

490th BOMBARDMENT GROUP, HEAVY



MISSION

LINEAGE

490th Bombardment Group (Heavy) constituted, 14 Sep 1943
Activated, 1 Oct 1943
Inactivated, 7 Nov 1945

STATIONS

Salt Lake City AAB, UT, 1 Oct 1943
Mountain Home AAFld, ID, 4 Dec 1943-Apr 1944
Eye, England, 1 May 1944-Aug 1945
Drew Field, FL, 3 Sep-7 Nov 1945

ASSIGNMENTS

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-24
B-17
B-24H
B-17G

COMMANDERS

Maj Lyle E. Halstead, 11 Oct 1943
LTC Beirne Lay, Jr., 28 Oct 1943

LTC James H. Isbell, Nov 1943
Col Lloyd H. Watnee, 30 Dec 1943
Col Frank P. Bostrom, 26 Jun 1944
Col Gene H. Tibbets, 10 Jun 1945
LTC Clarence J. Adams, 9 Jul 1945-unkn

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Air Offensive, Europe
Normandy
Northern France
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Activated 1 Oct 1943 at Salt Lake City AAB, Utah Transferred Mountain Home AAFd, Idaho, where Group formed and trained Dec-April 1944. Ground echelon left for Camp Shanks, NY. 11 April 1944 and sailed on Nieu Amsterdam, 15 April 1944 arriving Clyde 25 April 1944. Air echelon commenced overseas movement 12 April 1944 taking southern ferry route, via Florida. Trinidad, Brazil, Dakar and Marrakech to UK.

Entered combat in Jun 1944, bombing airfields and coastal defenses in France immediately preceding and during the invasion of Normandy. Then struck bridges, rail lines, vehicles, road junctions, and troop concentrations in France. Supported ground forces near Caen in Jul and near Brest in Sep 1944. After that, converted to B-iy's and operated primarily against strategic targets until the end of Feb 1945. Mounted attacks against enemy oil plants, tank factories, marshalling yards, aircraft plants, and airfields in such cities as Berlin, Hamburg, Merse-burg, Munster, Kassel, Hannover, and Cologne. Interrupted strategic missions to attack supply lines and military installations during the Battle of the Bulge, Dec 1944-Jan 1945. Beginning in Mar 1945, attacked interdiction targets and supported advancing ground forces. After V-E Day, carried food to flood-stricken areas of Holland and transported French, Spanish, and Belgian prisoners of war from

Austria to Allied centers. Returned to the US, Aug-Sep 1945.

Redeployed USA Jul/Aug 1945. Aircraft left Eyre 6 and 8 Jul 1945 Ground echelon sailed from Southampton on Queen Elizabeth 26 Aug 1945 arriving New York 1 Sep 1945. Personnel 30 days R & R. Group established Drew Fd, Fla. 3 Sep 1945 and inactivated there 7 Nov 1945.

First Mission: 31 May 1944

Last Mission: 20 Apr 1945

Total Missions: 158

Total Credit Sorties: 5,060

Total Bomb Tonnage: 12,407.4 tons (8.9 tons leaflets)
(5 food missions May 45, dropping 384.4 tons)

Aircraft missing aircraft: 22

Other operational losses: 32

Enemy aircraft claims: 4-0-1

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 18 Jun 2011

Updated:

Sources

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