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**Compressed into these pages are the facts that made up the life of the 484th Bombardment Group (H) during its first year of combat operations.**

**Compiled by  
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**Chester C Busch, Lt. Colonel, AC, Commanding.**

*A Commanding Officer's working knowledge must come from numerous departmental reports and from the compilations of this information through the Statistical Section. The report speaks for itself. From out of all its facts and figures, its charts and breakdowns, there emerges a history of the Group's existence from its first mission on April 29, 1944 to the last one April 26, 1945.*

*Signed  
Chester C Busch,  
Lt. Colonel, AC, Commanding.*

### Preface

On March 13, 1944, the ground echelon of the 484th Bomb Group (H) left the shores of the United States for an unknown destination. Twenty-eight days later, they were busy setting up housing and working facilities in Italy. The air echelon of the Group took off from Morrison Field, Fla., at about the same time the ground echelon was getting its last look at home shores for a long time to come; the air echelon flying down through South America, across the Atlantic Ocean to Dakar and up through Africa and then to our present base in Italy.

On April 29, 1944, the Group took off on their first combat mission. Since that date one year ago, the Group has put up 6252 A/C over the target and dropped over 11,000 tons of bombs on enemy target. Targets were attacked in Germany, Italy, Hungary, Rumania, Yugoslavia, Austria, Czechoslovakia and France.

The Group has been the recipient of two (2) Distinguished Unit Citations. The first, for the raid of August 22, 1944 against the Vienn-Lobau Oil Refineries in Austria. Here the Group completely destroyed the enemy underground oil installations and shot down many enemy fighters. The second citation, was received for the devastating damage done to the Marshalling Yards at Innsbruck, Austria and again shooting down many enemy aircraft.

The Group participated in direct support of the invasion of Southern France; attacking artillery and gun positions on the beachhead, and clearing the way for our 7th Army. For almost the

entire month of September, the Group was utilized in the performance of supply missions. Vital supplies were flown to our rapidly advancing forces in the valley of the upper Rhone.

The personnel of the Group are entitled to wear five (5) Bronze Battle Stars. (1) Rome-Arno, (2) Southern France, (3) Germany, (4) Northern France, (5) Air Offensive-Balkans. In the recent drive by the 5th and 8th Armies, the group gave close air support by again bombing enemy positions thus making the inevitable advance of our armies that much easier.

The work this Group has done in coordination with the other Groups of the 15th Air Force, has materially hastened the defeat of the common enemy.

### Part 1 Rest Camps

Flying combat, crewing airplanes or working in an administrative job, after a period of time has elapsed, a certain amount of fatigue sets in a person, thus lessening his efficiency. To relieve this fatigue or "war nerves", the 15th Air Force has set up rest camps at Rome, Capri, Sans Spirito, Cannes, and Villagio Mancuso. During this reporting period the Group sent several thousand men to relax and enjoy themselves at these rest centers.

*The following is the breakdown by Squadron of the  
Number of men sent to Rest Camp.*

<u>Place</u>	<u>Hq</u>	<u>824</u>	<u>825</u>	<u>826</u>	<u>827</u>	<u>Total</u>
Rome	97	388	277	269	267	1298
Capri	17	388	388	379	370	1542
Sans Spirito	56	130	129	128	129	572
Villagio Mancuso	8	17	13	7	15	60
<u>Cannes</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>32</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>183</u>	<u>933</u>	<u>815</u>	<u>788</u>	<u>785</u>	<u>3504</u>