

492nd BOMBARDMENT GROUP (VERY HEAVY)

LINEAGE

492nd Bombardment Group (Heavy) constituted, 14 Sep 1943
Activated, 1 Oct 1943
Resigned 492nd Bombardment Group (Very Heavy), Aug 1945
Inactivated, 17 Oct 1945

STATIONS

Alamogordo AAFld, NM, 1 Oct 1943-1 Apr 1944
North Pickenham, England, 18 Apr 1944
Harrington, England, 5 Aug 1944-8 Jul 1945
Sioux Falls AAFld, SD, 14 Aug 1945
Kirtland Field, NM, 17 Aug-17 Oct 1945

ASSIGNMENTS

Eighth AF

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-24H

COMMANDERS

Col Arthur J. Pierce, 19 Oct 1943
Maj Louis C. Adams, 17 Dec 1943
Col Eugene H. Snavely, 26 Jan 1944
Col Clifford J. Heflin, 13 Aug 1944
LTC Robert W. Fish, 26 Aug 1944
Col Hudson H. Upham, 17 Dec 1944
LTC Jack M. Dickerson, 7 Jun 1945
LTC Dalson E. Crawford, 30 Aug-Oct 1945

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Air Offensive, Europe
Normandy
Northern France
Southern France

Rhineland
Central Europe

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation

Germany and German-occupied territory, 20 Mar-25 Apr 1945

French Croix de Guerre with Palm

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Only small part ground echelon (124 men) from US left Alamogordo 11 Apr 1944 and sailed on Queen Elizabeth 20 Apr 1944. Main body of ground echelon from four 2BD groups already in UK. These groups had been ordered to raise additional squadron ground echelon each. Air echelon left Alamogordo from 1 Apr 1944, to commence overseas movement by southern ferry route: Florida, Trinidad, Brazil, Dakar and Marrakesh.

Entered combat on 5 May 1944, and throughout the month operated primarily against industrial targets in central Germany. Attacked airfields and V-weapon launching sites in France during the first week in Jun. Bombed coastal defenses in Normandy on 6 Jun 1944 and attacked bridges, railroads, and other interdiction targets in France until the middle of the month. Resumed bombardment of strategic targets in Germany and, except for support of the infantry during the St Lo breakthrough on 25 Jul 1944, continued such operations until Aug 1944. Transferred, less personnel and equipment, to another station in England on 5 Aug 1944 and assumed personnel, equipment, and the CARPETBAGGER mission of a provisional group that was discontinued. Operated chiefly over southern France with B-24s and C-47s, engaging in CARPETBAGGER operations, that is, transporting agents, supplies, and propaganda leaflets to patriots. Ceased these missions on 16 Sep 1944 to haul gasoline to advancing mechanized forces in France and Belgium. Intermittently attacked airfields, oil refineries, seaports, and other targets in France, the Low Countries, and Germany until Feb 1945. Meanwhile, in Oct 1944, began training for night bombardment operations; concentrated on night bombing of marshalling yards and goods depots in Germany, Feb-Mar 1945. Ceased these missions on 18 Mar 1945 to engage in CARPETBAGGER operations over Germany and German-occupied territory, using B-24, A-26, and British Mosquito aircraft to drop leaflets, demolition equipment, and agents. Received a DUC for these operations, performed at night despite adverse weather and vigorous opposition from enemy ground forces, 20 Mar-25 Apr 1945. Also cited by the French government for similar operations over France in 1944. Flew its last CARPETBAGGER mission in Apr 1945 and then ferried personnel and equipment to and from the Continent

until Jul.

First Mission: 11 May 1944

Last Mission: 7 Aug 1944

Total Missions: 64

Total Credit Sorties: 1,513

Total Bomb Tonnage: 3,757 tons

Aircraft missing in action: 51

Other Operational losses: 6

Enemy aircraft claims: 21-0-3

B-24H & J in olive and grey factory finish, and natural metal

Squadron codes

856BS—5Z

857BS—9H

858BS—9A

859BS—X4

Group marking: U in circle.

Work had started on painting circle device on vertical tails when new full-colour markings introduced. Outer sides vertical tail white or bare metal with black diagonal band; a/c letter on band in white.

Bar and plus signs adjacent a/c letters

856BS—no sign

857BS—bar above a/c letter

858BS—bar below a/c letter

859BS—plus after letter

Assembly Ship camouflaged B-24D with alternating bands of red and white on fuselage and outer wing panels. Codes 5Z:Z.

B-24D, H & J in gloss black finish overall

Also many a/c in olive and grey factory finish. C-47 in olive and grey factory finish. Mosquito in RAF night bomber camouflage B-26 in gloss black finish overall.

No squadron codes displayed during hostilities.

Original 492BG squadron codes under wing after VE-day.

Codes yellow on black.

A/c letter on tail B-24s in yellow.

No group markings.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources