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Sheet No. 1 War Diary, 488th Bomb Sqdn Pompeii Landing Ground, Italy

Month of February 1944. Prepared by Capt. Everett B. Thomas, 488th Bomb Sq

- | DAY | EVENTS |
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| 1 | Routine. Missions to Colleferro, Orte Marshalling Yards, San Benedetto to Harbor, Frascati road junction, Marino road junction and Frascati again, |
| 12 | Viterbo, Cisterna, Lenuvio, Campoleone and some pinpoints. For some reason, partially at least due to inexperienced new crews, we have not done the precision bombing for which we had established a pretty good reputation. Rain and cold much of the time and the frequent stand-downs do not help the morale of the crews. |
| 13 | Mission to Nemi area up over the beach-head. Plenty of A/A. One ship did not return. The crew consisted of Lts. Ostrem, Bachtell, Shafran, Madison, Sgts. McLaughen, Nagle and Riley. All Bailed out. Nagle's 'chute fouled, but he got it clear and landed safely in the water. Others landed on shore without trouble except Riley who was seen to land in the water with the boats seemingly near, but no word has been received from him since. Lt. Madison was wounded in the leg by flak and went to the hospital. His flak suit was torn to shreds by shrapnel, but protected him completely. Lt. Shafran landed close to a headquarters company just in time for lunch and was back with all the others to share our "C" ration supper. |
| 14 | Mission to Perugia Marshalling Yards in the morning with six ships and a three ship "nickelling" mission over Caramanico area in the afternoon. |
| 15 | Mission to Cassino Abbey which the Germans had converted into a fortress. Allies have been threatening for days to blast it if the Germans didn't move out "because it was costing the lives of so many Americans"! Finally went at it today with B-17s', B-26s' and '25s'. We had word later that the 321st and us working together had stolen the show from the '17s'. |
| 16 | Mission to Orte in the morning recalled. Mission to Campoleone in the afternoon. Lost one ship with crew consisting of Lt. Dean, pilot, Major Garske (Group Operations), Lt. Reichard, Sgts. Hawley, Dunaway, Mitchel, and Albanese. Some 'chutes were reported after a direct hit and one engine afire, but no word received of any of the crew. Capt. Cover got his majority today and Lts. Pierce and Street their captaincies. Major Bailey formerly Squadron Commanding Officer now sporting silver leaves. Big celebration at the Officers' Club and big heads in prospect for tomorrow. |
| 17 | One mission to ammunition dump at pinpoint F679557. Another for the afternoon called off. Capt. Thomas and Lt. Murphey went to Naples to try to get intelligent interpretation of censorship and some relaxation of rulings from Base Censor. Had some luck, but still not as liberal as we formerly enjoyed under the IXth Air Force in Africa or even in Sicily. Weather cold and too much rain. There was a suspicious circular fire on hill to the Northwest of the field tonight and extra guards precautions taken. |
| 18 | Mission to pinpoint F917494, but bombs brought back as target was obscured. Stand-down the rest of the day. Heard tonight that Lts. Crane and T.B.Howard had been awarded the DFC. Everybody buying cameos. |

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