

500th BOMBARDMENT GROUP, VERY HEAVY

MISSION

LINEAGE

500th Bombardment Group, Very Heavy constituted, 19 Nov 1943

Activated, 20 Nov

Inactivated, 17 Jan 1946

STATIONS

Gowen Field, ID, 20 Nov 1943

Clovis AAFld, NM, 12 Jan 1944

Walker AAFld, KS, 16 Apr-23 Jul 1944

Isley Field, Saipan, 18 Sep 1944-21 Oct 1945

March Field, CA, 24 Oct 1945-17 Jan 1946

ASSIGNMENTS

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-29

COMMANDERS

Unkn, Nov 1943-Jan 1944

Maj Ralph A. Reeve, 28 Jan 1944

Maj John E. Gay, 7 Feb 1944

LTC John E. Dougherty, 8 Mar 1944

Col Richard T. King, Jr., 5 May 1944

Col John E. Dougherty, 5 Dec 1944

LTC William L. McDowell, Jr., 4 Dec 1945

Maj James H. Coats, 19 Dec 1945-17 Jan 1946

HONORS

Service Streamers

Air Offensive, Japan
Eastern Mandates
Western Pacific

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations
Nagoya, Japan, 23 Jan 1945
Japan, 15-20 Jun 1945

EMBLEM

None

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Entered combat on 11 Nov 1944 with an attack against a submarine base in the Truk Islands. On 24 Nov participated in the first attack on Japan by B-29s based in the Marianas. After that, conducted many daylight raids, operating from high altitude to bomb strategic targets in Japan. Struck the Mitsubishi aircraft engine plant at Nagoya in Jan 1945 and received a DUC for the mission. Bombed enemy airfields and other installations on Kyushu in support of the Allied assault on Okinawa in Apr 1945. Beginning in Mar 1945, flew missions at night and at low altitude to drop incendiaries on area targets in Japan. Received second DUC for incendiary attacks on the urban-industrial section of Osaka, feeder industries at Hamamatsu, and shipping and rail targets on Kyushu, in Jun 1945. Released propaganda leaflets over the Japanese home islands, Jul-Aug 1945. Dropped food and supplies to Allied prisoners in Japan, Korea, China, and Formosa after the war