

311th FERRYNG SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

311th Ferryng Squadron

STATIONS

Langford Lodge, Northern Ireland

ASSIGNMENTS

27th Ferryng Group

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 311th Ferryng Squadron of the 27th Air Transport Group was attached to the First Tactical Air force and stationed at Istres, near Marseilles, in Southern, France. This squadron was placed under the operational control of "First TAF", as it was then known, and busied itself with

hauling supplies for the air force units and organizations of the Seventh Army and the evacuation of wounded to station and general hospitals in the Riviera area.

On the 10th of November the headquarters of the 31st Transport Group moved from Querqueville to Chartres, France, where it was joined by the 313th Transport Squadron, which moved up from Bolleville, and the 314th Transport Squadron, which moved north from Maupertus. The following day the 312th Station Complement and the 310th Ferrying Squadron were reassigned from the 27th Air Transport Group to the 31st Transport Group and moved from Grove, England to Chartres. This strengthened the operating capacity of the first continental operating group and more evenly distributed the number of aircraft employed by the Wing.

During this campaign the wing was charged with maintaining a communications flight for SHAEF Air Staff at Rheims. A detachment of the 311th Ferrying Squadron, which had been reassigned from the 27th Air Transport Group to Wing control for the operation of the U.S. Strategic Air Force Communications Flight at Toussus Le Noble, was formed under the direction of Capt Michael Adams. The 311th Ferrying Squadron, then commanded by Major James Lyons, was maintaining communications flight for three of the major headquarters of the theater.

The 311th Ferrying Squadron, employed as a transport organization, was kept busy hauling gasoline from Lyneham and Chipping Ongar.

The 311th and 312th Ferrying Squadrons were soon known as radio training schools, training over half of the operators, ground and aerial, for the whole group.

The 311th Ferrying Squadron moved to Istres and was attached to the First Tactical Air Force, provisional.

The 311th Ferrying Squadron in Southern France learned its main lesson "to fly high and fast" as one aircraft was lost in moving the squadron to its new location. Even before it got well settled, rumors, and they were plentiful in that squadron, began to tell of a future move of the unit to India.

The group played its part in the Ardennes campaign by furnishing half of the aircraft for the Wing's mission of carrying tank experts from Istres to Northern France by receiving and refueling all the aircraft engaged utilizing the maintenance section of the 311th Ferrying Squadron stationed at Istres; and, by continuing the Paris to Luxembourg daily scheduled flight, carrying priority passengers, mail and cargo.

The 311th Ferrying Squadron placed its flying crews on detached service with other squadrons of the groups, pending its move to rejoining the group. Captain John Howard was sent to Villacoublay in charge of the advanced party to receive the squadron, and shortly thereafter Major Thomas moved its unit to its new station.

The 311th Ferrying Squadron was assigned a new commanding officer in Major James Lyons. He was succeeded as commanding officer of the 320th Transport Squadron by Captain Lloyd Shields. The 311th in its operations flew to advanced units so far ahead of intelligence reports that often pilots used maps from the "Stars and Stripes" to find enemy locations.

In April, the last heavy month, the 311th Ferrying Squadron was reassigned from the group to Wing Control to operate various communications flights. Many of the aircraft and crews of this squadron however were reassigned to other squadrons of the group.

In April 1945, the 311th Ferrying Squadron was reassigned from the 27th Air Transport Group and assigned to this station to assume the operation of the communications flight. For the first time in over two years an authorized organization had been detailed to operate this function. That same month the Wing was detailed to establish a communications flight for the Air Staff of SHAEF Headquarters at Reims, where the armistice was signed. Major James Lyons, who then commanded the 311th Ferrying Squadron, assigned Capt Adams to this detachment. Aply assisted once more by Captain Martin, this detachment moved forward and operated at Reims until that headquarters moved to Frankfurt, Lt Wickey will long be remembered by all who called requesting aircraft from the headquarters served, for as operations officer, he filled a keystone job around which the entire station operated.

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 26 Sep 2012

Updated:

Sources

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

Unit history. *302 Transport Wing*. Nd.