

750 BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (HEAVY)



MISSION

LINEAGE

750 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 19 May 1943

Activated, 1 Jul 1943

Inactivated, 28 Aug 1945

STATIONS

Geiger Field, WA, 1 Jul 1943

Rapid City AAB, SD, 9 Jul 1943

Ephrata AAB, WA, 28 Oct 1943

Wendover Field, UT, 6 Dec 1943-1 Jan 1944

Glatton, England, 28 Jan 1944-Jun 1945

Sioux Falls AAFld, SD, Jul-28 Aug 1945

ASSIGNMENTS

457 Bombardment Group, 1 Jul 1943-28 Aug 1945

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-17, 1943-1945

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

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

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

None

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Combat in ETO, 21 Feb 1944-20 Apr 1945

Jul 21st, 1943 -Lt Col. Roderick L. Francis was the first commanding officer of the 750th Squadron and served as commander of the 750th until replaced by Lt Col. William F. Smith.

Apr 25th, 1944 - Lt Col William F. Smith, Jr. assumed command of the squadron and was commander until Dec 2nd 1944 when he was elevated to Deputy Group Commander. Col Smith was with the original complement of officers as a 1st Lieutenant when the unit was formed and a Lt Col at the end of the war. He had a jaunty and devil-may-care attitude and was very popular with the men who flew with him. He witnessed all 236 missions of the 457th but fate caught up with him in 1945 after returning from England. He and several others were flying a B-25 bomber from Boston to his new assignment in the midwest. The weather was extremely bad and as he attempted to make an emergency landing at LaGuardia Field, New York, his plane hit the 76 floor of the Empire State building killing him and 17 others in the building.

Dec 2nd, 1944 - Capt William Doherty took command of the 750th Squadron and played an active roll there until Feb, 6th, 1945. On this date he accompanied Capt Roy Kerr, the Group's engineering officer, who was test flying a new B-17 that had recently arrived at the field. No one is sure what happened but the plane never quite made it to the end of the runway while attempting to land. The plane exploded and burned. All aboard were killed.

Feb 7th, 1945 - Major James M. Havey assumed command of the 750th squadron. Major Havey remained in command until the squadron was returned to the USA and was dismissed.

Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

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

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.