

## 764 BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON, HEAVY



### MISSION

### LINEAGE

764 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 19 May 1943

Activated, 1 Jul 1943

Inactivated, 28 Aug 1945

Redesignated 764 Bombardment Squadron, Light, 11 Dec 1953

Activated, 23 Dec 1953

Redesignated 764 Bombardment Squadron, Tactical, Oct 1955

Inactivated, 8 Jan 1958

Redesignated 764 Bombardment Squadron, Heavy and activated, 15 Nov 1962

Organized, 1 Feb 1963

Inactivated

### STATIONS

Wendover Field, UT, 1 Jul 1943

Gowen Field, ID, 29 Jul 1943

Kearns, UT, 11 Sep 1943

Wendover Field, UT, 30 Sep 1943

Hammer Field, CA, 30 Oct 1943-1 Jan 1944

Venosa, Italy, 18 Feb 1944

Torretto, Italy, 23 Feb 1944-1 Jul 1945

Sioux Falls AAFld, SD, 22 Jul-28 Aug 1945

Hill AFB, UT, 23 Dec 1953

Blytheville AFB, AR, 8 Oct 1955-8 Jan 1958

Amarillo AFB, TX, 1 Feb 1963

### ASSIGNMENTS

461 Bombardment Group, 1 Jul 1943-28 Aug 1945  
461 Bombardment Group, 23 Dec 1953-8 Jan 1958  
Strategic Air Command, 15 Nov 1962  
461 Bombardment Wing, 1 Feb 1963

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B-24, 1943-1945  
B-26, 1954-1955  
B-57, 1955-1958  
B-52, 1963

### **COMMANDERS**

### **HONORS**

#### **Service Streamers**

None

#### **Campaign Streamers**

Air Offensive, Europe  
Rome-Arno  
Normandy  
Northern France  
Southern France  
North Apennines  
Rhineland  
Central Europe  
Po Valley  
Air Combat, EAME Theater

#### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

#### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citations  
Budapest, Hungary, 13 Apr 1944  
Ploesti, Rumania, 15 Jul 1944

### **EMBLEM**

Over and through a white disc, border yellow orange, a gray and white eagle in flight, toward sinister, with yellow orange beak and feet, holding in the left foot a grayed green aerial bomb, banded yellow orange, and dropping a like aerial bomb with the right foot, all beneath five, yellow orange, five-point stars in chief, and in front of a pink-and-red antiaircraft burst on dexter fess border. (Approved, 24 Nov 1944)

### **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

Combat in MTO and ETO, 2 Apr 1944-26 Apr 1945.

In 1957, 13 B-57s of the 461st made up Task Force 'Vista Able' for a goodwill flight to several Latin American countries extending as far south as Tulara, Peru. Again this same wing took part in 'Mobile Charlie', a deployment to support Exercise Counterpunch in Europe in 1957, aided by B-57 Canberras of the 38th Bomb Group at Laon AB, France. It was on the return to the United States from 'Mobile Charlie' in Europe on 6 September that the 461st had a very close call. At the point of no return out of Keflavik AB, Iceland en route to Goose Bay, Labrador, ILt James E. Kater recognized a fuel system problem (in 53-3885) which made the wing tank fuel unusable. Flight leader Capt Albert T. Keeler (in 53-3934) took the two ships to 45,000ft where lighter winds were reported. Keeler's navigator, Robert B. McMullen, who was the 764th Squadron navigator, coordinated with ILt Don H. Hall, Kater's navigator about the problem. McMullen gave Keeler assurance that Kater and Hall would probably be flamed out at the destination, but they could make it, establishing positive thinking in the flight. Hall calculated they would only have 6001b of usable fuel upon reaching land fall, but would have another 127nm to go to reach Goose Bay AB against 100 to 120kt headwinds. The flight was over the southern tip of Greenland, and to save fuel, Kater jettisoned his dry tip tanks. Air Sea Rescue was altered and a SA-16 Albatross followed the aircraft toward Goose Bay. When radar reported landfall, Kater shut one engine down to save fuel, placed the other at idle, and began his descent toward Goose through some cloud layers. Keeler hung on through the clouds, staying on Kater's wing to help work through the problem. This was not a new experience to Keeler, for two years before in May 1955 he made the first dual flame-out emergency landing for a B-57 at Scott AFB, Illinois. For this display of airmanship, he was awarded the Air Medal.

---

Air Force Lineage and Honors

Created: 16 Jun 2020

Updated:

### Sources

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

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