

453rd OPERATIONS GROUP

MISSION

LINEAGE

453rd Bombardment Group (Heavy) constituted, 14 May 1943
Activated, 1 Jun 1943
Inactivated, 12 Sep 1945
Redesignated and activated as 453rd Operations Group, 1 Jun 1992
Inactivated, 1 Jul 1994

STATIONS

Wendover Field, UT, 1 Jun 1943
Pocatello AAFld, ID, 29 Jul 1943
March Field, CA, 30 Sep-2 Dec 1943
Old Buckenham, England, 23 Dec 1943-9 May 1945
New Castle AAFld, Del, 25 May 1945
Fort Dix AAB, NJ, 18 Jun-12 Sep 1945
Souda Bay AB, Greece, Dec 1992 – May 1993

ASSIGNMENTS

II Bomber Command, 1 June-2 Dec 1943
20th Combat Bombardment Wing, 23 Dec 1943
2nd Combat Bombardment Wing, 8 Jan 1944 – 9 May 1945
Army Service Forces, 18 Jun-12 Sep 1945
43d Air Refueling Wing, 1 Jun 1992 – 1 Jul 1994

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-24
B-24H
KC-135

COMMANDERS

Col Joseph A. Miller, 29 Jun 1943
Col Ramsay D. Potts, Jr., 19 Mar 1944
Col Lawrence M. Thomas, 7 Jul 1944
LTC Edward F. Hubbard, 25 Jan 1945-unkn
Col Paul W. Essex
Col Richard E. Fitzhugh Jr, 1993

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Began combat on 5 Feb 1944 with an attack against an airfield at Tours. Throughout combat, served chiefly as a strategic bombardment organization. Targets included a fuel depot at Dulmen, marshalling yards at Paderborn, aircraft assembly plants at Gotha, railroad centers at Hamm, an ordnance depot at Glinde, oil refineries at Gelsenkirchen, chemical works at Leverkusen, an airfield at Neumunster, a canal at Minden, and a railroad viaduct at Altenbeken. Took part in the concentrated attack against the German aircraft industry during Big Week, 20-25 fcd 1944. Besides strategic operations, engaged in support and interdiction missions. Bombed V-weapon sites, airfields, and gun batteries in France prior to the invasion of Normandy in Jun 1944; on 6 Jun hit shore installations between Le Havre and Cherbourg and other enemy positions farther inland. Attacked enemy troops in support of the Allied breakthrough at St Lo in Jul. Bombed German communications during the Battle of the Bulge, Dec 1944-Jan 1945. Ferried cargo on two occasions: hauled gasoline, blankets, and rations to France in Sep 1944; dropped ammunition, food, and medical supplies near Wesel during the airborne assault across the Rhine in Mar 1945. Flew last combat mission in Apr.

First Mission : 5 Feb 1944

Last Mission: 12 Apr 1945

Total Missions: 259

Total Credit Sorties: 6,655

Total Bomb Tonnage: 15,804 tons

Aircraft Missing in Action: 58

Other Operational. Losses:
Enemy aircraft claims: 42-12-19

Air Force Order of Battle
Created: 1 Nov 2011
Updated:

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