

305th AIR DIVISION, BOMBARDMENT

MISSION

LINEAGE

305th Bombardment Wing (Heavy) established, 7 Dec 1943
Activated, 29 Dec 1943
Redesignated 305th Bombardment Wing, Heavy, 1944
Inactivated, 9 Sep 1945
Redesignated 305th Bombardment Wing, Very Heavy, 13 May 1947
Activated in the Reserve, 12 Jul 1947
Redesignated 305th Air Division, Bombardment, 16 Apr 1948
Inactivated, 27 Jun 1949

STATIONS

Foggia, Italy, 29 Dec 1943
Spinazzola, Italy, 19 Jan 1944
Bari, Italy, 6 Mar 1944
Torremaggiore, Italy, c. Dec 1944-9 Sep 1945
McChord Field (later, AFB), WA, 12 Jul 1947-29 Jun 1949

ASSIGNMENTS

Fifteenth Air Force, 29 Dec 1943-9 Sep 1945
Fourth Air Force, 12 Jul 1947-27 Jun 1949

COMMANDERS

Unkn, 29 Dec 1943
LTC Earl J. Nesbitt, 2 Jan 1944
LTC Julian M. Bleyer, 14 Jan 1944
Unkn, Apr 1944-Jun 1945
Col William R. Morgan, 13 Jun-9 Sep 1945
Unkn, 12 Jun 1947-27 Jun 1949

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Naples-Foggia

Rome-Arno

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

None

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 305th activated as a Bombardment wing in Italy in Dec 1943, but had no combat components assigned until after the European war ended in May 1945. In Jun, several fighter groups were assigned, and the wing instituted an extensive training program. Anticipating transfer to participate in the war against Japan, the 305th emphasized instrument flying and navigation, and formation, high altitude, and transition flying. One of the wing's P 51 groups also conducted experimental work in dive bombing. In ground training, pilots practiced in the Link trainer and attended classes in engineering, air discipline, intelligence, personal equipment, air sea rescue, chemical warfare, navigation, and communications procedure, only to see the wing inactivated with the defeat of Japan, While active in the Reserve, Jun 1947-Jun 1949, the 305th was redesignated as a division.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.