

43rd SERVICE SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

43rd Service Squadron

STATIONS

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 43rd Service Squadron, previously known as the 43rd Materiel Squadron, or 43rd Air Materiel Squadron (43 AMS) spent time at Amberley, Mt. Louisa near Garbutt airfield in Townsville, Adelaide River and then at Fenton airfield in the Northern Territory.

In January 1942, 1st Lieutenant Burke Von Wald was assigned to the 43rd Materiel Squadron and travelled to Australia on board the Mariposa, arriving in Melbourne, Victoria, where he moved to Bacchus Marsh for a short period of time before catching a train to Sydney in New South Wales, where the 43rd Materiel Squadron moved to Bankstown airfield.

Burke then travelled to Darwin in the Northern Territory by Catalina flying boat and then moved down to Adelaide River.

The 43rd Air Materiel Squadron was allocated a site across the other side of the Adelaide River about 6 kilometres from the airfield that the 8th Fighter Squadron, 49th Fighter Group was based. After they realised this site was unsuitable they relocated on 16 April 1942 to a site on Mt Bundy Station, about 2 kilometres north of the airfield. They built specialist workshops, offices, living quarters and messes. They installed their own water reticulation system. Nearby Base Section One at Adelaide River provided their food, provisions and clothing issues.

The 43rd Air Materiel Squadron salvaged the remnants of the 33rd Pursuit's Squadron's aircraft damaged in the 19 February 1942 Japanese air raid. They also recovered Lt Suehr's aircraft from Marrakai. Only four of the wrecks that they worked on were made airworthy again. Their main role was to maintain and repair the P-40E aircraft of the 49th Fighter Group.

The 43rd Air Materiel Squadron salvaged the wreckage of #41-24816 near Strauss (Lt Ed Miller killed), #41-5557 near Brocks Creek (Lt William Payne killed) and #41-5621 near Brocks reek (Lt Donald Dittler bailed out). They salvaged almost fifty P-40E's in the area along with some other aircraft types.

Burke Von Wald eventually relocated the 43rd Service Squadron to Fenton airfield in early 1943 after it had been constructed by the Australians. Burke was the Commanding Officer of the first advance party that was responsible for the establishment of Fenton airfield. After the arrival of the CO, Burke became the Adjutant. Burke stayed at Fenton airfield for about 2 years until September 1943. He spent a short period of time at Port Moresby in New Guinea during his time at Fenton. Then in October 1943 Major Burke Von Wald was re-assigned as the Photographic Officer in Headquarters Squadron of the 81st Air Depot Group, in Brisbane, Queensland. In January 1944.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

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