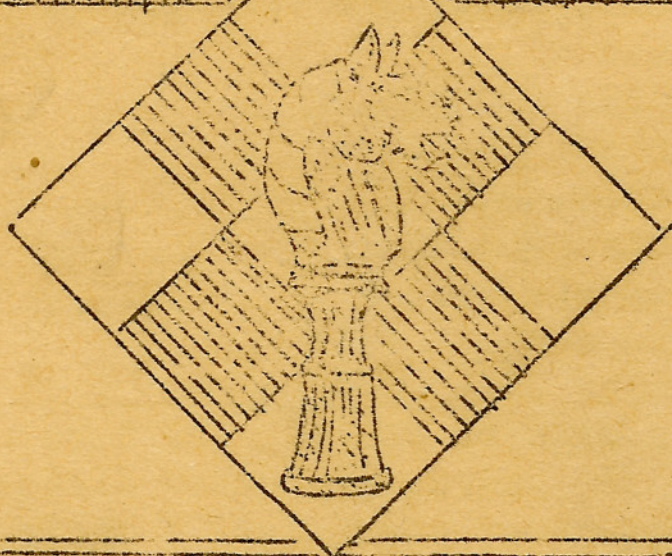


487

B. S.



• 2ND ANNIVERSARY •

As we gather around the huge Squadron birthday cake, brightly aglow with its two candles, on this, our second anniversary, it is only proper that we pause for a few moments to reflect back upon these two years of our military being - two years of trials and tribulations - and fun.

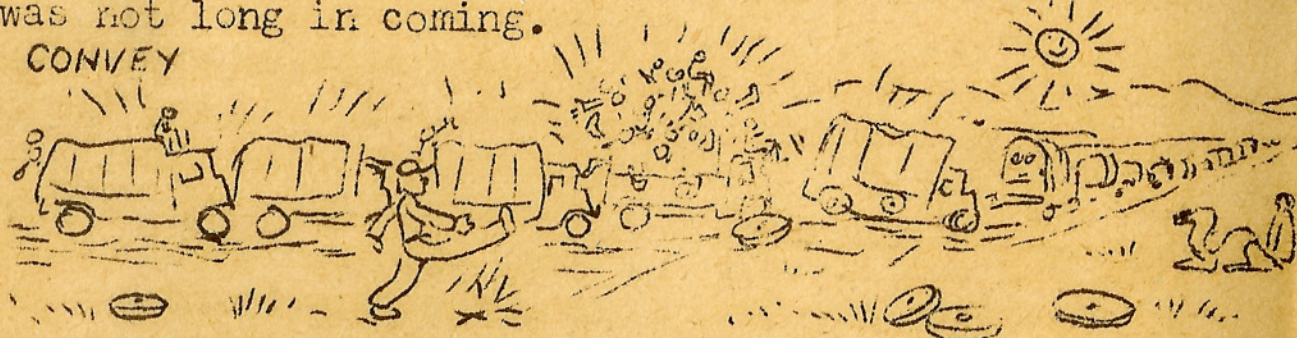
When the 340th Bombardment Group was formed in August 1942, it was decreed that one of its sons would be the 487th Squadron, and on September 15th of that same year, that son was born. It was, we must admit, often a problem child, but what great person hasn't been?

The task of forming the new organization fell to Lt. Bugbee and Capt. Whittington, who was appointed Squadron Commander. As time went by new officers joined the Group as did cadres sent out from the 309th Group. As we look back at ourselves we must admit that we were just a bunch of little fellows trying to find our places in a rapidly growing organization.

judging from reports, it would be hard to say which had the better time.

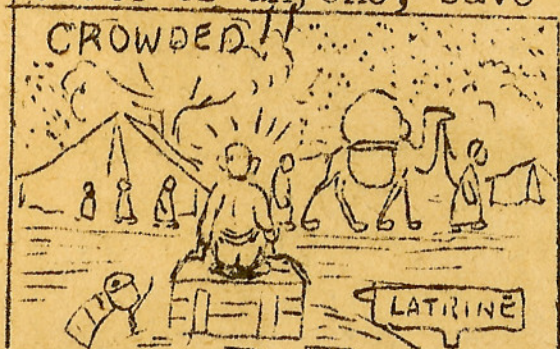
The family reunion took place at El Kabrit, Egypt on March 29th. The boys of the flight echelon were on hand to greet the ground forces who by this time were greatly wearied, haggard, and above all else - hungry. Readjustment came fast and soon everything, including the sands and winds of the desert, was going full blast in final preparation for the trip to the blue, a date which was not long in coming.

CONVEY



Again we split up, this time into three groups, and by the time the third group caught up to the first it was moving time again. Here followed a succession of moves to Sfax and Hergla, Tunisia, neither of which proved to be too much to the taste of anyone, save the Arabs.

CROWDED



Less some get the impression that all we had done so far was to move from one bad place to another slightly worse, if possible, we want to let it be known that we were already contributing a great deal to the defeat of the German

Army. Armament was kept extremely busy loading bombs only to find that the load for the next mission had been changed. There was nothing to do but dump the load and put different poundage into the bomb bays of the faithful Mitchells.

Here, too we were being

constantly alerted, for it seemed someone had grave fears of a Nazi paratroop attack. Guard was doubled and alert crews were set up but, happily, nothing ever happened.



To the boys in the States, a PX is just a handy place to go to keep away from details but in the desert it was a salvation in a different way. A line would form at least two hours before the PX would open up. You see, it was quite uncertain whether the cigarettes, candy -- mostly life-savers -- and various other small articles would last long enough to supply the great demand.

One of the most welcome structures ever built in the squadron, was the Enlisted Men's Club at Hergla. Arrangements were made to get beer from Tunis, so here at last was the perfect answer to a GI's prayer at the end of a hot, busy day.

With lumps in our throats, probably gobs of clay which accumulated while we slept with open mouths, we bid farewell to Africa, the land of pyramids, sands, winds, and Arabs, and later, after a very pleasant voyage, we found ourselves on the fair island of Sicily. Here for the first time in many months we saw people, especially girls, and what a sight for sore eyes they were.

Catania found everyone quite happy and contented, and why not? We could figure on a stand down about every second day, and that meant a trip into town or perhaps up to Via Grande to enjoy a satisfying meal of steak, chicken, and french fries. The restaurant there became a great competitor of our own mess Hall.

ADVISOR

Major L. F. Bugbee

FOOD & BEER

1st Lt. John P. Mako S/Sgt Paul S. McMillen
Sgt. Otto J. Stellato
"C" Ration Kids

ENTERTAINMENT

Sgt. Francis M. Barnes

BASEBALL GAME

T/Sgt. Henry J. McClernon

PUBLICITY

T/Sgt. Edward Graham

BINGO AND RAFFLE

Sgt. Howard T. Bates Sgt. Francis M. Barnes

STAGE

Pfc Wallace Larson Cpl. R. L. Taylor

LIGHTING AND AMPLIFYING

Sgt. John S. Smith

INVITATIONS

1st Lt. Vern I. Salsbury

BOOKLET

Sgt. Gregory C. Moore S/Sgt. Charles M. Goodrich
Pfc Anthony J. Nieli Pfc Edward A. Burke
Cpl. Malcolm P. White Pvt Howard B. Rosenberg
Sgt. Samuel Boor T/Sgt. Dexter F. Garbet

Thanks to S/Sgt. Goodrich and to 340th personnel
who did the fine job of Mimeographing.