

# War Diary of the 489<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron

## May 1945

Prepared by Sgt. Walter F. Greve, Jr.

### k. Decorations and awards

(1) Air Medal	2 <sup>nd</sup> Oak Leaf Cluster (cont'd)	4 <sup>th</sup> Oak Leaf Cluster (cont'd)
<p>Marchel Q. Abadie  Fulton C. Baker  Thomas G. Brown  Sydney Chaikin  Gordon A. Curry  Paul H. Gillespie  Adrian C. Hansing  Robert M. Herby  Richard H. Karpik  Robert B. Laughery  Arthur Mark  George W. Marsh  William E. Martin  Thomas A. McIntyre  Ernest L. Nassy  Charles H. Navarette  Thomas S. Nelson  Edward A. Niemiec  Edward J. Nowotny  Philip W. O'Brien  Rudolph B. Parris  William M. Patton  Jack D. Phelps  Earl J. Pickett  Wallace S. Pitts, Jr.  Frank J. Pokluda, Jr.  William P. Riley, Jr.  Newman Sanders  Kern L. Scott  Russell B. Snider  Louis E. Talamo  Charles J. Taylor  Wallace E. Teague  Rocco A. Verelli  Robert G. Wood</p>	<p>Howard M. Gillespie  Frank L. Hanson  James C. Harvey  Leroy R. Hennem  Robert K. Kampert  Richard H. Karpik  Don O. Lee  Robert J. Lessard  Murray M. Levitan  Albert A. Maggio  George W. Marsh  Otho D. Maurer  James Frederick McKeever  Raymond J. McMahon  William L. Moberly  Claude H. Muncy  Charles J. Navarette  Thomas S. Nelson  Michael G. Nick  Edward J. Nowotny  Philip W. O'Brien  William F. Palmer  William M. Patton  Thomas F. Pender  Jack D. Phelps  Earl J. Pickett  Frank J. Pokluda, Jr.  Gordon R. Pulliam  Donald C. Reed  Burr E. Rice  Theodore R. Rohla  Norman Salkin  Newman Sanders  Raymond G. Schnick  Eugene M. Starr</p>	<p>Frank L. Hanson  James C. Harvey  Clarence C. Hauquitz, Jr.  Leroy R. Hennem  Jack M. Houston  Glenn F. Howerton  Charles R. Huber, Jr.  Roy E. Hughes  Frank Z. Kamer, Jr.  Arthur C. Kimber  Don O. Lee  Murray M. Levitan  Selmer C. Lundgren  Hugh B. Major  Francis Manns  Delbert R. Maxwell  James Frederick McKeever  Donald Q. Morgan  Ralph A. Olsen  William F. Palmer  John C. Pearce  Donald G. Porter  George J. Riegert, Jr.  Matthew H. Rolek  Walter S. Sawyer  Edwin F. Schaefer  Orville G. Schoonover  John W. Sharp  Michael Skandera  Louis E. Squires  William H. Steele  Frank A. Walter  Kenneth R. Woods</p>

<p>Duane E. Wright William J. Zehnacker</p> <p>(2) 1<sup>st</sup> Oak Leaf Cluster</p> <p>Don M. Chamberlain Edgar Chavarria Gordon A. Curry Benjamin Dunst Clyde A. Du Puis Robert W. Erlandson Raymond L. Fitzgerald Charles E. Frohner Howard M. Gillespie Adrian C. Hansing James C. Harvey Leroy R. Hennum Theodore E. Jagggers Robert K. Kampert Richard H. Karpik Robert B. Laughery Albert A. Maggio Arthur Mark George W. Marsh Thomas A. McIntyre Raymond J. McMahon William L. Moberly Claude H. Muncy Ernest L. Nassy Charles J. Navarette Thomas S. Nelson Michael G. Nick Edward J. Nowotny Philip W. O'Brian Rudolph B. Parris William M. Patton Thomas F. Pender Jack D. Phelps Frank J. Pokluda, Jr. Gordon R. Pulliam Donald C. Reed Burr E. Rice William P. Riley, Jr. Theodore R. Rohla Newman Sanders Kern L. Scott Russell B. Snider Eugene M. Starr</p>	<p>William H. Steele William G. Stephan, Jr. Louis E. Talamo Rupin R. Tarjan George Uschuk Russell L. Ustruck Kenneth R. Woods</p> <p>(4) 3<sup>rd</sup> Oak Leaf Cluster</p> <p>George L. Baker Robert E. Brumm Donald A. Carlson Irving A. Cole Francis L. Craver William T. Curry Philip J. D'Agostino Marvel L. Deike Dominic A. De Mitis Nello J. Di Domenico O.(I.O.) C. Dykes James E. Felts Raymond L. Fitzgerald Howard M. Gillespie Frank L. Hanson James C. Harvey Clarence C. Hauquitz, Jr. Leroy R. Hennum Glenn F. Howerton Roy E. Hughes Richard H. Karpik Arthur C. Kimber Don O. Lee Robert J. Lessard Murray M. Levitan Otho D. Maurer James Frederick McKeever George T. Moore Donald Q. Morgan Oscar M. Morton Ralph A. Olsen William F. Palmer William M. Patton Thomas F. Pender Burr E. Rice Millard E. Rives John Ross Norman Salkin</p>	<p>(6) 5<sup>th</sup> Oak Leaf Cluster</p> <p>Edward A. Aswood Perry C. Chapman Howard E. Counselman Marvel L. Deike Robert Hunter Drenner Raymond L. Fitzgerald Clarence C. Hauquitz, Jr. Earl R. Horner Jack M. Houston Charles R. Huber, Jr. Roy E. Hughes Wesley M. Jones Arthur C. Kimber Roman M. Lidy Hugh B. Major Francis Manns Raymond O. Miller John C. Pearce Donald G. Porter George J. Riegert, Jr. Matthew H. Rolek Walter S. Sawyer Edwin F. Schaefer Orville G. Schoonover Robert W. Stoner Alvin Strausburger John M. Thompson Christopher L. Yates</p> <p>(7) 6<sup>th</sup> Oak Leaf Cluster</p> <p>Edwin A. Ashwood Perry C. Chapman James A. Coyle Robert Hunter Drenner Raymond L. Fitzgerald Wesley M. Jones Alphonse S. Lauria Charles L. Martin Raymond O. Miller John C. Pearce Edwin F. Schaefer Orville G. Schoonover Alvin Strasburger Christopher L. Yates.</p>
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<p>William G. Stephan, Jr.  William N. Stewart, Jr.  Louis E. Talamo  Rupin B. Tarjan  George Uschuk</p>	<p>Walter S. Sawyer, Jr.  Edwin F. Schaefer  Raymond G. Schnick  John W. Sharp  Joseph W. Smith  Eugene M. Starr  William H. Steele  William G. Stephan, Jr.  Russell L. Ustruck  Frank A. Walter  Kenneth R. Woods</p>	<p>(8) 7<sup>th</sup> Oak Leaf Cluster  Peter Caruk  Leven T. Chambers  Perry C. Chapman  Robert Hunter Drenner  Raymond L. Fitzgerald  Wesley M. Jones  Charles L. Martin  Alvin Strasburger</p>
<p>(3) 2<sup>nd</sup> Oak Leaf Cluster</p>	<p>(5) 4<sup>th</sup> Oak Leaf Cluster</p>	<p>(9) 8<sup>th</sup> Oak Leaf Cluster</p>
<p>Robert E. Brumm  Donald A. Carlson  Don M. Chamberlain  Edgar Chavarria  Irving A. Cole  Delmas E. Collins  Francis L. Craver  Gordon A. Curry  Philip J. D'Agostino  Nello J. Di Domenico  Benjamin Dunst  Clyde A. Du Puis  O. (I.O.) C. Dykes  Joseph D. Edwards  James E. Felts  Raymond L. Fitzgerald  Charles E. Frohner</p>	<p>Edward A Ashwood  George J. Bauer  Willie C. Billings  Howard S. Caldwell  Perry C. Chapman  Francis L. Craver  Marvel L. Deike  Nello J. Di Domenico  Raymond L. Fitzgerald  Howard M. Gillespie  Henry B. Grant, Jr.</p>	<p>Leven T. Chambers  Raymond L. Fitzgerald  John C. Hostetler  Ver Keljik  Charles L. Martin  Abraham Salop  Alvin Strasburger</p> <p>(10) 9<sup>th</sup> Oak Leaf Cluster  Ver Keljik  Paul B. Neafus</p>
		<p>(11) 11<sup>th</sup> Oak Leaf Cluster</p>
		<p>Joseph G. Boyle, Jr.</p>
		<p>(12) Purple Heart</p>
		<p>Byron R. Cary  Harold G. Lynch  Edward A. Miemiec</p>
		<p>(13) Soldiers Medal</p>
		<p>Philip Suskind</p>
		<p>(14) Distinguished Flying Cross</p>
		<p>Harvey A. Hutton</p>
		<p>(15) Silver Star</p>
		<p>Harold G. Lynch</p>

May 1, 1945

Hitler is dead!! This sensational news is welcome; but there is doubt in the minds of many whether there is any veracity to the announcement. It is reported that he died at his battle post in the Reich Chancellery this afternoon. He is said to have appointed Grand Admiral Dönitz [Karl Doenitz] as his successor.

With each passing day morale is rising to unprecedented heights, for everyone is sure that V-E Day will soon be here.

Weather again kept our planes grounded. Although there are probably no more Italian targets, we still can bomb a few places in Austria.

2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>

It appears that this squadron will fly no more missions. Early each day we are put on a stand-by status, only to have it changed to a stand-down later on in the day.

7<sup>th</sup>

The war is over. Germany sometime today surrendered unconditionally. It has already been announced that tomorrow will be celebrated as V-E Day.

For most of us anticipation of the event was greater than the event itself. Now that it has come, there is an empty feeling. It is over, so what?

8<sup>th</sup>

Today, V-E Day, has been a quiet one for most of us over here. Many of us have been down to the beach to enjoy the water and the sunshine. Work was strictly forbidden. It seems that there ought to be something dramatic to fit the occasion. After such long anticipation, there has been a tremendous let-down. Germany has been defeated. Now what? One would like to celebrate, to shout for joy. But somehow few of us can bring ourselves around to that.

At 3:00 o'clock this afternoon Prime Minister Winston Churchill broadcast a victory message to the world. Short and concise and full of meaning, it will undoubtedly go down in history as one of the great speeches of this epic period.

9<sup>th</sup>

Now that the war is over, Operations and Intelligence are to a certain extent out of business. Operations is putting airplanes into the air for "Blue Death" missions. There are morning flights and afternoon flights.

10<sup>th</sup>

Preparations are being made to put into effect an educational program. Captain Olsen will be the officer in charge, and Sergeant Bill West will assist him. While we are awaiting movement either to the U.S.A. Or to another theatre, we shall be subjected to a regular routine. From all indications we shall be here for some considerable time.

The weather is fine. Many of the squadron personnel are taking advantage of the excellent beach by spending a great deal of their time there. No one could reasonably ask for a better beach than this one.

11<sup>th</sup>

Another day has gone the way of all days. Time does not seem to be passing as quickly as it used to. Perhaps this is due to the fact that we are impatient for action. If we are going to go back to the States, then we would like to go there immediately; if we are going to the other theatre, then we would prefer being on the move at once.

12<sup>th</sup>

More men are leaving for the U.S.A. very soon. There now are comparatively few original men in the squadron.

The educational program is about ready to be put into effect. Captain Olsen and Sergeant West have spent considerable time and effort on the project, which should be of great benefit to the men. Here is an opportunity to acquire knowledge on Government time and expense.

13<sup>th</sup>

This Sunday is the first one after V-E Day. In England and in America people are reverently giving thanks that half of our wartime job is over. And, of course, they are not forgetting to pray for the men who have so gallantly died on the battlefronts that this victory might be possible.

14<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>

Operations and Intelligence have moved to "The Character's College of Intricate Knowledge," which is located in a large house facing the beach. From our Intelligence Office can be seen the blue Adriatic, which at the present moment is dotted with the colored sails of fishing boats. A persistent sea-breeze coming in from off the water has made this a pleasantly cool day.

In this same building will be held the school classes. Today is registration day, and the soldier-students are filing in to sign up for the courses in which they are interested.

There may be something good in the air. By the 18<sup>th</sup> of this month all surplus clothing and equipment must be turned in to Supply. This may be indicative of an impending move – perhaps to the States.

18<sup>th</sup>

Colonel Jones paid us a visit. Just recently released as a prisoner of war, he chose to return to the Group long enough to pay us his best wishes before returning to the States.

19<sup>th</sup>

The first classes were held today. A complete schedule has been worked out whereby there will be flying in the morning, classes and training films in the afternoon. Sometime during the day there will be military training.

Rumors, rumors, rumors – they are rampant. We are going home soon; we are leaving on such and such a date; etc., etc. There is something in the air, and eventually we shall move, but at the present time all this that we hear is nothing more than cheap talk.

20<sup>th</sup>

There has been nothing unusual about today. It was very ordinary as days over here go. It seems rather strange to listen to radio newscasts and not to hear about fighting in Europe.

21<sup>st</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>

The daily routine continues on along a set pattern. During the course of a day, there are a number of things that are accomplished: flying, training films, school, drill formations. All indications are that the next move the Group makes will be to Naples. There we shall probably remain for about a month, being processed during that time for a return to the States. Just as soon as we depart from here, I feel sure that Army life will become very uncomfortable.

25<sup>th</sup>

It is now Major Paul B. Neafus, Operations Officer. He was fortunate that his promotion got through. A number of men, officers and enlisted alike, were not so fortunate, for all ratings were frozen as of the 22<sup>nd</sup> of this month.

26<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>

The weather continues to be fair and mild. The days, except for two or three, have not been uncomfortably hot. The nights are on the chill side. Many of the men have acquired a good sun tan as a result of spending considerable time on the beach.

During this period S-2 burned all target and tactical charts as well as all maps. All of us have been waiting a long time for this – at last it came. S-2 is practically “out of business.”

[Personnel mentioned in the June 1945 War Diary.]

g. Decorations and Awards

(1) Distinguished Service Cross

Alvin Strasburger

(2) Distinguished Flying Cross

Lawrence E. Griffin  
Gayle C. Gearhart  
James P. Westra  
George J. Bauer  
Byron R. Cary  
Perry C. Chapman  
James A. Coyle  
Robert H. Drenner  
Raymond L. Fitzgerald  
Earl R. Horner  
Jack M. Houston  
Charles R. Huber, Jr.  
Wesley Jones  
Francis Manns  
Raymond O. Miller  
Peter Caruk  
Orville G. Schoonover  
James E. Steele  
Alvin Strasburger  
Christopher L. Yates  
Howard E. Counselman  
Matthew H. Rolek  
Philip Suskind

(3) Bronze Star

Frank C. Tenente

(4) Silver Star

Henry W. Harris  
James F. Matchette

(5) Soldiers Medal

John Ross.

[Many of these same events are also recounted in the War Diary of the 340<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group HQ Squadron, though from a different perspective. The HQ diary can be found here:

[http://57thbombwing.com/340th\\_History/340thGroupHistory.php](http://57thbombwing.com/340th_History/340thGroupHistory.php)

Transcription by Dan Setzer, son of Sgt. Hymie Setzer, 340<sup>th</sup> BG HQ Squadron. November 1, 2015]