

335th BOMBARDMENT GROUP (MEDIUM)



MISSION

LINEAGE

335th Bombardment Group (Medium) constituted, 9 Jul 1942
Activated, 17 Jul 1942
Disbanded, 1 May 1944

STATIONS

Barksdale Field, LA, 17 Jul 1942-1 May 1944

ASSIGNMENTS

Third Air Force

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-26

COMMANDERS

Col Millard Lewis, 17 July 1942
Col Roland O. S. Akre, 10 Feb 1943
LTC Joe R. Brabson, 12 May 1943
Col Joe W. Kelly, 26 Jun 1943
LTC George R. Anderson, 6 Nov 1943-1 May 1944

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

American Theater

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

Azure, from a fess nebuly a demi lion rampant issuant or.

MOTTO

FIDUS ET FORTIS—Faithful and Brave

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Served as a replacement training unit

When the 335th Bomb Group became the Replacement Training Unit (Medium Bombardment) in May, 1944, name of the organization was changed-but not the aim. That aim continues to be to train the best possible B-26 crews for battle against our enemies.

Ever since the 335th was activated on July 17, 1942, officers and enlisted men have worked toward one goal; perfection. Proof that they have reached a high degree of success is written in the score of B-26 Marauders against the Axis in the European theater. During the nine-month period ending in May, 1944, Marauders pounded European targets in 16,800 sorties, with a loss of less than one-half of one per cent of our planes. The B-26 also played an important role in the invasion of France, flying around the clock in supplying air cover for the assault forces.

At the time of its activation in 1942, the 335th consisted of the 474th, 475th, 476th and 477th Bomb Squadrons, with Headquarters administered by the 475th. With its key personnel selected from the celebrated 17th Bomb Group, composed largely of Tokyo raiders, the 335th had an illustrious beginning.

Colonel Millard Lewis was its first commanding officer, remaining until February, 1943, when he was succeeded by Colonel Roland O. S. Akre. In June, 1943, Colonel Joe W. Kelly became commanding officer and remained until November, 1943, when Lieutenant Colonel George R. Anderson returned from the Southwest Pacific theater to take command.

When the numbered squadrons of the 335th became the lettered sections (later squadrons) of the RTU (MB), Major Hoyt A. Jolley, Jr., was commanding officer of the 474th; Major Howard Burhanna, Jr., of the 475th; Major Samuel Whiting of the 476th; Major Charlton B. Gladden, of the 477th; and Major Jack N. Adams of the Bomb Crew Section. Lieutenant Colonel Tom Dutton was executive

officer of the Group; Lieutenant Colonel Ferrell L. Bowen, deputy Group commander; Lieutenant Colonel John N. Eubank, Jr., training director; Major Adolph Neumaier, adjutant; Major Norman S. Dale, Group intelligence officer; Major Nicholas S. Saliba, Group surgeon; Major Robert E. Wegner, deputy section commander; Major John A. Augustine, III, assistant operations officer; Major Charles H. Seawall, assistant Group operations officer; Captain Joseph B. Williams, S-4 officer; Captain Irving A. Harned, gunnery officer; Lieutenant Ronald E. Notestine, historical officer; Lieutenant Daniel Brock, Bomb Crew Section assistant adjutant; and Lieutenant Otto Whittington, Special Service officer.

Of the men assigned to the group when it was activated, only seven remained: Major Neumaier, Lieutenant Edward Wright, Master Sergeant Oscar M. Fahlin, Technical Sergeant William H. Silliman, Jr., Staff Sergeant Charles Tuminello, Staff Sergeant James H. Peterson and Staff Sergeant Raymond M. Kane.

During the past two years the Group has trained hundreds of crews for combat, and it would be impossible, without the perspective of post-war years, to estimate its influence on the victorious campaigns of the United Nations. It's a conservative guess, though, that Marauder bombers flown by crews trained at Barksdale Field supplied the punch in at least a few strategic situations where bombardment opened the way to success.

Distinguished visitors to the Group have included Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson, the Prince of the Netherlands, Air Commodore R. V. Goddard, Wing Commander Humphrey Bevan and Colonel W. Tharazyn of the New Zealand Air Corps.

Dull routine has never seized the 335th and made it stagnant. Throughout its brief career the Group built morale based on a well-rounded program of work into which the right amount of recreation has been injected. Typical of these activities, although slightly on the colossal side, was the "Super Grouper Dooper" meeting at Barksdale in 1943, fostered by Colonel Kelly. To this two-day gathering of the aerial clan came representatives of all commands in the Third Air Force, and when the visitors had departed there was a strengthened spirit of cooperation.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

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

Unit yearbook. *Barksdale Field*, LA. Army and Navy Publishing Co, Inc. Baton Rouge, LA. 1945