915 EXPEDITIONARY AIR REFUELING SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

15 Bombardment Squadron (Light) constituted, 22 Dec 1939 Activated, 1 Feb 1940 Redesignated 1 Pursuit Squadron (Night Fighter), 1 Apr 1942 Redesignated 15 Bombardment Squadron (Light), 7 May 1942 Disbanded, 1 Oct 1943

915 Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy constituted, 7 Apr 1958 Activated, 1 Sep 1958 Inactivated, 30 Jun 1971

15 Bombardment Squadron (Light) 915 Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy consolidated, 19 Sep 1985.

Redesignated 915 Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron, and converted to provisional status, 23 Jan 2003

STATIONS

Barksdale Field, LA, 1 Feb 1940 Lawson Field, GA, 7 Oct 1940 Ft Dix, NJ, 8 Dec 1941 (operated from Mitchel Field, NY, 8-15 Dec 1941) Lawson Field, GA, Feb-18 Apr 1942 Grafton Underwood, England, 14 May 1942 Molesworth, England, 9 Jun 1942 Podington, England, 13 Sep 1942 Tebessa, Algeria, 13 Nov 1942

Tafaraoui, Algeria, 10 Dec 1942

Youks-les-Bains, Algeria, 22 Dec 1942

Nouvion, Algeria, Feb 1943

Sale, French Morocco, May 1943

Nouvion, Algeria, 1 Oct 1943

Ramey AFB, Puerto Rico, 1 Sep 1958-30 Jun 1971

ASSIGNMENTS

27 Bombardment Group, 1Feb 1940 V Air Support Command, 14 Oct 1941-unkn VIII Bomber Command, 14 May 1942 Twelfth Air Force, 14 Sep 1942-1 Oct 1943 72 Bombardment Wing, 1 Sep 1958-30 Jun 1971 Air Combat Command to activate or inactivate at any time after 19 Mar 2003

ATTACHMENTS

Northwest African Training Command, 18 Feb 1943

WEAPON SYSTEMS

A-18, 1940

A-20, 1941

DB-7, 1942

A-36, 1943

KC-135, 1958-1971

COMMANDERS

Capt John P. Doyle Jr., 1 Feb 1940

Capt John R. Kelly, By 1941

Maj John H. Griffith, Jul 1941

Maj Charles C. Kegelman, 14 Jul 1942

Maj John H. Griffith, 12 Aug 1942

Lt Col Charles C. Kegelman, 13 Sep 1942-Unkn

Lt Col William H. Mcvey, 1 Sep 1958

Col Paul D. Pohlen, 1 Dec 1958

Lt Col William A. Looney, 1 Jul 1960

Lt Col William P. Armstrong, 27 Jun 1962

Lt Col Earl J. Rookey, 27 Nov 1964

Lt Col E. R. Galloway, 28 Nov 1967

Lt Col William R. Holgate, 15 Jul 1968

Lt Col Charles A. Best, 30 Oct 1970-30 Jun 1971

HONORSService Streamers

Campaign Streamers

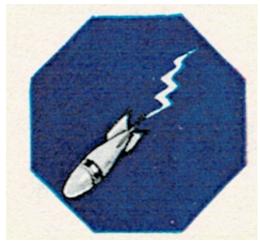
Antisubmarine, American Theater Air Offensive, Europe Tunisia

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards 1 Apr 1960-30 Jun 1961 1 Jul 1968-30 Jun 1969

EMBLEM



15 Bombardment Squadron (Light) emblem: On a blue octagon, a thunderbolt terminating in a drop bomb bend-sinisterwise of silver Approved, 27 May 1940



915 Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy emblem approved, 5 Dec 1960

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Antisubmarine patrols, Dec 1941-Jan 1942. Inaugurated AAF operations in ETO with a mission from England to attack airdromes in Holland on 4 Jul 1942; combat in ETO and MTO, 4 Jul 1942-c. Jan 1943. Air refueling missions beginning Jan 1959, first for SAC bombers, later expanding to include other tactical aircraft; deployed aircraft and aircrews to participate in refueling tactical aircraft deploying to and from SEA beginning Fall 1964, and other tanker task forces worldwide, 1965-1971. Won the Saunders Trophy in the SAC combat competition in 1961.

15th Credited with First US Bombing Mission. The 15th Bombardment Squadron was the first US Army Air Forces unit to fly an American bombing mission from the United Kingdom in World War II. On 4 July 1942, flying British Boston A-20s, six US crews flew with six British-manned A-20s in a low-altitude attack against Nazi airfields in the Netherlands.

First Mission: 4 Jul 1942 Last Mission: 2 Oct 1942

Total Missions: 5

Total Credit Sorties: 48 Total Bomb Tonnage: 44

MIA: none

Activated 1 Feb. 40 as component of 27BG(L). Separated from parent group and sent to UK April 42 to train as night fighter unit with Turbinlite Havocs. Sailed 22 April 1942 on SS Cathay and arrived Newport 13 May 42. As Turbinlite technique discontinued by RAF, the Squadron trained for normal bomber operations under guidance of 226 Sqdn., RAF Several 1 5BS crews on detachment226 Sqdn. at Swanton Morley 25 June 42-14 July 42. First operational sortie

flown 29 June 42 by Cpt Kegelman's crew in Boston II AL743 MQ:L. On 4 July 42 six Boston Ills (AL750 MQ:Z Cpt. Kegelman, AL677 MQ:P 2/Lt Loehrl, AL741 MQ:V 2/Lt Lynn AL746 MQ:M Cpt Odell, AL670 MQ:D Cpt Crabtree, Z2303 MQJ Lt Howel). On last raid with RAF Bostons MQ:V, H, J, X, Y & D flown. Received own a/c (Boston III) Aug. 42 and commenced ops with 8AF 5 Sep. 42. Assigned 12AF 14 Sep. 42 and flew a/c to North Africa Nov. 42. Squadron later absorbed by 47BG and inactivated

1958 In July, the 72d Bomb Wing began disposing of all RB-36 aircraft in preparation for its conversion to B-52s. The 301st Bomb Squadron was reduced to non-operational status, and on September 1st, the 915th Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy, was activated at the base as a unit of the 72d Bomb Wing.

The last RB-36 of the 72d Bomb Wing left the base on November 18, and on the 5th of December, the first KC-135 arrived at the base for the 915th Air Refueling Squadron, starting a flow of such tankers to the base. 1958

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

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