

55 BOMBARDIER TRAINING SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

55 School Squadron

Redesignated 55 Bombardier Training Squadron

STATIONS

Kirtland Field, Albuquerque, NM

ASSIGNMENTS

323 Bombardier Training Group

WEAPON SYSTEMS

AT-11

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

55 School Squadron emblem: General James Doolittle has promised that there will be more visitations to Tokyo by American ships of the air. The American Aviation High Command headed by General Arnold in London has estimated that American planes manned by American flyers will soon be dropping their lethal calling cards over Berlin. The 55th School Squadron, Air Corps, at Barksdale Field, Louisiana, is busy at the job of insuring the highest degree of accuracy in preparation for these visitations. Its specialty is instruction in the proper use of the new and famous American bombsight by the flying youth of America. "Nulli Secundus," or "Second to None," is the Squadron's motto which appears as part of its Disney-designed insignia. A skeleton above the motto is peering through a telescope and throwing bombs at the enemy in gruesome prognostication of things to come.

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The 55th School Squadron was activated at Barksdale Field, La., October 5, 1940, under the command of Capt. John P. Ryan, now Colonel, and Director of Bombardier Training at Kirtland Field. Col. Ryan, with five enlisted men, formed the nucleus of this school squadron. The duties of this unit until March 19, 1941, consisted of the operation of a Pursuit Pilot School. From March 11 until July 1, 1941, the organization took an active part in the training of navigators and since then has been foremost in the maintenance and operation of the Bombardier Schools. Col. Ryan's successor as Squadron Commander was the late Lt. Col. William J. Kane, Jr., who only a few months ago was killed on a combat flight. Following was Lt. Charles E. Holmes, now Captain and Provost Marshall of Carlsbad Air Base. On February 4, 1942, the 55th School Squadron was transferred to Kirtland Field from Barksdale for the purpose of activating a new Bombardier Training School in the 8th Service Command, under the supervision of Col. Ryan. Since then, the Commanding Officer has been Maj. Victor Savage, Jr. In November 1942, the name was changed to 55th Bombardier Training Squadron, with 1st Sgt. James L. Barger at the head of the noncommissioned group, and M/ Sgt. John C. Dodd as line chief. The squadron feels proud to have had as its first commanding officer the "Father of Bombing," Col. John P. Ryan, and thus regards itself as one of the veteran Bombardier Squadrons in the Air Forces Training Command.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

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

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War Insignia Stamp Album, Vol. 3, Hearst Publications, Inc., 1942.