

## July 1944

[Transcriber's note: Some entries are truncated. Especially the opening lists of wounded in action, distinguished actions, etc. Please see the original document for the full details.]

War Diary, 487<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron, 340<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group

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### I. Losses in action

1. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Carl Genian
2. S/Sgt. Elemer E. Ryerson
3. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Steven Gerolde
4. F/O Charles F. Donovan
5. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Bernard Bloomberg
6. T/Sgt. Paul G. Daston

### J. Personnel who have distinguished themselves in action.

1. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Gerald U. Ashmore
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Bernard Bloomberg
3. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Edward P. Dombrowski
4. Capt. Floyd F. Hauser
5. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Robert B. Hicks
6. Sgt. Eugene P. Simonson
7. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Harold M. Sterling
8. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. James L. Williams

July 1, 1944

At 09:50 this morning six planes of the 487<sup>th</sup> squadron took off to bomb the mouth of a tunnel at Prato, Italy. Crews disagreed on the results of their bombs, but the majority felt that the tunnel was overshot although some observed smoke emitting from a building within the target area. Six planes were holed and one man was injured by the flak encountered in the target vicinity.....The squadron album is almost near completion and ready for presentation to the printer which is one good job finished. Capt. Farley and Sgt. Moore have been getting the material together for the last month. Capt. Farley will leave for the States within the next few days carrying with him the proposed squadron album. There is some doubt as to whether it will be released before the war's end, but it makes little difference as long as we have it coming.....Last nite after supper, 1st/Sgt. Parkins called everyone out for a through policing detail in anticipation of a visit by General Knapp today. All were instructed to be properly dressed and

use their best military manners. Needless to say, we in the area saw nothing of General Knapp, but he did visit the line.....News on all fronts seem to indicate an early victory although the Allies in France aren't pushing as we all expected once the initial landing was successful. Another question constantly put forth is, "when are the other such heralded landings taking place." Guess we all expected too much in a short time....."Up in Arms" was repeated at the movies tonite.....

2<sup>nd</sup>

The 487<sup>th</sup> squadron put twelve planes in the air this morning to bomb Borgo S. Lorenzo viaduct in Northern Italy. Bombs covered both ends of the viaduct and damaged the east approach. Anti-aircraft fire was heavy, moderate and accurate becoming more intensified in the immediate vicinity of the target. Three planes were holed and S/Sgt. Ryerson received the Purple Heart for cheek wounds. Ryerson is walking around with a bandage on his face and explains it by saying "she had long fingernails".....When Fred Rech prepared to retire last nite he was amazed to find his sack and bed roll well filled with a Jackass. He rushed down to the card game in search of the guilty party, but as yet he has not been able to uncover the criminal.....Someone claims they heard a song dedicated to the 340<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group over B.B.C. one evening recently.....Between the hours of 9 and 12 today all members of the squadron were put through the gas chamber. It was a chance to give our new type gas masks a tryout – they all worked with the tear gas and no one is anxious to find out their value in actual chemical warfare.....It's rumored that another plane will leave for Cairo towards the end of this week.....No show on Sunday nite.....

3<sup>rd</sup>

Six planes of the 487<sup>th</sup> participated in the Group formation attacking a fuel dump a Ferrara, Italy. The planes took off at 10:20 and were over the designated area at 11:37 hours and dropped 68x100 lb. incendiary bombs from 10,000' with excellent results. The bomb pattern extended through center of target area with blue smoke and several explosions observed from Northeast corner of target area. Anti-aircraft fire was heavy, moderate & accurate, holing four of our planes, but all planes and crews returned safely to the base.....A rumor to the effect that an invasion of Southern France was in progress had every one on edge, but also it proved to be just another rumor.....F/O Semenak our Athletic Officer had a detail at work erecting another volley ball court. Volley Ball enthusiasts have taken a back seat since our days at Paestum as games of soft-ball and base-ball has held the limelight since our coming to Corsica. However when the court is in readiness and the ball stuck in someones hands it won't be long until many follow suit.....The Enlisted Men's Club was without beverages for the first time since opening nite and the vicinity of the club was deserted. Stellato is in Catania purchasing more stock so it's hoped that the dry spell won't be for long.....A P-47 belly-landed on our field this morning. The pilot, a Major, thought his landing gear was down – was he ever surprised. Fortunately he landed the plane without disaster....."True to Life" with Dick Powell was the picture shown at the movie tonite.....

4<sup>th</sup>

The fireworks of a customary July 4<sup>th</sup> were confined to the battle front this year and the 487<sup>th</sup> went on in the usual way. Every holiday seems to bring back fond memories of days gone by when the 4<sup>th</sup> of July meant picnics, cuttings, dances, fireworks and generally a day of celebration.....Liquor was brought from Catania in time to be served at the EM club where many of the boys drowned their sorrows in the patent beverages.....A stand-down was in effect all afternoon and almost the entire squadron stood-down at the beach. It's surprising the number of people that have acquired a coat of tan.....Several of the boys have started correspondence courses lately and seem to be doing quite well

with them. Cpl. Porter is studying bookkeeping which he says has been "a life long desire with him".....Cpl. Cross is playing Papa to a puppy no bigger than a human hand. He relates that the first nite he had the pup it cried continuously until Irv took it in bed with him. After the pup wet the bed three times Irv set up a rigid training program for the dog which seems to be working out quite well.....T/Sgt. Liphardt has announced his engagement to a Chicago lovely by the name of "Val." Liphardt has been in the air ever since she accepted via the U.S. Mail....."True to Life" reeling off for the second and last time tonite. The Russians are still going like a house on fire and are keeping our morale up by their great victories. Minsk fell early this morning or late last nite.....

5<sup>th</sup>

Six 487<sup>th</sup> planes and crews loaded with 43x250 lb. bombs took off to bomb the Osteglia fuel dump. Due to malfunction 5x250 lb. bombs were brought back. The formation reached the target at 18:10 hours and dropped their bombs from 9800'. Bombs landed beyond, starting in the river immediately north of the target and extended across the island in midstream. There was no anti-aircraft fire much to the delight of all concerned. This was the first time in quite a few trips over enemy territory that no flak was encountered. The formation was attacked by three or more E/A, probably ME 109's. They were dark mottled color which made at least two passes from the rear at 4 o'clock. A real cover was not observed until after the attack was made and then one "Spit" of the escort was observed to have engaged the E/A. One ship holed by enemy aircraft was the only damage done to our formation.....Lts. Firney and Simpson returned today after being shot down over enemy territory during a bombing mission on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Lt. Finney gave a talk to combat crew members of the squadron this evening about their escape from enemy held territory, it was interesting and informative....."Four Jills in a Jeep" was unreeled for the first time at the movie tonite.....

6<sup>th</sup>

Twelve ships took off at 9:30 A.M. to bomb the Pianora railroad bridge in Northern Italy. Only one flight was able to drop their bombs due to a malfunctioning bombsight. The bomb pattern was excellent, crossing the center of the bridge. The formation was under continuous anti-aircraft fire for from eight to ten minutes which holed eight of the ten planes.....Pvt. Jordan, formerly Sgt. Jordan was released from the guard house today following his trial for getting drunk and tough with an officer. He is confined to the base for three months and will probably have finished his missions by the time the restriction is lifted.....S/Sgt. Harry Warasavich is back from the hospital, but only on limited duty following a serious bone condition brought about by too much lifting in the Armament Section.....S/Sgt. Jackson Dunlap has been relieved of assignment to the 487<sup>th</sup> squadron and will leave for the States any day now. He recently received a cable from the Red Cross concerning his sister who is very near death as a result of a serious ailment. It took only two and one-half days after he got started on the papers which is pretty good time considering the Army's endless red tape.....Our last ration of Coca Cola was received today according to the latest rumor which says that beer is replacing the all American beverage....."Winter Land" with Sonja Heinie was the movie tonite.....

7<sup>th</sup>

Stand-down all day which is quite a relief to combat crew members who have been flying daily.....After trying to get away for months, S/Sgt. O'Bryant finally left for a week rest in Capri. O'Bryant has spent the last few days rushing around the area trying to change francs for Italian Lire.....Several promotions were announced recently and among them were 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Owen, Miller, Lovinfosse, Lantz and Farnham who made First Lieuys. Lt. Jordan made Captain just in time to go

home – has almost finished his missions.....P.X. rations were distributed today in pretty fair quantity. However, the choice of cigarettes was ala African, Old Golds, Raleighs or Phillip Morris....."Flash" Gordon, a new comer from the States went for his first ride in a B-25 today. He was one of those 36,000 washed out Cadets who were thrown into the Infantry, but he was fortunate enough to remain in the Air Corps as a ground man.....Lt. Hale is keeping track of his missions on Italian ten lire notes. Ten cents a mission is a cheap price for a good souvenir.....Rumor has it that heavies will take over this field shortly and we'll go over to the Rome area or Burma. Everyone would enjoy the Rome deal, but Burma is another story.....Four men a week from the squadron are to spend three days at the 57<sup>th</sup> Wing's rest camp in Rome, according to the latest rumor. Monday is supposed to see our first four off to the Eternal City. If the percentage doesn't increase its rather doubtful if everyone will see Rome....."What a Woman" with Rosalind Russell played to a contented crowd at the movies tonite.....

8<sup>th</sup>

Stand-down again today. It's hard to figure out these mission-less days, but it must be weather or lack of more bridges to blow up. The other squadrons were sent out today and missed the target, but were sent right back after it. Apparently someone was disturbed about the whole thing and as a result credit will be given for only one mission.....We had steak for dinner which was our first since being on Corsica. It tasted good although the meat was a little tough.....Captain Birmingham has assumed command of the squadron in Major Parsons' absence. Major Parsons is leaving for Cairo and Alexandria within the next few days for an extended leave....."Ned" Burke who has recently been transferred to the Photo Lab is taking advantage of his newly acquired knowledge and gaining experience by knocking out many personal photographs.....New 12<sup>th</sup> Air Force shoulder patches have come in and will be distributed by Supply within the next few days. Some of the boys used their influence and are already sporting the attractive patch. However, there should be enough for everyone when they get down to issuing them.....Crowds at the Enlisted Mens Club seems to be more reserved lately, at least there isn't so much noise coming from within. Perhaps too many people have been sick too many times to imbibe as freely as they did in the past. "What a Woman" was repeated at the movies tonite.

9<sup>th</sup>

The Squadron was on stand-by all morning until one-thirty at which time a stand-down was declared. As usual, not fifteen minutes after the stand-down was declared every combat crew member was on his way to the beach. It won't take many more stand-downs to completely change the color of the 487<sup>th</sup> combat personnel. Some members of the ground crew are displaying a nice coat of tan also.....Maj. parsons and a plane load of men left for Cairo this morning. It seems as though everyone wants something from Cairo and as a result the entire crew left loaded down with orders. With two planes in Egypt we should be literally deluged with eggs in the next few weeks.....The guard house released Pvt. Harlan Smith and Arthur Rice after completing their respective sentences.....S/Sgt. Ritchie was finally transferred after trying ever since he's been with the squadron. He really got a break by going with the A.T.C.....It's amazing to see the number of boys who are waltzing around with the Distinguished Merit Badge much in evidence. The surprising thing is that the ones who are wearing it have hardly been with the organization long enough to merit a star. Those who are authorized the Badge as a permanent part of their uniform are saving it for the appreciative eye of the home front.....A daily mail call has the squadron's spirits on a pretty high level.....Sunday nite and consequently no movie.....

10<sup>th</sup>

At 09:34 hours this morning twelve planes of the 487<sup>th</sup> squadron took off, landed with 95x500 bombs to attack the marshaling yards at Rovigo, Italy. At 11:09 the formation was over the target and released their bombs from 10200' with only fair results. The first box pattern landed short of the yards while bombs of the second box are believed to have crossed the M/Y in the southern half. Orange flames and smoke were observed in the yards as a result of the bombing. Heavy, scant and inaccurate anti-aircraft fire was encountered, but no damage was inflicted on our ships and all returned safely to the base.....Lts. Sterling, Narusewicz, S/Sgts. Crosby, Leatherwood and Henderson left the squadron this morning on the first leg of their thirty day furlough in the States. All are expected to rejoin the outfit within two months to take up where they left off in their combat missions.....Anti-aircraft batteries on the field were practicing all day in preparation for any unwelcome visits from our enemy.....Cpl. Sobansky was nursing a swollen hand all day today after being bitten by one of Corsica's flying bugs during his sleep. "Everything happens to me" is all Ted says about the unfortunate incident.....Sgt. Bishop was celebrating something or other today, but no one could find out just what. In any event he wandered around the area all afternoon in a stupor.....Abbott and Costello in "Hit the Ice" was the picture shown at the movie tonite.....

11<sup>th</sup>

Eleven B-25's of the 487<sup>th</sup> squadron took off at 09:29 hours this morning to bomb the Ceva south railroad bridge. Some of the boys claimed that it was so close to the French border that they were over French territory. Their pattern crossed the west approach and end of the target bridge, but it is believed that no spans were knocked out. Enemy opposition was nil and all planes returned safely to the base.....One of our little Italian K.P's has gone off the beam. It seems that he recently visited his home and met his brother there who had been held by the Germans at Cassino and the condition of the brother has been preying on his mind ever since. Tomorrow he'll leave us to go back with his folks.....The first party to leave for the rest camp in Rome was M/Sgts. Katherman, Lynch, S/Sgt. Paradis and Cpl. Nasuto. A trip to Rome is being sweated out almost as much as the homeward voyage.....Capt. Farley returned with the squadron album today after having it okayed by the base censor. The only thing deleted was this simple sentence. "We are now in Corsica." Incidentally the base censor was quite enthusiastic and said "it's the best thing of its kind that he's seen" - Again the 487<sup>th</sup> takes the honors.....One bottle of P.B.S. beer was rationed to each man this P.M. If the ration card we recently received is any indication, we should be getting many delightful beverages....."Hit the Ice" was repeated at the movie tonite.....

12<sup>th</sup>

There were two targets for twelve planes of the 487<sup>th</sup> squadron this morning. Ferrara road bridge was the primary and Chivari the alternate. The first box laid down a compact pattern which crossed the center of the primary target scoring several direct hits. 2<sup>nd</sup> box bombed beyond and to the right of alternate possibly crossing the east approach of the bridge. Smoke screen was used quite effectively at the primary. Approximately 10 F.W. 190's were observed in the vicinity of Porto Maggiore which attacked the last box in the flight. Heavy, moderate but inaccurate flak of the barrage type was encountered although it only holed one plane.....The little Italian K.P. that took leave of his senses departed for home this A.M.....Word got around today that S/Sgt. Snaper's commission has come through. He's been working on it for some months now and everyone was betting pro and con as to whether he'd get it. "Wilbur" is in Cairo at present, but the glad news is awaiting him.....Rumors are rampant that the invasion of Southern France will come within a week. S-2 personnel are positive

which should mean something.....Thus far in the drive for paratroops, one fellow of this squadron has signed up. He isn't sure whether he will be accepted as an application doesn't mean much....."Two Sailors on Leave" with Jimmy Durante was the feature picture tonite.....

13<sup>th</sup>

First mission of twelve ships attacked the Ferrara railroad bridge at 10:33 this morning. The formation encountered flak all along the route and became more intense and accurate as they reached the target area, holing two ships. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Gerolde was slightly wounded by flak. The north end of the bridge was covered with bombs of the first box and the second box covered the south end. Only three ships went out in the second mission to drop "window" and frags for the following formation which was to again bomb Ferrara railroad bridge. Frag pattern crossed the north approach to railroad bridge intersect. 7N, piloted by Lts. Lovinfosse and Konigsbert, had one engine shot out over the target and in order to get over the mountains enroute to Corsica it was necessary to throw all excess weight out. Guns, radios, parachutes, flak suits and even one pair of shoes were thrown out over enemy territory, but the ship was returned to the base for a successful landing. 7E had the hydraulic system shot out over the target and was also brought in for a safe landing by Lts. Holmes and MacMillen.....The day was so full of missions that little time was left for the customary monkey business. However, another bunch took off for Rome and the other four returned a little disappointed. They say Rome is beautiful, but strictly an officer's town. The so-called rest camp for EM is certainly nothing to write home about according to reliable sources.....A ration of three small bottles of beer was rationed to each man this afternoon – mighty good....."Two Sailors on Leave" was repeated at the movie tonite.....

14<sup>th</sup>

Twelve bombers of the 487<sup>th</sup> squadron took off at 09:20 hours to bomb the Carbola road bridge. They dropped their bombs in a good pattern with the first box crossing the north end of the bridge and the second box extending across the middle in a loose pattern. Flak was evident, but inaccurate.....Ten enemy fighters attacked other squadrons in the formation although none approached our flight.....Cpl. Lozano is back from the hospital for a limited duty only. He sustained a back injury a month or so ago in the Armament section.....Sgts. Mottola, Mabe; Cpls. Abbott and Arthion are attached for rations only awaiting permanent assignment to the squadron. Its encouraging to see new ground personnel coming in even though the rotation quota hasn't increased.....Donuts and coffee were served in the mess-hall this morning by "Peggy". While passing out the donuts she was auditioning one of the new cooks for a vocal he offered to put on in the now Red Cross EM's Club. That opened up last nite serving donuts and coffee with some hill-billies providing the entertainment in the typical barn dance fashion. We're hoping that isn't going to be an every nite occurrence....."Mark Twain" was the film enjoyed at the movie tonite.....

15<sup>th</sup>

Our squadron participated in two missions today. First flight of twelve planes took off at 08:09 and were over the primary target at 09:49, but did not bomb the Ferrara railroad bridge as smoke batteries completely obscured the objective. The formation proceeded to the alternate target, Villa Franca railroad bridge and dropped 48x1000 lb. bombs from 9200' with good results. First box started on the rail bridge and extended across the road bridge with possible hits on both. Second box failed to find the alternate target, but bombed another road bridge. Pattern starting in the marshaling yards east of the target and extending through the factory buildings. Ack-ack was heavy, scant and inaccurate, one ship was holed and Lt. Frazier was injured slightly by flak. All planes returned safely to the

base.....Second mission of planes (12) took off at 17:00 hours to again attack Ferrara railroad bridge. The objective was reached at 18:46 and their 4800 lb. bomb load was dropped from 11600'. Most bombs crossed the bridge at the north end. Two spans were observed down in the water on the north end. Smoke pots were again used, but ineffectively. Anti-aircraft fire was heavy, scant and inaccurate. All planes and crews returned safely to the base without damage.....Tender Roast Beef for dinner today and fresh meat stew for supper was a welcome relief from our much too frequent C-ration menus.....Allied advances on all fronts has everyone pepped up and wagers are being made as to when the end will come. Of course it can't come too soon for any of us as we all feel like we've had enough....."Mark Twain" was repeated at the movie tonite.....

15<sup>th</sup>

Stand-down was in effect all day which really was a break for combat men who have been seeing more of Ferraro railroad bridge lately than they have of Corsica. Too much sweating isn't good for anyone and the boys are really entitled to a day off after sweating out the flak and enemy fighters protecting Ferrara. As usual ninety-five percent of the squadron spent the day sunning themselves at the beach.....A plane returned from Catania today loaded down with fresh vegetables of all kinds. The most appealing edibles were the lush looking red tomatoes which will probably be served tomorrow. Boiled chicken was on the menu for dinner this afternoon and the consensus of opinion is that it's a mighty poor way of preparing fresh chicken.....Church Services of all denominations were held in the Red Cross Club, recently completed for the purpose of entertaining the units in this vicinity. Thus far no one has seen any of the prescribed entertainment although donuts and coffee are served nightly with a stray hill-billy or two providing musical diversion. If and when the club gets some furniture, plus a little variety in the way of food, the rustic cabin should be a pleasant place to spend an evening.....It was announced today that Sgt. "Greg" Moore will assume the duties of S-2 Section-chief, the position made vacant by S/Sgt. Snaper who will be commissioned a Second Lieutenant S-2 officer upon his return from Cairo. It's a good deal for both of the deserving lads.....Capt. Meriwether, rather Major Meriwether, has been spending the last few days with Capt. Linthicum. Every one looks to Major Meriwether for optimistic rumors and he has never been known to disappoint anyone except for his predictions. His latest is a possible decision for the European theater in two months which is good on the ears, but we can't forget that it was Major Meriwether who had us home by last Christmas according to his predictions. There isn't a soul in the squadron who doesn't think very highly of Major Meriwether and it's a pleasure having his cheery face around the area again.....It being Sunday there was no picture at the group movie tonite.....

17<sup>th</sup>

Allessandria railroad bridge was the target for six of our ships this morning. There was no flak to hinder the formation which scored three or four direct hits on the railroad bridge. Everyone, and mostly combat crews were well pleased with the results of this "milk run".....Mail has been coming in quite sparingly lately or at least for the last few days. Cpl. Grupp is the mail man while Nelson nurses a bum arm, but we can't blame the situation on the personnel.....The Enlisted Men's bar was closed until further notice as of today. It seems that no one wants the responsibility of handling the affairs and until such time as a volunteer appears the bar will remain closed.....F/O Sparling was commissioned a Second Lieutenant and Second Lieutenant Martin donned the silver today.....The squadron baseball team hasn't been doing so well lately, thus far they've lost three games.....What a disappointment the end of this war is going to be if the original personnel of this squadron aren't sent home. Progress is so amazing in all sectors that the end is in sight according to radio commentators and the boys are already planning on how they'll spend their twenty-one day furlough. Its a cinch that a tour in the Pacific

wouldn't do much towards the morale or efficiency of this Group after sweating out eighteen months....."Tampico" starring Edward G. Robinson and Lynn Bari was featured at the movie tonite.....

18th

Poor weather over the target caused a stand-down for the entire day although the sun was bright in Corsica.....A contingent left for Rome this morning to rent an apartment for the squadron, if possible. In so doing everyone will get an opportunity to see the Eternal City whereas under the present set-up very few will have the pleasure unless the war lasts indefinitely.....Group Special Service is really getting "on the ball" and has provided us with a radio and badminton set – our first since being overseas.....Malaria and the Enlisted Men's bar were the main topics of discussion at a squadron meeting this evening. It was decided that a new bar will be set-up in a yet to be constructed building and a duty roster will furnish bar-tenders. No doubt all of these plans will terminate before completion when a quick move to France turns up – we hope.....Pvt. Harlan Smith was transferred to MATS, Headquarters today. He really got a break out of selling government property to civilians. A month or so in the guardhouse a transfer to A.T.C.....Capt. Farley, Lt. Klujnsza, Sgts. Brooks, Egan and S.L. Kelly return to God's country this P.M....."Tampico" was repeated at the movie tonite.....

19<sup>th</sup>

Crews were on a stand-by all day until 17:00 hours when six planes took off in the rain to bomb a railroad bridge at Sassoulla in Northern Italy. The bomb pattern started short and extended across the center of the bridge scoring several direct hits. Six enemy fighters, believed to be ME 109's attacked the rear boxes although our flight was unmolested.....Lt. Deneen left the squadron to attend flexible gunnery school at Laredo, Texas. Whether or not he'll be back is a question although that's his intention. We hope that the war is over by the time Lt. Deneen's flexible gunnery course is completed.....The Red Cross Club held its grand opening tonite by staging a dance for all enlisted men of the Group. Nine Red Cross girls, a colored band and coffee with cake were the main attractions. Even Hildagarde joined the happy gathering.....Sgt. Fuiks came back from Napoli today after spending three days in the famous city. However, it isn't the city that attracts Sgt. Fuiks.....Air Medals and Clusters thereto are being given out on the basis of five missions with fifty percent bombing accuracy now. If the system remains in effect extra poundage will have to be allowed combat men returning to the States....."Four Jills and a Jeep" showed at the Group movie tonite.....

20<sup>th</sup>

Stand-down was in effect until 17:08 hours when six of our ships took off to bomb a railroad bridge at Mantova, Italy. The target was reached at 18:28 and the bomb load was dropped very successfully from 9800'. The east end of the bridge was hit at waters edge. Heavy, slight and inaccurate anti-aircraft fire was encountered, but no damage was done to our planes. Two or three enemy fighters were observed at the rear of our formation, but did not attack. All planes and crews returned safely to the base.....T/Sgt, Edward S. Johnston and Warren C. Wood who left the squadron almost three months ago on a thirty day furlough returned last nite to rejoin the outfit. They brought back many interesting tales from the home-front and only tended to make the unfortunate who could not obtain a furlough, more home sick.....The squadron was electrified this evening by a radio news flash stating that an attempted assassination was made upon Adolph Hitler. It was the subject of much discussion, but unfortunately no details were available – only the fact that someone "screwed" up and they missed the target....."Four Jills and a Jeep" was repeated at the movies tonite.....

21<sup>st</sup>

Crews remained on a stand-by all morning and until late afternoon when a stand-down was declared. Those that hadn't taken off before, departed for the beach immediately. God only knows what combat crews would do without the sandy shores of Corsica.....The Cairo plane was supposed to be back today, but they ran into difficulty and were forced to land at Palermo, Sicily. No doubt they'll be in tomorrow.....Lack of mail for the past week is a pretty good sign that another landing will take place very shortly. It's sometimes a question as to which is more important, mail or more landings.....A new Enlisted Mens bar is being erected by Sgt. Bornstein and "volunteer" helpers. It's supposed to be ready for use in the next few days.....No more passes to Naples are being issued to members of this squadron as too many of the boys are returning from the city with a "dose." If nothing else can be said for Neapolitan women "they always leave the lover with a remembrance".....

22<sup>nd</sup>

The first mission out today was a weather reconaissance flight of one plane to the Ronco Scrivia area. Then at 17:10 hours, six ships took off to bomb the railroad bridge at Ronco Scrivia. Several direct hits were observed on the bridge although due to height of formation, it was impossible to plot the entire pattern. Flack was inaccurate, causing no opposition to the formation.....The Cairo boys returned this afternoon following a good time, but a very hectic return trip. Several remained at Palermo with the ship that was forced down. Alexandria is really the spot according to all. Judging from the amount of merchandise each brought back, much money was spent. Perfume and jewelry seem to be the main items although some of the boys even brought back pillows. Lt. Eustis returned with the crew after spending several months at a school for bombardiers in Egypt. Lt. McGiffin also returned after quite a session.....Four combat men left for a rest in Capri today while another six members of the ground crew took off for the Eternal City. If people continue to go away as they have been doing we won't even know we're still in combat....."In Old Oklahoma" was repeated at the movies tonite.....

23<sup>rd</sup>

Stand-down for the entire day was declared last nite. Naturally the squadron area looked like "no mans land" with everybody either in their sack or at the beach.....Cpl. Malcolm White had a regular beach party with a friend from one of the other squadrons. They had cocktails, sandwiches, hard boiled eggs and beer. Where all these goodies came from is still a question although Malcolm claims that his friend flattered the mess-hall personnel into preparing the feast.....Three cans of delicious beer were rationed to each man yesterday. Candy and cigarettes were distributed today in quantity. Some say it's the fattening for the kill because things were never like this before.....The regular Sunday Services were held at the Red Cross Enlisted Mens Club. Chaplain Cooper holds forth in the morning and a Catholic Priest from the 35<sup>th</sup> Station Hospital takes care of the afternoon.....Capt. Bugbee and Stellotto returned from Rome today after procuring furnished rooms in the city to be used as the 487<sup>th</sup> Rest Camp. It's a good deal if everyone gets a chance to take advantage of the accommodations.....No Movie tonite.....

24<sup>th</sup>

Early morning mission today. Six planes took off at 08:13 hours to bomb Chiavasso west railroad bridge. Their bomb pattern covered the eastern part of the bridge, but it remained standing in spite of the bombing. Several bursts of ack-ack were observed in the target vicinity although no damage was done to any of the participating aircraft.....Lt. Mako has any amount of money that says the war will be over within two months. T/Sgt. Garbet is betting on the next thousand hours. To date no one has been

very anxious to take or give the boys any money – even conservative gamblers are steering clear of war bets.....Convoys are going down the road in great numbers today which indicates the invasion of Southern France very shortly. With the attempt on Hitler's life and all the rumors coming from within Germany plus another landing, it is beginning to look good.....Sgts. Robinson and Hunt departed from the States yesterday via 12<sup>th</sup> Air Force Depot.....”Nine Girls” was the appealing picture at the movie tonite.....

25<sup>th</sup>

Six ships took off at 09:25 hours to bomb a railroad bridge at Poggio Renatico, Italy. The bombs landed in the dust of previous bombings, crossing the road south and extending across the western half of the railroad bridge. Enemy opposition was nil and all planes returned safely. Later in the day, at 16:46 hours, six more ships took off to bomb another railroad bridge at Chiavasso, Italy. Bomb pattern of this flight landed short in the river bed. Flak was met enroute to the target, but no planes were holed.....This has been our first two mission day in quite sometime although from the results of the second raid we might just as well have stood-down.....The committee for the enlisted mens bar was bust cutting up tickets to be used for drinks when the new night spot opens. Apparently there has been too much questioning of the funds and high prices. The bar should open within the next few days in its new location.....Its fascinating to watch the endless stream of convoys going up the road toward Bastia. Personnel are wearing battle dress which indicates action soon unless they're fooling.....”Nine Girls” was repeated at the movie last nite.....

26<sup>th</sup>

Twelve planes of the 487<sup>th</sup> squadron took off at 08:23 to bomb a railroad bridge at Ostiglia, Italy. The formation reached the target at 09:55, but only the first box dropped their bombs on this objective. The pattern started short of the target, but covered west part of bridge. The lead ship in the second box received a burst of ack-ack on coming into the primary target and it damaged the bomb-sight and the formation held its bombs and proceeded to the alternate, a railroad bridge at PP L-994770, where they released their bombs very successfully from 10800'. Pattern covered the west approach of the railroad bridge. Ack-ack was heavy, intense and accurate over both targets, holing five of our planes.....Another periodic rifle inspection was held this afternoon and rifle belts were exchanged for pistol belts which are much more appropriate for carrying Carbine ammunition. Gas masks were also inspected and eye shields were distributed to everyone.....T/Sgt. Liphardt is wondering just how he can get the engagement ring which he recently purchased for that Chicago lovely, on the finger of the lucky miss before he gets home himself. Says he knows she would like to show it around before he gets home to take over the situation.....”Moon Over Vermont” was the picture shown at the Group movie tonite.....

27<sup>th</sup>

Stand-down all day for the 487<sup>th</sup>. Naturally on such a day the squadron was well represented at the beach. However, the beach looked more like Normandy than the quiet shore of Corsica today. News came in from the 57<sup>th</sup> Wing around noon that all personnel would carry arms, gas masks and helmets in preparation for an enemy landing on the island. No one seems to concur on the reason as the stories vary. One is that many troops and invasion vessels were forming off the coast of France – no doubt it was our own forces observed causing the hysteria. At any rate a meeting was held in front of the Orderly Room and everyone was assigned to a duty or platoon in case of the attack. The majority got a big kick out of the whole thing, but nevertheless carried the designated equipment. Guards on the line

were posted at fifty yards intervals with a phone at each post and an observer was appointed in the squadron area. By nightfall things were pretty calm and the rumor was spread that a few troops landed on the west coast of the Island, destroyed some radar equipment and disappeared.....The Group baseball team played Wing tonite in the first game of the series - 340<sup>th</sup> Gp. 14, Wing 4.....In other words an exciting day was spent by all....."Hers to Hold" starring Deana Durbin was shown at the Group movie tonite.....

28<sup>th</sup>

Crews were up early this morning for an eight o'clock immediate stand-by, but they remained on the alert until 3:00 P.M. when a stand-down was declared for the remainder of the day.....The scare of invasion has lessened to a great extent and guns are only to be carried after 1900 hours. Capt. Linthicum thought he was a parachutist landing up in the hills although none of the supposed warriors have made an appearance at the 340<sup>th</sup> as yet.....More packages came in today much to the delight of the addressees. Nelson is away again and it seems that every time he goes away the squadron is deluged with mail. Perhaps Nelson should take off more often. Red Cross Club had a little show tonite featuring a three act play starring "Peggy" who was supported by an able cast including our own T/Sgt. Powers. A very good band provided the background and several colored boys offered excellent specialties. The show was really a success judging from the audience attendance and following comments.....Details have been busy for the last week getting the new squadron Enlisted Mens bar ready for the grand opening which is scheduled for tomorrow night....."Yours to Hold" was shown at the movie tonite.....

29<sup>th</sup>

Another early morning alert which resulted in a stand-by until 2:00 P.M. at which time a stand-down for the remainder of the day. Weather looked bad and it rained a little in the afternoon, but the poor weather lasted only a few minutes and we had a perfect beach day. Again everyone took advantage of the stand-down at the beach.....The squadron Enlisted Mens bar opened tonite with a refreshing preview of local talent – music to please hill people as well as urban habitués. Italian liquor and spam sandwiches flowed freely and the surprise of the evening was a bottle of good American beer to each man – ice cold and on the house at that. Noise and singing coming from within gave proof that a grand time was enjoyed by all the first nighters.....Capt. Birmingham looks like a war casualty, but it's a recurrence of the boils.....S/Sgt. Wilbur Snaper was discharged from the Army today and is now Second Lieutenant Snaper. The difference in status doesn't mean much in the squadron although he'll fare better where ever he goes from now on....."Hers to Hold" was repeated at the movie tonite.....

30<sup>th</sup>

Stand-by was in effect until 16:28 hours when twelve planes took off to again bomb Ferrara road bridge. Due to a malfunctioning bomb-sight the first box failed to drop their bombs, but the second box started their pattern short which extended across the target. It is believed that two spans were knocked out as a result of this flight's bombing efficiency. Two crew members were wounded and six planes were holed by the intense flak encountered over the target.....Many of the boys in the squadron were nursing terrific hangovers resulting from last nite's grand opening. Italian liquor is rougher the morning after than it is going down, if that's possible. The club is more attractive than anyone imagined it could be with so little in the decorative line to work with. Chairs are made of old bomb cases, the bar is of rustic nature with a parachute draped above it and the walls are covered with gunny sacks dyed in various colors of the rainbow. American liquor bottles filled with tea adorn the back of the bar to add atmosphere.....1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Oviatt, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts. Rambo, Cuthbertson; Cpls. Carlson and Lee are new

combat crew members recently assigned to the squadron. Cpl. Fleming, Pfc. Chapman, Andrews, Triano are latest ground crew additions. It's rumored that they have been overseas for twenty-two months which is anything, but encouraging to those of us who thought we had a chance of rotation after eighteen months....."Memphis Belle" played at the movie tonite which broke a precedent on Sunday Nites.....

31<sup>st</sup>

A stand-down was declared early in the afternoon following a stand-by morning. Thank God the weather in Corsica is better than that over the target – at least Corsica has pleasant weather to offer.....The invasion scare seems to have dwindled although everyone is still to be armed after 1900 hours. Apparently it was our own forces that the alarmists saw off the Corsican coast.....French vegetables being brought back from Sicily and Italy have improved the mess-hall meals no end. Nice large fresh eggs were served for breakfast this morning – so much better than the small African variety.....Soldier voting data is taking up the main part of the bulletin board lately. No one is terribly interested in voting which is rather amazing as the right to vote is one of our purposes in fighting this war. Capt. Bugbee is the squadron voting officer.....Mail has shown a remarkable increase lately although it has just been packages and old mail that should have come in sometime ago. Those who expected an invasion before the arrival of our mail were fooled. It's apparent that all the troops rushing up and down the road in complete battle dress were merely on maneuvers. If the army is as successful in bewildering the enemy as it is in fooling the personnel it's a wonder the war wasn't over long ago.....Double feature at the movie tonite --- a repeat of "Memphis Belle" plus "Old Acquaintance" with Bette Davis.....

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