

835 BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON, HEAVY



MISSION

LINEAGE

80 Bombardment Squadron (Light) constituted, 20 Nov 1940
Activated, 15 Jan 1941
Redesignated 80 Bombardment Squadron (Medium), 30 Dec 1941
Redesignated 9 Antisubmarine Squadron (Heavy), 29 Nov 1942
Redesignated 835 Bombardment Squadron, Heavy, 23 Sep 1943
Inactivated, 7 Nov 1945

STATIONS

Savannah, GA, 15 Jan 1941
Manchester, NH, 18 Jun 1941
Dover, DE, 29 Apr 1942
Miami, FL, 25 Jul 1942 (operated from Edinburgh Field, Trinidad, Nov 1942-Mar 1943)
Davis-Monthan Field, AZ, 23 Sep 1943-9 Mar 1944
Sudbury, England, 5 Apr 1944-Aug 1945
Drew Field, FL, 3 Sep-7 Nov 1945

ASSIGNMENTS

45 Bombardment Group, 15 Jan 1941
26 Antisubmarine Wing, 8 Dec 1942
486 Bombardment Group, 23 Sep 1943-7 Nov 1945

ATTACHMENTS

25 Bombardment Group, Nov 1942-Mar 1943

WEAPON SYSTEMS

A-20

DB-7, 1941-1942

B-18, 1942-1943

B-25, 1943

B-24, 1943-1944

B-17, 1944-1945

COMMANDERS

Maj Fred H. Newman

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Anti-Submarine, American Theater

Air Offensive, Europe

Normandy

Northern France

Rhineland

Ardennes-Alsace

Central Europe

Air Combat, EAME Theater

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

The insignia for the 835th shows a "Pluto-like" green hornet. Most likely this represents the operation of an olive green colored B-17F which was used by the 835th to perform yeoman duties (airborne communications). This aircraft was also nicknamed the "Green Hornet."

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Antisubmarine patrol, Jan 1942-Jul 1943. Combat in ETO, 7 May 1944-21 Apr 1945

The connection to the Caribbean was via its attachment as an element of the 25th Bombardment Group between November 1942 and March 1943, during the height of the submarine war.

Originally formed and activated as the 80th Bombardment Squadron (Light) on 15 January 1941, the Squadron was initially assigned to the 45th Bombardment Group and, later, the 26th Antisubmarine Wing (from 8 December 1942, when it was formed).

This Squadron was supposed to have been redesignated as the 9th Antisubmarine Squadron effective 29 November 1942,

By 5 December 1942, the date of the earliest Form 34 (Weekly Report of Operations) the Squadron was noted as based at Edinburgh Field, Trinidad (and was given as being assigned to the 45th Bomb Group (Medium) at the time!) with seven radar-equipped Douglas B-18B's and three B-18C's, conducting anti-submarine sweeps from there.

This attachment continued until March 1943, when the Squadron apparently returned to operational control of the 26th Antisubmarine Wing, which takes it from the scene of this narrative.

It is unfortunate that the brief operational record of this little known unit is apparently lost to posterity. Subsequently, the unit became the 835th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) and saw service in England as a unit of the 486th Bombardment Group, of the Eighth Air Force, where it operated B-24's and B-17's over Germany.

The Story of the 835th and the 486th begin at Grenier field in Manchester, New Hampshire. On January 15, 1941, at Savannah, GA, and the 45th BG was created. The Group was comprised of the 78th, 79th, 80th and the 433rd Bomb Squadrons. The Group trained in A-20 "Havoc" medium bombers. In May of 1942 the 45th was reorganized and its function became antisubmarine warfare. The squadrons became the 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th Antisubmarine Squadrons respectively. The A-20s were replaced by the B-18. In August, the group was transferred to Miami, FL, and flew out of Miami's 36th Street International Airport until 1943.

On November 17, 1942 the 45th BG was reorganized as the 26th Antisubmarine Wing of the Army Air Force Antisubmarine Command. In addition to the 4 established squadrons, the 15th, 17th, 21st, 23rd and 25th AS were added to the wing.

The operating area for the 26th AS Wing was the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico. In March 1943 the 9th AS was transferred to Langley, VA, for transition training to the B-24 "Liberator." However, not enough were available at the time, so the squadron continued to fly their B-18s upon return to Miami. Eventually, the B-18s were replaced by the B-25 "Mitchell" medium bomber. As soon as these aircraft were mastered, the B-24s began to arrive.

By August 1943, the 26th Wing was assigned to the First Air Force. A short time later, in October, the Navy assumed responsibility for airborne patrol of the littoral zone. The 26th was disbanded, and its troops reassigned.

This reassignment included the 9th AS to Monthan-Davis AAB in Tucson, AZ. On the 16th of August, the Commanding Officer of the 9th AS, LTCOL Overing, was directed to move his squadron to Monthan-Davis. Overing knew that his squadron was about to be designated a Bombing Group and began to form his core of officers to help him lead the new group. When the orders came forming the 486th Bomb Group on Sept 9th, 1943, the 9th AS became the core squadron and was redesignated the 835th Bomb Squadron (Heavy). The other groups were stood up as new aircraft and crews became available.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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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.