

## 33 FLYING TRAINING SQUADRON



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

33 Bombardment Squadron (Medium) constituted, 22 Dec 1939  
Activated, 1 Feb 1940  
Redesignated 33 Bombardment Squadron, Heavy, 3 Feb 1944  
Redesignated 33 Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, 30 Apr 1946  
Redesignated 33 Bombardment Squadron, Medium, 28 Jul 1948  
Discontinued and inactivated, 15 Mar 1963  
Redesignated 33 Flying Training Squadron, 9 Feb 1990  
Activated, 11 May 1990  
Inactivated, 1 Oct 1992  
Activated, 1 Oct 1998

#### STATIONS

Patterson Field, OH, 1 Feb 1940  
Langley Field, VA, 16 Nov 1940  
Muroc, CA, 9 Dec 1941-28 Jan 1942  
Brisbane, Australia, 25 Feb 1942  
Ipswich, Australia, 1 Mar 1942  
Antil Plains, Australia, 7 Apr 1942  
Woodstock, Australia, 20 Jul 1942  
Iron Range, Australia, 29 Sep 1942  
Woodstock, Australia, 4 Feb 1943

Dobodura, New Guinea, 15 Oct 1943  
Nadzab, New Guinea, 10 Jan 1944 (air echelon at Charters Towers, Australia, 11 Jan-19 Feb 1944)  
Owi Island, New Guinea, 14 Aug 1944  
Angaur, Palau Islands, 26 Nov 1944  
Samar, Philippine Islands, 21 Jan 1945  
Clark Field, Luzon, 12 Mar 1945  
Okinawa, 15 Aug 1945  
Ft William McKinley, Luzon, 23 Nov 1945  
Kadena AB, Okinawa, 15 Jun 1946- 7 May 1948  
Smoky Hill AFB, KS, 18 May 1948  
March AFB, CA, 10 May 1949-15 Mar 1963  
Reese AFB, TX, 11 May 1990-1 Oct 1992  
Vance AFB, OK, 1 Oct 1998

#### **DEPLOYED STATIONS**

RAF Station Lakenheath, England, 16 Nov 1948-14 Feb 1949  
RAF Station Lakenheath, England, 18 Nov 1949-16 Feb 1950  
Kadena AB, Okinawa, 8 Jul-29 Oct 1950  
RAF Station Wynton, England, 5 Sep-9 Dec 1951  
RAF Station Upper Heyford, England, 9 Dec 1953-5 Mar 1954

#### **ASSIGNMENTS**

22 Bombardment Group, 1 Feb 1940  
22 Bombardment Wing, 16 Jun 1952-15 Mar 1963  
64 Flying Training Wing, 11 May 1990  
64 Operations Group, 15 Dec 1991-1 Oct 1992  
71 Operations Group, 1 Oct 1998

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

22 Bombardment Wing, 10 Feb 1951-15 Jun 1952

#### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B-18, 1940-1941  
B-26, 1941-1943  
B-25, 1943-1944  
B-24, 1944-1945  
B-29, 1946-1952  
B-47, 1953-1963  
T-37, 1990-1992  
T-37, 1998

#### **COMMANDERS**

1Lt Theodore Q. Graff, 1 Feb 1940

1Lt Vernet V. Poupitch, 25 Apr 1940  
1Lt Charles M. Stockdale, 29 May 1940  
1Lt Theodore Q. Graff, 25 Jul 1940  
Maj William Ball, 18 Nov 1940  
Maj George H. Sparhawk, 15 May 1941  
Maj Dwight Devine II, 11 Aug 1941  
1Lt William A. Garnett, 12 Dec 1941  
Cpt Hubert J. Kcnopack, 26 Apr 1942  
Maj Hugh B. Manson, 13 Sep 1942  
Maj Richard W. Robinson, 26 Apr 1943  
Maj John H. Disbro, 28 Dec 1943  
Maj Roger E. Kindig, 1 May 1944  
Maj Arthur Henry, 14 Aug 1944  
Maj Albert H. Hutchinson, Jr., 8 Feb 1945  
Cpt Edwin H. Gibb, Jr., 14 Sep- 31 Oct 1945  
Unmanned, 1 Nov 1945-14 Jun 1946  
Maj Lowell B. Fisher, 15 Jun 1946  
LTC Roy N. Millyer, Jr., Aug 1947  
Cpt William P. Lemme, 1 Apr 1948  
Maj Edward M. Nichols, Jr., 27 Sep 1948  
LTC Ralph A. Reeve, 11 Aug 1949  
Col Willard W. Wilson, Jun 1950  
LTC Cecil Metz, 14 Jan 1952  
Maj Joseph F. Nesmith, 6 Mar 1952  
LTC Earle E. Sweetland, Jul 1952  
Maj Stanley E. Tucker, Nov 1952 (acting)  
LTC Earle E. Sweetland, 29 Jan 1953  
LTC David Jones, Jul 1954  
Col Paul H. Francis, 21 Aug 1954  
Maj Joseph W. Cotton, Jr., 9 Feb 1956 (temporary)  
LTC Robert H. Murray, Mar 1956  
LTC Norman J. Keefer, 9 May 1958  
Maj Robert M. Halferty, Jun 1960 (acting)  
LTC Roy H. Crew, Sept 1960  
LTC Jeo J. Casagrande, May 1961  
LTC Gayle Miller, Jun 1962-15 Mar 1963  
LTC Billy G. Hill, 11 May 1990  
LTC Michael Miller, 25 Jun-1 Oct 1992  
LTC Richard Warner, 1 Oct 1998

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

## **Campaign Streamers**

World War II

Antisubmarine, American Theater

East Indies

Papua

Bismarck Archipelago

New Guinea

Leyte

Luzon

Southern Philippines

Western Pacific

Air Offensive, Japan

China Defensive

China Offensive

Air Combat, Asiatic-Pacific Theater

Antisubmarine, Asiatic-Pacific Theater

Korea

UN Defensive

UN Offensive

## **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citations

Papua, 23 Jul 1942-[7] Jan 1943

New Guinea, 5 Nov 1943

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

[1 Oct] 1998-30 Jun 1999

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation (WWII)

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation

10 Jul-24 Oct 1950

## **EMBLEM**



Approved, 10 Apr 1941



33 Flying Training Squadron emblem

**MOTTO**

Docile Dragon"  
"Red Raiders

## **OPERATIONS**

Antisubmarine patrols from California, Dec 1941-Jan 1942; combat in southwest and western Pacific 5 Apr 1942-7 Jan 1943, 7 Oct 1943-early Jan 1944, and 10 Mar 1944-July 1945.

30 December 1941 Nine Martin B-26 Marauder bombers of the 33d Bombardment Squadron, 22d Bombardment Group, depart Muroc Army Air Field for March Field, California, but only eight arrive. In bad weather, B-26, 40-1475, snags a pine tree and crashes on Keller Peak in the San Bernardino Mountains, killing nine. Wreckage not found until 14 January 1942. Late the next day, a recovery team of sheriff officers and members of the 33 Squadron reaches the site after a four-mile trek with toboggans from Snow Valley. All of the crew had been thrown from the plane except for one, whose body was trapped beneath the fuselage.

On 9 June 1942, B-26 Marauder, #40-1363, (Flying Cross" or "Rum Runner") of the 33 Squadron, 22nd Bomb Group based at Woodstock, experienced undercarriage problems, and belly landed at Jacksons field, in New Guinea. They had just raided Japanese positions at Lae. Group O. Lt. Dwight Divine is standing on the aircraft on the left and pilot Pierre Powell is on the right. Divine took over the controls and made a perfect wheels up landing with both engines dead and props feathered. They were able to fly the B-26 back to their home base at Woodstock the next day with the engine bay tied up with wire. It was then flown to Tocumwal RAAF Air Depot for proper repairs, after which it was flown to Essendon, Melbourne where it is believed to have been used for administrative flights by (Col.?) Haskin. It is at this point it would have been named the "Rum Runner".

During an attack on Lae, B-26 Marauder, #40-1468, of the 33 Squadron, 22nd Bomb Group, collided out to sea off Lae, with an attacking Japanese A6M2 Zero, flown by Leading Airman Mitsuo Suitsu. Both aircraft disintegrated leaving no chance of survivors.

On 6 January 1943, B-26 Marauder, #40-1404, "Shittenengitten", of the 33 Squadron of the 22nd Bomb Group, made a force landing at 7 Mile airfield at Port Moresby with its hydraulics shot up. The nose art from this aircraft is now on display at the Australian War Memorial. It was recovered from Milne Bay after the war.

On April 18th, Lt. G. Lewis, Lt. Powell, Lt. Frank Coleman, Lt. George Kahle, Lt. Almeida, Lt. R.W. Robinson, Lt. Glenn and Lt. William A. Garnett, and their crews made another strike at Lakunai Drome and shipping at Rabaul, successfully bombed and strafed grounded Jap Zeros, heavy bombers, moored flying boats, and sank a 7,400 ton tanker, a 7,000 ton merchant ship, and damaged another merchant ship of 6,500 tons. Individual bombing runs were made at different times from different directions. As Lt. Kahle was leaving the target, the Zeros pursuing him peeled off and climbed to intercept Lt. Garnett's ship which was just beginning its bombing run. His ship was last seen entering a cloud over the target, trying to shake off the Zeros on its tail. Since then news has reached the Group that one of the crew, Sgt. Sanger Reed, is now a

prisoner of war in Japan. The entire Group missed the capable Squadron Leader with a brilliant future ahead of him - Lt. Garnett, idolised by both officers, and enlisted men of his 33 Squadron. These missions had no pursuit protection and four B-26 holding off as many as 20 aggressive and determined Zeros were common odds. Zeros were able to attack as the bombers approached, then would peel off to give the Ack-Ack a chance, and then would pick up the formation after the bombing run and close in again.

Combat in Korea, 13 Jul-21 Oct 1950.

Trained student pilots, 1990-1992, and since 1998.

Flying Training Squadrons Inactivated. With pilot production down dramatically, the command reassessed the need for four flying training squadrons at each UPT base and concluded two would do. Accordingly, on 1 October 1992, ATC inactivated the following units: the 43d and 49th Flying Training Squadrons at Columbus AFB, Mississippi; the 84th and 86th Flying Training Squadrons at Laughlin AFB, Texas; the 7th and 26th at Vance AFB, Oklahoma; and the 33d at Reese AFB, Texas. That left one T-37 squadron and one T-38 squadron at each UPT wing. As each wing implemented specialized undergraduate pilot training, ATC intended to reactivate one of the squadrons to serve as the T-1A squadron. 1992

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USAF UNIT HISTORIES

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#### Sources

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

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

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.