

397th BOMBARDMENT GROUP (MEDIUM)

MISSION

LINEAGE

397th Bombardment Group (Medium) constituted, 20 Mar 1943

Activated, 20 Apr 1943

Inactivated, 6 Jan 1946

STATIONS

MacDill Field, FL, 20 Apr 1943

Avon Park Bombing Range, FL, 12 Oct 1943

Hunter Field, GA, 1 Nov 1943-13 Mar 1944

Gosfield, England, 5 Apr 1944

Rivenhall, England, 15 Apr 1944

Hurn, England, 5 Aug 1944

Gorges, France, Aug 1944

Dreux, France, c. 11 Sep 1944

Peronne, France, 6 Oct 1944

Venlo, Holland, 25 Apr 1945

Peronne, France, 24 May-Dec 1945

Camp Kilmer, NJ, 5-6 Jan 1946

ASSIGNMENTS

Ninth Air Force

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-26

COMMANDERS

Maj Rollin M Winingham, May 1943

LTC John F. Batjer, 18 Jul 1943

Col Richard T. Coiner, Jr., 5 Oct 1943

LTC Jimmie W. Britt, 23 Jul 1945-unkn

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Air Offensive, Europe

Normandy

Northern France

Rhineland

Ardennes-Alsace

Central Europe

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation

Eller, Germany, 23 Dec 1944

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Participated in operations preparatory to the Normandy invasion by attacking V-weapon sites, bridges, coastal defenses, marshalling yards, and airfields, Apr-Jun 1944. Hit strong points in France on D-Day and assisted ground forces throughout the remainder of the Normandy campaign by bombing fuel dumps, defended areas, and other objectives. Engaged in bombardment of German forces in the region of St Lo during the Allied breakthrough in Jul. After moving to the Continent in Aug, struck enemy positions at St Malo and Brest and bombed targets in the Rouen area as Allied armies swept across the Seine and advanced to the Siegfried Line. Began flying missions into Germany in Sep, attacking such targets as bridges, defended areas, and storage depots. Struck the enemy's communications during the Battle of the Bulge (Dec 1944-Jan 1945) and received a DUC for a mission on 23 Dec 1944 when the group withstood heavy flak and fighter attack to sever a railway bridge at Eller, a vital link in the enemy's supply line across the Moselle. Continued to support the Allied drive into Germany until Apr 1945.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Updated:

Sources

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