

## 45<sup>th</sup> AIR DIVISION



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

45<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing (Medium) established 15 Feb 1943  
Activated, 1 Apr 1943  
Redesignated 45<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing (Heavy), 6 Apr 1943  
Redesignated 45<sup>th</sup> Combat Bombardment Wing (Heavy), 30 Aug 1943  
Redesignated 45<sup>th</sup> Combat Bombardment Wing, Heavy, 24 Aug 1944  
Disestablished, 18 Jun 1945  
Reestablished and redesignated 45<sup>th</sup> Air Division, 24 Sep 1954  
Activated, 8 Oct 1954  
Inactivated, 18 Jan 1958  
Activated, 20 Nov 1958  
Inactivated, 15 Jun 1989

#### STATIONS

MacDill Field, FL, 1 Apr-4 Aug 1943  
Brampton Grange, England, 25 Aug 1943  
Snetterton Heath, England, 13 Sep 1943-18 Jun 1945  
Loring AFB, ME, 8 Oct 1954-18 Jan 1958  
Loring AFB, ME, 20 Nov 1958  
Pease AFB, NH, 30 Jun 1971-15 Jun 1989

#### ASSIGNMENTS

Third Air Force, 1 Apr 1943-5 Aug 1943  
Eighth Air Force, 25 Aug 1943

3 Bombardment Division, (by 18 Aug 1944)-18 Jun 1945  
Eighth Air Force, 8 Oct 1954-18 Jan 1958  
Eighth Air Force, 20 Nov 1958  
Second Air Force, 31 Mar 1970  
Eighth Air Force, 1 Jan 1975-15 Jun 1989

## **COMMANDERS**

Maj Carl L. Liles, c. Apr 1943  
Col Archie J. Old Jr., 14 Sep 1943  
BG Charles P. Cabell, 1 Dec 1943  
BG Archie J. Old Jr., 12 Apr 1944-18 Jun 1945  
BG Bertram C. Harrison, 8 Oct 1954  
BG William K. Martin, 18 Jun 1955-18 Jan 1958  
BG Selmon W. Wells, 20 Nov 1958  
BG William B. Kieffer, 1 Jul 1960  
BG John C. Meyer, 7 Sep 1961  
BG William E. Creer, 1 Aug 1962  
BG Frank B. Elliott, 6 May 1964  
BG Robert J. Dixon, 18 Sep 1965  
BG Albert J. Bowley, 15 Jul 1967  
BG Madison M. McBrayer, 16 Oct 1968  
BG Harry C. Bayne, 18 Apr 1970  
BG Eugene Q. Steffes Jr., 1 Jul 1971  
BG Harold E. Confer, 15 Jun 1972  
BG Richard M. Baughn, 13 Feb 1973  
BG Thomas F. Rew, 24 May 1974  
BG Jack L. Watkins, 28 Jul 1975  
Col Edward Batchelor, 30 Nov 1977  
BG Guy L. Hecker Jr., 11 Jan 1978  
Col Edward Batchelor, 4 Dec 1978  
BG Robert E. Messerli, 30 Mar 1979  
BG Gerald D. Larson, 23 Jun 1980  
BG Thomas G. Tobin, 29 Jun 1982  
BG Martin J. Ryan Jr., Nov 1983  
BG John R. Allen Jr., 4 Jun 1986  
BG Stanley O. Smith, 17 Sep 1987  
Col Jimmie R. Campbell, 10 Apr-15 Jun 1989

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

World War II  
European Africa  
Middle Eastern Theater

### **Campaign Streamers**

None

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

### **Decorations**

None

### **EMBLEM**



Argent, a bend azure charged in dexter chief with the Big Dipper of the first, over all centered in nombril point a compass rose palewise or, in middle chief the Polaris of the like, in sinister chief a stylized aircraft and missile bendwise volant of the second, each emitting two vapor trails of the last and all within a diminished border of the third. (Approved, 12 May 1960)

### **MOTTO**

### **NICKNAME**

### **OPERATIONS**

The 45th Bombardment Wing, began bombing operations against German occupied Europe on 14 Sep 1943. Its bombers attacked targets in Bremen, Emden, Kiel, Ludwigshafen, Munster, Saarbrucken, Schweinfurt, and Wilhelmshaven. In Jun 1944 the 45th supported the Allied invasion of Normandy, France, with tactical missions, against enemy airdromes, airfields, bridges, coastal defenses, field batteries, gun positions, and railway junctions. On 21 Jun 1944, Col Archie J. Old, commanding officer of the 45th Combat Bombardment Wing, served as the task force commander

of a shuttle bombing mission to the Soviet Union. The task force raided a synthetic oil plant just south of Berlin, and then proceeded to Poltava in the Soviet Union, where a large number of the 45th's bombers were destroyed on the ground during a raid by German bomber and fighter aircraft. The surviving bombers bombed an oil plant at Drohobycz, Poland, while returning from Poltava to Foggia, Italy. Shortly before the German surrender, in late Apr 1945, the wing flew five "Chow Hound" mercy missions, dropping food and other supplies to the people in occupied Holland. After the German surrender on 8 May 1945, it helped transport displaced Europeans back to their respective native countries. The 45th, reestablished as an Air Division, in Oct 1954, assumed responsibility for the training and combat readiness of its assigned units. It achieved this goal through staff assistance visits and supervising or participating in exercises such as Golden Hour Tango, Rubber Ball, and Sky Shield.

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Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

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