

550th NIGHT FIGHTER SQUADRON

LINEAGE

550th Night Fighter Squadron constituted, 3 May 1944

Activated, 1 Jun 1944

Inactivated, 4 Jan 1946

STATIONS

Hammer Field, CA, 1 Jun 1944

Visalia AAFld, CA, 25 Aug-2 Nov 1944

Hollandia, New Guinea, 14 Dec 1944 (detachment operated from Middelburg Island, 31 Dec 1944-14 Feb 1945)

Morotai, 14 Feb 1945 (detachment operated from Tacloban, Leyte, 8 Mar-7 Apr 1945)

Tacloban, Leyte, 7 Apr-4 Dec 1945 (detachments operated from Zamboanga, Mindanao, 27 Apr-17 Jun 1945)

Sanga Sanga, Sulu, 28 May-Aug 1945

Puerto Princesa, Palawan, 9-19 Jun 1945)

Camp Stoneman, CA, 3-4 Jan 1946

Hollandia, New Guinea, Dec. 14, 1944-Feb. 14, 1945

Det. Middelburg Island, NEI, Dec. 31,1944-Feb. 19, 1945

Morotai, Halmaheras, NEI, Feb. 14-Apr. 7,1945

Det. Tacloban, Leyte, PI, Mar. 1-Apr. 7,1945

Tacloban, Leyte, PI, Apr. 7-Dec. 4, 1945

Det. Zamboanga, Mindanao, PI, Apr. 27-June 17, 1945

Det. Sanga Sanga, Sulu Arch., June 1-Aug. 1945

Det. Puerto Princesa, Palawan, PI, June 9-19, 1945

ASSIGNMENTS

Fourth Air Force, 1 Jun 1944

Thirteenth Air Force, 2 Dec 1944

XIII Fighter Command, 12 Dec 1944-4 Dec 1945

ATTACHMENTS

319th Wing, 1 Jun-2 Nov 1944

XIII Bomber Command, 14 Feb 1945

85th Fighter Wing, 7 Apr-Jun 1945

WEAPON SYSTEMS

BT-13

AT-10

P/YP-61

P-70, 1944

P-61

P-61A

P-61B

P-70

P-38

COMMANDERS

Maj Robert A. Tyler, 1 Jun 1944-4 Jan 1946

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

New Guinea

Leyte

Southern Philippines

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Combat in Southwest Pacific, 15 Jan-31 Jul 1945

First P-61 received: Jan. 6, 1945

First enemy aircraft destroyed by P-61 crew: none

Squadron total enemy aircraft destroyed by P-61 crews: 0

10 January 1945 P-61B, 42-39445, of the 550th Night Fighter Squadron, based at Hollandia, New Guinea, on a supposed proficiency flight (but pilot took along three passengers, including a 20-year-old WAAC nurse), ends badly with aircraft coming down largely intact at the 5,000 foot level of Mount Cyclops just a few miles from its airfield. All aboard survive with only minor injuries.

Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

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