

398th BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HEAVY)

LINEAGE

398th Bombardment Group (Heavy) constituted, 15 Feb 1943

Activated, 1 Mar 1943

Inactivated, 1 Sep 1945

STATIONS

Ephrata AAB, WA, 1 Mar 1943

Blythe AAFld, CA, 5 Apr 1943

Geiger Field, WA, 29 Apr 1943

Rapid City AAB, SD, 20 Jun 1943-4 Apr 1944

Nuthampstead, England, 22 Apr 1944-26 May 1945

Drew Field, FL, 3 Jul-1 Sep 1945

ASSIGNMENTS

Eighth AF

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-17

COMMANDERS

Col Frank P. Hunter, Jr., 1 Mar 1943

LTC Lewis P. Ensign, 29 Jan 1945

LTC Arthur F. Briggs, 18 Apr 1945-unkn

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

American Theater

Air Offensive, Europe

Normandy

Northern France

Rhineland

Ardennes-Alsace

Central Europe

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Entered combat in May 1944, and until V-E Day operated primarily against strategic objectives in Germany, attacking targets such as factories in Berlin, warehouses in Munich, marshalling yards in Saarbrücken, shipping facilities in Kiel, oil refineries in Merseburg, and aircraft plants in Munster. Temporarily suspended strategic missions to attack coastal defenses and enemy troops on the Cherbourg peninsula during the Normandy invasion in Jun 1944; strike gun positions near Eindhoven in support of the air attack on Holland in Sep 1944; raid power stations, railroads, and bridges during the Battle of the Bulge, Dec 1944-Jan 1945; and attack airfields to aid the Allied assault across the Rhine in Mar 1945. Flew last combat mission, attacking an airfield in Pilsen, Czechoslovakia, on 25 Apr 1945. Transported liberated prisoners from Germany to France after V-E Day.

398th Bombardment Group (H)
Assigned Eighth AF: April 44.

Wing & Command Assignments
1 BD, 1 CBW: 22 Apr. 44.
1 AD, 1 CBW: 1 Jan. 45.

Component Squadrons
600th, 601st, 602nd and 603rd Bombardment Squadron (H).

Combat Aircraft
B-17G (from blocks 45-BO).

Station
NUTHAMPSTEAD 22 Apr. 44-22 Jun. 45.

Group COs
Col Frank P. Hunter: 1 Mar. 43-23 Jan. 45, MIA.
Lt Col Lewis P. Ensign: 29 Jan. 45-18 Apr. 45.

Lt Col Arthur F. Briggs: 18 Apr. 45-Jun. 45.

First Mission: 6 May 44 Last Mission: 25 Apr. 45 Total Missions: 195.

Total Credit Sorties: 6,419. Total Bomb Tonnage: 15,781.2 (no leaflets).

A/c MIA: 58. E/a Claims: 5-2-11.

Major Awards None.

Early History

Activated 1 Mar. 43 at Ephrata AAB, Wash. Group assembled at Blyth AAFd, Cal. and then moved to Geiger Fd, Wash on 20 Apr. 43 to complete training. On 20 Jun. 43 moved Rapid City AAB, SD. to take up Replacement Training Unit duties. Trained 326 B-17 crews from Aug. to Dec. 43 but at beginning of New Year reverted to training for combat. Ground echelon began movement overseas on 4 Apr, 43 Camp Myles Standish, Mass. 7-12 Apr. 43. Personnel embarked on USS Wakefield. Sailed Boston 13 Apr. and arrived Liverpool 21 Apr. 44.

Subsequent History

Redeployed USA in May/June 45. A/c left 21 -27 May 45. Ground echelon to Greenock 22 Jun. 45 and sailed on Queen Elizabeth arriving New York 29 Jun. 45. After 30 days R & R some personnel assembled at Drew Fd, Fla. where Group inactivated 1 Sep. 45.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources