

May 1945

[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, 487th Bombardment Squadron, 340th Bombardment Group

Prepared by: Cpl. Richard C. Hurley, 487th BS.

j. Personnel who have distinguished themselves in action:

Balise A Azzara
Robert E. Brown
Willard A. Bruce
Robert N. Gist
Frank L. Jones
Francis J. LaPierre
Julius Lieberman
Vernon J. Lyle
Harry P. Naruszewicz
Donald A. Peters
David C. Solether
George R. Stejskal

The following flying personnel of this organization have been awarded Air Medal and Clusters thereto:

Wayland H. Adams Jr.
Howard L. Adkins
Frank H. Albright Jr.
Walter Aller Jr.
James W. Austin Jr.
Blaise A. Azzara
Theodore J. Bennett
Irvin A. Beske
Robert E. Brown
Willard A. Bruce
Marvin K. Carlson
George Chipouras
Jerome T. Chumney
Edwin C. Clothier
Hubert Conwill

Luke J. Crosby
David C. Cunard
Linwood E. Davis Jr.
Henry J. Del Percio
James R. Dempsey
William J. Derby
Thomas F. Di Orio Jr.
Wesley E. Dobson
John H. Downs
Warren A. Downs
Burt R. Dyar
Lester C. Ellison
George E. Erkila
Delos Ervine
Robert E. Evans
Russell F. Evans
David W. Feltus
Robert L. Fielding
James B. Fitzgerald
Charles F. Fredericks Jr.
Frank F. Fronek
Jack J. Frost
Pierre P. Garven
Bert M. Gifford
George Gifford
Robert N. Gist
Harry J. Glattle
Chester M. Gretz
Tony J. Gucwa
Dwain D. Gull
James M. Hall
Edward j. Hardisky
Werner M. Hartman Jr.
David D. Heater
James V. Heming
William H. Hendry
Thomas A. Hetzel
Walter B. Hogge
George Hoilko
Emmett O. Holbrook
Robert E. Holmes
John W. Holsky
John K. Houston
Kenneth W. Hovermale
Frank L. Jones
Christy M. Kara
Adam R. Kelly
Herman H. W. Kiel
Lewis A. Kirk Jr.

Charles R. Klebes Jr.
Howard J. Knaggs
Hubert O. Knauff
Paul S. Kotowski
William E. Krebs
Wallace L. Krueger
Francis J. LaPierre
Carlton O. Lawrence
Morris Lazarowitz
John E. Leatherwood.
Roger D. Lewis
Julius Lieberman
Vernon J. Lyle
Bryant O. Lyons
Albert M. Manis
Morgan C. Mattox
Edwin E. Mattson
Arthur W. Merritt
William Michael Jr.
Floyd E. Mitchell
Raymond G. Moffett
Wesley J. Mummert.
Malcolm M. McClenahan
Paul T. McCormick
John M. McCullough
Charles T. McIlvain
Paul S. McMillen
Harry P. Naruszewicz
Alfred J. Nelson
Alexander Newsom
Darrold H. Niederkorn
William D. Nixon
Frank W. Nunnally
James M. Oaks
Frederick C. Oldfield
Guy E. Olson
Jack L. Olson
Oscar E. Olson Jr.
Casimir Olszewski
John M. O'Riley
Edmund f. Papiernik
George D. Parks
George W. Patterson
William A. Paul
Donald A. Peters
Geroge R. Pew
Calvin D. Pickell Jr.
James H. Pitman
Harold Price

Leslie C. Price
Raymond Priest Jr.
Archie W. Raines
Clifford J. Ramsey
John E. Rapp
Wesley D. Raymer Jr.
Russell A. Reynolds
Ira Rifkind
Arthur H. Rigdon
Robert R. Riley
Edward R. Ritterbusch
Thomas P Rosmarin
James W. Russell
Daniel F. Savage
Darwin H. Selle
Vernon A. Short
Douglas F. Shoun
James C. Slaughter
Dwayne Q. Smith
David C. Solether
Joe A. Spieri
Kenneth O. Starr
George R. Stejskal
Telmo L. Suarez
Kenneth G. Tapert
John E. Taylor
Harry R. Telander
Frank L. Thibault
Nathan G. Thomas
Joseph J. Tomasek
Sam P. Triantos
Ted H. Trier
Lawson T. Ware
Charles W. Watson
Neville A. Waston
Lee R. Weil
Caldwell A. Whipple
Jay A. Wight
John J. S. Wisanowski
Ralph L. Woods
Nick Yeonopolus
William R. Young
Meynard N. Zerbe
John J. Zugibe

War Diary May 1945

May 1, 1945

It rained half of the day and threatened the other half, consequently there was no mission and very little activity whatsoever in the Squadron.....The Squadron enlisted mens club opened tonite amidst much fanfare. It has been named the "Doghouse" and is very appropriately decorated. Colonel Chapman and other "wheels" were guests of honor this evening.....Rain canceled out the 340th movie.....

2nd

Stand-down again today and it looks as though we'll remain at that status for the remainder of our days in Europe. Local church bells rang out this evening when it was announced that German resistance in Italy had ceased at 2:00 PM GMT. Civilians sang and danced, but the GI's took it more as a matter of course. Some few drunks at the enlisted mens club gave the cessation of hostilities as the reason for their inebriation and that was the extent of the celebration.....An A-26 Mobile Training Unit arrived on the field yesterday.....No movie was shown in the Group tonite although the British theaters in town provide enough entertainment for all.....

3rd

Officially we are still operational, but it doesn't look as though War at its present will permit us to take advantage of teh status. Practice formations and local transition flying was only aerial activity taking place today.....Berlin with a garrison of more than seventy thousand troops was surrendered to the Russians yesterday....."The Great Moment" was shown at the Group movie tonite.....

4th

Instead of being at a stand-down the Squadron should be at a stand-around status. For the last few days the administration building has looked like a corner drug store back in the States with all the boys standing around.....A day guard system was inaugurated on teh field this morning.....A Squadron meeting was called this afternoon to introduce the educational program. About fifteen courses are going to be offered and classes are to commence almost immediately. Registration begins tomorrow....."The Great Moment" was repeated at the Group moive tonite.....

5th

1st/Sgt. Parkins called a meeting of all enlisted men tonite in order to bid the boys good-by and inform them of his successor who will be Sgt. Otto Stellato. Parkins leaves for the States tomorrow on a TD deal, but he never expects to return to the Squadron.....Registration for the education program took place today and classes are expected to commence Wednesday.....Capt. Rau and Lt. Pennock left for the States this morning where they will participate in a competetive bombing contest and supposedly return to the Squadron.....

6th

Only Sgts. Fuiks and Parkins departed today of the five men scheduled to leave. All men on previous rotation lists were alerted for shipment in the morning.....Two truck loads of men left on a sight seeing tour of San Marino this morning, but the lack of entertainment and things to do sent them back in time for the noon meal, such as it was....."Mrs Winkley Goes To Town" was repeated at teh Group movie tonite.....

7th

The announcement of V-E Day overshadows any news since the landing in Normandy. With the exception of a few hoots and the sounding of the Squadron air raid siren the celebration amounted to nothing. The news was either too much to comprehend or it just more or less climaxed our positive anticipation.....Twenty-seven men left the Squadron this morning on the first lap of their long overdue trip home....."Greenwich Village" was shown at the Group movie tonite.....

8th

Today is the official V-E Day and has been declared a holiday over the entire theater. In celebration of the big event the 487th Squadron showed "Greenwich Village" three times this afternoon in the War Room. Those that weren't at the movies were either out on the beach sunning themselves or stewing themselves at the Squadron bars which opened at two PM. However, the day that has been anticipated for over five years was most uneventful at Rimini.....A dance was held in the enlisted mens club tonite and if it hadn't been for all the Italian men it might have been a success.....

9th

In spite of the war's end everthing at Miramare remains as complacent as ever. A practice formation of eight bombers flew today and other than that activities were routine.....Baseball games are being scheduled by Special Service almost daily, but this years team doesn't compare with that of last year.....Many fine coats of tan have been acquired by combat men on the beach in the last few days. Bathing attire must be worn and the improvised trunks are quite a revelation.....There was no movie shown at Group tonite.....

10th

An intevsive training program is promised to commence Monday.....T/Sgt. Bill Durie was back visiting in the Squadron today for the first time since his narrow escape with flak last month. He is in a cast, but claims to be feeling fine.....Most activities of the 487th Squadron took place right down on the beach today, consequently there is very little to impart concerning Squadron functions....."Summer Storm" was shown at the Group movie tonite.....

11th

Weather has been ideal since the Squadron became non-operational.....Lt. Raber went to Rome yesterday to pick up the text books that will be used for the educational program. T.Sgts. Crosby and Gillis are down in Bari trying to get liquor for the enlisted mens club. If liquor consumption is a judge, the club is definitely a success.....Point values for discharges from the Army were announced today and within fifteen minutes after the announcement was made all members of the 487th Squadron had

their grand total figured out. Eighty-five points is the critical number and all original personnel are well over that mark.....Squadron censorship has been dispensed with entirely although letters will be spot checked by the base censor....."Summer Storm" was repeated at the Group movie tonite.....

12th

Officially this is R-Day or better known as Reconversion Day. All Adjusted Service Ratings will be figured as of this day. Several extra clerks were drafted into the Orderly Room and the rating commenced. "Two Down And One To Go" was shown in the War Room this afternoon and General Arnold discouraged any hopes for an early return to civilian life for Air Force personnel.....The Squadron was authorized two more battle participation stars for the Appennine and Po Campaigns making a total of seven for the Group. Needless to say the additional ten points did wonders for the adjusted service rating scores....."Kansas City Kitty" was shown at the Group movie tonite.....

13th

A Squadron meeting was called this evening and everyone including officers and enlisted men were put into flights. They were then assigned three nights of the week for drill and the other three for calisthenics and athletics. This program commences tomorrow nite at four PM and lasts until ten minutes of six nightly....."Kansas City Kitty" was repeated at the Group movie tonite and the picture wasn't worth showing the first time.....

14th

The intensive training program was off with a bang this evening. Half of the Squadron fell out in complete OD's for two hours of drill and the other half appeared in shorts for PT and athletics on the beach. No one relished the inauguration of this program and the result was pretty sad.....Meal hours have been changed and the last breakfast is served at 7:30 AM, consequently the turn out isn't very great as 487th chow isn't worth getting up for.....A Red Cross Club mobile unit entertained at the enlisted mens club tonite and it was really one of the best shows we've seen in a long time....."National Barn Dance" was showne at the Group movie tonite.....

15th

Rumors continue to float around about when the Group will go home, but no one has the official answer. However, everyone agrees that it will only be a matter of no more than six weeks.....Major Bugbe is in charge of the entire Group's drill program and Lt. Lane is our drill master. Both are very thankless jobs as no one wants to drill well or otherwise.....Sitting on the beach is getting to be more of a luxury every day as more programs are being introduced to occupy each moment of the day....."National Barn Dance" was shown at the movie for the second time tonite.....

16th

Routine duties along with the newly introduced program occupied the entire day. The Pre-fab being erected next to the mess hall for movies and lectures is almost completed and will be ready for use in the next day or two.....Capt. McGriffin and the entire staff went to Fano this morning for the Captain's court martial. He was fined twenty-seven hundred dollars and returned to the Squadron.....No movie was shown at Group tonite.....

17th

The big event of the day was the wholesale announcement of enlisted ground crew promotions. It was the first promotions for ground personnel of any account since the outfit left Sfax.....Meals continue to get worse by the day and unfortunately a great deal of the trouble is in the preparation.....GI training films have also been included in the training program – all of them have been seen many times before....."Lassie Comes Home" was shown at the Group movie tonite.....

18th

War or no war the 487th continues to go on as usual. A-26 school is to end this week and the I&E program is scheduled to commence next Tuesday.....Monday the 21st is the day set aside to turn in all excess gear and equipment. A show down inspection is promised at any time after that date....."Combat America" was shown at the Group movie tonite at nine o'clock and attendance was mandatory. It was the project for which Clark Gable was responsible and might have been appreciated by anyone without combat experience.....

19th

Routine duties, classes, drill and PT occupied the entire day. The administration building looks almost deserted these days especially on the main floor where work seems to have ceased almost completely. "Lassie Comes Home" was repeated at the Group movie tonite. The Garrison featured a USO Show, but no exclamations of enthusiasm have been heard as a result of the enterprise.....

20th

Sunday, and our first day off – what a relief. many passes to the local towns were dispensed and the remainder of the boys spent the day on the beach. The enlisted mens club opens up at two in the afternoon on Sundays....."To Have Or Have Not" was the picture shown at the Group movie tonite.....

21st

A training film titled "Water Purification" was shown to the drillers for about the tenth time since they've been in the Army today. However, it spared the shoe leather and everyone was satisfied to be bored rather than drilled.....Nelson got in more mail today than we have sighted since being at Miramare, but he was refused an excuse from drill to sort it and it wasn't dispensed until after supper.....Three more combat men were flown to Naples this morning enroute to the States.....Four GI Weekly Shorts were shown at the Group theater tonite instead of a feature picture.....

22nd

I&E classes commenced today and the attendance, although not large was considerably larger than expected. Full enrollment cannot be expected until all other activities cease.....About seventy-five men from the Squadron were decorated by General Knapp this afternoon at a most unimpressive ceremony.....The same shorts that were shown in the squadron today were shown at the Group movie area tonite.....

23rd

Four more combat men left this morning for the first lap of their trip home. All combat men that have gone home thus far are those that finished their tour of duty before the war ended.....Drillers were delighted tonite to find a training film lasting one half hour followed by another film on Japan and then a round table discussion led by Lt. Rosenberg which lasted for the entire period. Anything to get away from the drilling is a welcome change....."Sweet And Low Down" was shown in the Squadron tonite following the reading of the "Articles of War" for the benefit of all enlisted men.....

24th

Usual routine duties occupied the day.....Capt. Lyons and Lt. Krebs returned to Miramare after an enjoyable sojourn at Cannes, France.....A drive for increased care of Coca Cola bottles has commenced in order that the ration may be continued throughout the summer....."Sweet And Low Down" was shown at the Group movie tonite. The Garrison Theatre featured "Cornza Poppin," a very poor USO Show.....

25th

Our quota of men for the Rome Rest Camp were off today and happy to get away from the basic routine of Miramare. Getting out of drill for three days even encourages the most immobile men to go on pass.....Capt. Nozick gave the entire Squadron a dental survey this morning. He found few cavities, but he couldn't expect to find many in such a short period of time. After over two years under Capt. Nozick's care there are a number of fellows who don't have any teeth to inspect....."Sweet and Low Down" was repeated at the Group movie tonite.....

26th

Lt. Lewis and five enlisted men left for the Naples port of embarkation this morning on their way to the homeland. The boys who left on V-E Day are still down there sweating out a boat so the general outlook for anyone in a hurry doesn't appear to be good.....Drill and PT are still the main topics of the day....."And the Angels Sing" was shown at the Group movie tonite.....

27th

A Reclassification Board for the purpose of reclassifying enlisted personnel holding MOS numbers inappropriate to their qualifications has been set up. This has been anticipated for the past two years and only now came into being.....The Rest Camp at Ile Rousse, Corsica is still operating and some of the combat officers are taking advantage of the resort while awaiting decorations to come out on General Order....."And the Angels Sing" was repeated at the movie tonite.....

28th

Back to the old routine after yesterday's holiday. There seems to be no deviation from the schedule in this Squadron. Another bunch went to Rome for three days this morning and the others returned after a rest in the Eternal City....."Our Hearts Were Young And Gay" was shown at the Group movie tonite.....

29th

Rotation is still the most important and most talked of item in the 487th Squadron. However, there have been no new quotas of late and the lack of same always brings forth many fertile rumors. The latest has us going to Austria as occupational forces, but there is nothing official on anything....."Our Hearts Were Young and Gay" was repeated at the 340th movie, "Cover Girl" was shown at the Odeon in Riccione and the Garrison featured a South African variety show called "Crazy Gang" which was one of the best seen thus far.....

30th

Memorial Day and a half holiday for all personnel in the 340th Group. The Squadron bars opened up early this afternoon and those that weren't indulging spent the day on the beach or on pass in the local towns. We anticipated some sort of ceremony today, but fortunately we were mistaken.....All records are being brought up to date in readiness for departure from this theater. Such a move isn't contemplated for at least several months, however.....This being Wednesday there was not a movie at the Group theater.....

31st

M/Sgt. Joe Walsh and S/Sgt. Broderick left the Squadron on rotation yesterday. A rather large list was submitted, but only these two came out on top. Some of the boys find it difficult to leave their buddies of long standing, but thus far no one has turned down the opportunity for rotation.....Rome leaves were off again today. Since enforcing the rules of the Rest Camp such as bed check and a few other things Rome isn't the popular place it used to be. Many of the boys have done extra duty for their failure to comply [with] this order....."When Irish Eyes Are Smiling" was shown at the Group movie tonite.....

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