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SQ. BOMB. 489-HI
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DOCUMENT 3
151 Sheets

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DESIGNATION SHEET

Historical Records

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R 544-BOMB-489-71
June 45

SO-BOMB-489-HI
JUNE 1945

AIR FORCE: Twelfth Air Force

COMMAND:

SUB-COMMAND

GROUP: 340 Bomb Group

UNIT: 489th " Sqdn.

Documents Transmitted:

(Period Covered)

✓ OUTLINE HISTORY: June 1945

✓ WAR DIARY: "

___ SPECIAL ACCOUNTS:

___ PHOTOGRAPHS:

___ SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

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

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

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

b. Changes in organization.
(1) None.

c. Strength for month of June.
(1) At beginning.
(a) 101 officers.
(b) 318 enlisted men.
(2) At end
(a) 71 officers.
(b) 100 enlisted men.

d. Station.
(1) Rimini A/D, Italy.
(a) Arrived : 4 April 1945.
(b) Departed : - -

e. Movements of Unit or Echelon.
(1) None.

f. Campaigns
(1) None.

g. Decorations and Awards.
(1) Distinguished Service Cross.
(a) Strasburger, Alvin, 1st Lt.
(2) Distinguished Flying Cross.
(a) Griffin, Lawrence E., S/Sgt.
(b) Gearhart, Gayle C., 1st Lt.
(c) Westra, James P., 2nd Lt.
(d) Bauer, George J., Capt.
(e) Cary, Byron R., 1st Lt.
(f) Chapman, Perry C., 1st Lt.
(g) Coyle, James A., 1st Lt.
(h) Drenner, Robert H., 1st Lt.
(i) Fitzgerald, Raymond L., 1st Lt.
(j) Horner, Earl R., 1st Lt.
(k) Houston, Jack M., 1st Lt.
(l) Huber, Charles R., Jr., 1st Lt.
(m) Jones, Wesley, 1st Lt.
(n) Francis Manns, 1st Lt.
(o) Miller, Raymond O., 1st Lt.
(p) Caruk, Peter, 2nd Lt.
(q) Schoonover, Orville G., 1st Lt.

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(r) Steele, James E., 1st Lt.
(s) Strasburger, Alvin, 1st Lt.
(t) Yates, Christopher L., 1st Lt.
(u) Counselman, Howard E., 2nd Lt.
(v) Rolek, Matthew H., 2nd Lt.
(w) Suskind, Philep, T/Sgt.

(3) Bronze Star.
(a) Tenente, Frank C., S/Sgt.

(4) Silver Star.
(a) Harris, Henry W., T/Sgt.
(b) Matchette, James F., 1st Lt.

(5) Soldiers Medal.
(a) Ross, John, S/Sgt.

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

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

By the Commanding Officer:

Howard P. Bunch

HOWARD P. BUNCH,
Major, Air Corps,
Commanding.

HPB/wfg

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S E C R E T

WAR DIARY,
Month of June, 1945,
Rimini Airdrome, Italy.

489th Bomb Sq., 340th Bomb Gp.

DAY | EVENTS

1 - Today ushered in another month. What it holds in store for us remains to be seen. There are rumors that we may be on the move within the next wo weeks. About one thing we are all fairly certain: that we are going back to the States rather than directly to the other theatre. Eventually many of us may wind up there, but not until we have had furloughs.

2 - The war against Japan continues at a heightened pace. The headline in today's issue of the Stars and Stripes reads: "450 Super Forts Pour Fire Bombs into busy Osaka." This second largest city of Japan was struck with the same destructive force that virtually knocked out Tokyo. Systematically Japan's important industrial cities are being levelled.

3 - Today being Sunday, there was no official work done. All day long the men rested or relaxed. Many of the men spent their leisure time at the beach. This beach is a fine one, and today it was dotted in all directions with civilian and military bathers. A cool breeze blowing in from the sea kept the hot June sun from becoming unbearable.

4 - The Army's Education Program as it is operated here in the squadron continues to function. There remains a healthful interest in the program by both instructors and students. Certainly some few students are going to find this to be of lifelong good to them. And regardless of benefits derived, time is made to pass more quickly.

5 - All day everyone has been excited. An order came down from higher headquarters asking for the following information from every man having 85 or more points: Do you want to stay in the Army? The great majority of men answered, No. What the actual implications are remain to be seen.

6 - Passes are still being issued and many of the men are visiting Venice and other points north of here. The main roads leading out of Rimini northward are still choked with military traffic, and thus no difficulty is experienced in obtaining a ride to your chosen destination.

7-9 - During this period the instant chronicler has been on pass. From his personal diary appear the following excerpts, the inclusion of which can be justified here because so many men of the squadron are making similar trips.

> "Early Wednesday morning we headed north in 'Baby Doll.' Our first stop was to be Venice (Venezia), the famous cith of canals and gondolas. We arrived there at noon. Venice has all of the romantic appearances which I have ever associated with it. You may drive to the outskirts of the city by motor vehicle. There a huge building is available for parking purposes. Into the heart of the city, it is necessary to travel by gondola, a ride of

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thirty minutes, part of it over the beautiful Grand Canal.

"The first night out we slept in a private home in Padova, not many miles from Venice. The next morning after a breakfast of eggs, bread, and wine, we began the second leg of our trip. Over a superhighway in an excellent state of repair, we breezed through the Poe River Valley. Here are fertile farmlands, rich at this season of the year in fruits and grains and in other farm products. The stone farmhouses are neat and well-kept, and the people are independent and prosperous appearing, which is in direct contrast to the poor and servile farmers of Southern Italy. As we proceeded north by east we approached closer to the foothills of the Alps, which fringe this sprawling river valley. Finally we reached Vicenza, a city that intriqued us so much that we decided to spend all day and the following night there. Here too we slept and ate in a private home. This being British 8th Army territory, we Americans were a rarity and were treated as such; everywhere the people went out of their way to accommodate us.

"Vicenza stands out in my mind as a city of comely signorine and quiet sophistication. The buildings and the lay-out of its streets have the unmistakable old-world appearance, but there is an air about it of hustling modernity.

"From Vicenza we three men in a jeep struck out for Rovereto, southern extremity of the famous Brenner Pass. The route led us through the precipitous Alps, which extend down from Austria. Heaven-embracing, the upper reaches of these mountains are garbed in a perpetual mantle of snow. Deep valleys are unspoiled by the footsteps of man; here Nature is at its loveliest.

"At Rovereto we turned southward, following the Adige River, which has its headwaters far to the north in the Alps. About two hours later we entered Verona, which is just east of beautiful Lake Garda. We remained in Verona only long enough to visit the tomb of Romeo and Juliet, and then we proceeded towards Vicenza, where we spent the evening. After dusk we departed for Padova, where we struck out for Riccione, arriving there late in the afternoon. . . ."

10 - Sixty-seven men of the squadron left for the United States. Included in that number were the officer personnel of S-2; namely, Captain Jack A. Casper and Lieutenant Israel Polonsky. Now there are only a little more than a score of the original men of the squadron left.

A directive came through yesterday alerting the Group and stating that we are to be moved sometime in July.

11 - The war against Japan is progressing satisfactorily. There is no doubt as to the outcome, but it may be a long time before Japan is brought to unconditional surrender as Germany was.

The weather continues to be hot and fair.

12 - Today has been another quiet one. The Educational Program has folded up as a result of so many men being returned to the

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States recently.

13-14 - These two days have been strictly routine. There has been some work in the morning; in the afternoon many of the men go to the beach to swim and sun bathe.

15 - Half of the month has been spent. Time appears to be passing more quickly than it did right after V-E Day. It is currently believed that we shall move shortly after the first of next month.

16 - We learned today that three of the men who left the outfit for the States about a month ago are now civilians. All three were airplane mechanics who came overseas with the squadron in 1943. Many men, it appears, are going to be surprised by being discharged from the Army much sooner than they ever expected would be the case.

Time seems to be passing too slowly to suit us now that we are anxiously awaiting a move. Days are monotonous, regardless of what we do. This "sweating it out" is nerve-wracking.

The weather continues to be warm and fair. Unlike the climate in many of the northern United States, there are no great fluctuations. The temperature remains fairly even from day to day, and there is virtually no rain. The nights are generally cool and clear. This is a healthful and ideal climate for those who seek a pleasant outdoor vacation close to Nature.

17 - Another Sunday has come and has gone. Like previous ones since V-E Day, It has been a quiet one.

18-19 - So routine have been the past two days that they do not warrant separate entries. Preparations continue for our departure. Records are being completed, equipment is being turned in, and other steps are being taken which are necessary before we can shove off for the States.

20-21 - Certain of the sections are now completely "out of business." Operations activity - and likewise Intelligence - is at a low level. Supply and the Orderly Room right now are putting forth a maximum effort, for their work is mainly concerned with the forthcoming move.

22-23 - Two more days are out of the way. A day is hardly begun but that we anticipate the next one.

Five men from this squadron who have less than 85 points are being transferred out for direct shipment to the other theatre. A rumor is about that men with more than 85 points will be transferred to another bomb group and with that group will return to the States.

24 - The Enlisted Men's Club continues to be a favorite spot to spend an enjoyable evening. Every other night there is music and dancing. Each member of the squadron is entitled to bring an Italian guest.

25-26 - A complete dearth of activity makes it necessary to combine the notations for these two days. More men are being transferred out of the squadron for the U.S.A.; and others are being to transferred to groups which are slated for the C.B.I.

27 - Early in the afternoon more men with less than 85 points were flown by C-47's to another base. It has been rumored that

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men with more than 85 points will be transferred to another bomb group, but will remain in the squadron on temporary duty until the squadron leaves for the States, at which time we shall be sent to the other bomb group to "sweat out" our return to the states.

28 - The rumor materialized; men with more than 85 points have been transferred to the 310 or the 321 Bomb Groups, but will remain here on T.D. until this group leaves.

This morning and then again in the afternoon, men went out to the Group rifle range to shoot the 45, the carbine, and the Thompson sub-machine gun.

29-30 - This has been another period of inactivity approximating "suspended animation."

Walter F. Greve Jr.
WALTER F. GREVE, JR.
S/Sgt., A.C.
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