

44th AIR DIVISION, BOMBARDMENT

MISSION

LINEAGE

44th Bombardment Wing (Heavy) established, 15 Feb 1943
Activated, 1 Mar 1943
Redesignated 99th Combat Bombardment Wing (Medium), 2 Nov 1943
Redesignated 99th Combat Bombardment Wing, Medium, 13 Aug 1944
Redesignated 99th Bombardment Wing, Medium, 16 Jun 1945
Inactivated, 4 Oct 1945
Redesignated 44th Bombardment Wing, Very Heavy, 27 May 1947
Activated in the Reserve, 26 Jun 1947
Redesignated 44th Air Division, Bombardment, 16 Apr 1948
Inactivated, 27 Jun 1949

STATIONS

Salt Lake City AAB, UT, 1 Mar 1943
Biggs Field, TX, 14 May 1943-4 Jul 1943
Aldermaston, England, 28 Jul 1943
Great Dunmow, England, 12 Nov 1943
Beaumont, France, 25 Sep 1944
Tirlemont, Belgium, 27 Apr 1945
Namur, Belgium, 1 Jul-8 Aug 1945
Camp Myles Standish, MA, 3-4 Oct 1945
Brooks Field, TX, 26 Jun 1947-27 Jun 1949

ASSIGNMENTS

Second Air Force, 1 Mar 1943
Eighth Air Force, 28 Jul 1943
VIII Air Support Command, 28 Sep 1943
IX Bomber Command (later, 9 Bombardment Division [Medium]; 9 Air Division), c. Nov 1943-16 Sep 1945
Army Service Forces, 17 Sep-4 Oct 1945
Tenth Air Force, 26 Jun 1947
Fourteenth Air Force, 1 Jul 1948

Twelfth Air Force, 12 Jan-27 Jun 1949

COMMANDERS

Unkn, 1 Mar-11 Nov 1943

BG Herbert B. Thatcher, 12 Nov 1943

Col Reginald F. C. Vance, 7 Nov 1944

Maj Charles F. Salter, 1 Jul 1945

LTC William W. Brier, 13 Jul 1945

BG Richard C. Sanders, 12 Aug-4 Oct 1945

Unkn, 26 Jun 1947-27 Jun 1949

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II European African Middle Eastern Theater

Campaign Streamers

None

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

None

EMBLEM

None

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 44th Bombardment Wing's subordinate units attacked enemy airfields in France, Belgium, and Holland between Dec 1943 and Feb 1944. Beginning in Mar 1944, they bombed railroad and highway bridges, oil tanks, and missile sites in preparation for the invasion of Normandy. Its subordinate units supported the Allied offensive at Caen, France, and the breakthrough at St. Lo, France, in Jul 1944. Between Oct and Dec 1944, they bombed bridges, road junctions, and ordnance depots in support of the assault on the Siegfried Line. On 16 Dec 1944, during a period of poor flying weather, the Germans launched a major offensive, known as the Battle of the Bulge, in the Ardennes Forest. When the weather cleared, 44th wing units bombed supply points, communication centers, bridges, marshalling yards, roads, and oil storage tanks. The 44th activated in the Reserve from 26 Jun 1947-27 Jun 1949 and became an Air Division in Apr 1948.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Updated:

Sources

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

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