died at the age of 63 from a cerebral hemorrage some time late yesterday afternoon. His loss to the Allied cause is a great blow. From mortality he has passed into immortality and will go down in history as one of the greatest men of all time.

14 - We ran a morning and an afternoon mission. Located as we are, we are experiencing missions around the two hour mark instead of the four hour mark as was the case in Corsica.

15 - Here is an article that appeared in the April 14th issue of The Stars and Stripes: "High Army officials told senators today (April 13) that theend of organi ed fighting in Germany probably will come within a few days. Describing the pell-mell dash of the U.S. Armies across Germany, general staff officers expressed the opinion to members of the Senate Military Committee that a collapse of Nazi arms is imminent...."

Late this afternoon we sent out twenty aircraft from the squadron to bomb targets in the Bologna area. At this writing they have not returned.

16 - We put forth a maximum effort, but achieved very poor results. Our missions were intended to be in close support of Eighth Army troops, but weather over the target area nullified our efforts.

17 - Life here continues as usual with all efforts being directed toward hitting the enemy as hard as possible as often as possible.

18 - We got off one mission today, one in close support of Eighth Army troops. Good results were obtained.

The big push in Italy is on. Both the American Fifth and the British Eighth Armies have begun their Spring offensives. Good progres s is being made against stubborn resistance.

Squadron life has settled down to a normal routine. The men are more contented than is generally the case, for they have places to go, things to do. Living among civilians, with a resort town well-outfitted near by, there can be no reason for boredom as there was for most of the men in Corsica. This is the closest thing to being stationed in the U.S.A. - in some ways better.

19 - There is nothing of particular importance to report.

20 - The mission today carried our planes to San Ambrogio, but it was an unsuccessful one. A malfunction in the lead plane prevented the dropping of bombs, and thus none of the other planes in the formation dropped.

Airplane 9K, returning from the mission, crashed on the field. Approaching the field with engine trouble, the pilot called the tower and informed them that he was coming in for an emergency landing. As the plane was being brought down, one of the engines coughed and cut out. Before the pilot could do anything to correct this condition, the plane lunged over and crashed, just missing a farmhouse near the runway. The plane was destroyed beyond repair, but miraculously there were no casulties, except a slight head injury to the tail gunner. One engine and the bombardier's compartment were completely sheared off.

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S E C R E T

DAY | EVENTS

21 - Sometime today the great northern Italian city of Bologna fell to Allied troops. All winter the Germans held their Bologna defenses, but with the coming of the spring offensive they were driven back. The Allies are on the move again in Italy, and this should be the last offensive in Italy, and this should be the final chapter in the Italian campaign.

The fighting fronthas now advanced so far to the north that we no longer hear the big guns exploding, nor do we see at night the huge flashes of exploding shells.

Two missions went off, one this morning, one this afternoon. The Group continues to put forth a maximum effort and, of course, this squadron is doing its share in the matter. We now have a grand total of 459 combat missions.

22 - More crews arrived in the squadron fresh from the States. Although the war appears to be almost at an end, the Army must not operate on that assumption; hence the continued influx of new personnel.

The Group and this squadron were out early this morning striking hard at the enemy who seems to be making a determined effort to get out of the country as quickly as possible with as little loss to himself as possible.

23 - Today all of us were surprised to have bombardier Lt. Lynch reappear. He had been given up for dead on the disasterous mission of the 7th of March. He escaped from the Krauts.

24 - We learn from Lt. Lynch that Major Rittenhouse is safe in a German prisoner of war camp. That is indeed good news.

Four distinct missions were dispatched today. The retreating Krauts are catching hell from this Group, which is one of many that are hitting hard at the enemy.

25 - Stand-down.

26 - The war news has become more sensational than ever. The Russians are fighting in the heart of Berlin; it will only be a matter of a day or so before the Nazi capitol will have been completely subjugated.

The mission for today was again in line with our specialty: the destruction of a railroad bridge. It was probably successful.

27-30 - This has been a period of stand-downs because of weather.

The radio reported today that Mussolini has been shot and killed (April 29) by partisans.

The war has now progressed to the point where false peace rumors are the order of the day. Here in Riccione yesterday (April 28) the people celebrated the "end" of the war, until they had been fully convinced that there was no truth to it. Likewise in Washington D.C. and other places the news spread that the European conflict had ended.

Walter F. Greve, Jr.
WALTER F. GREVE, Jr.
Sgt., A.C.
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S E C R E T

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