

# **395<sup>th</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HEAVY)**

## **MISSION**

## **LINEAGE**

395<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (Heavy) constituted, 29 Jan 1943

Activated, 16 Feb 1943

Inactivated, 1 Apr 1944

## **STATIONS**

Ephrata AAB, WA, 16 Feb 1943

Ardmore AAFld, OK, 25 Oct 1943-1 Apr 1944

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

Second Air Force

## **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B-17

## **COMMANDERS**

LTC Luther J. Fairbanks, Feb 1943

LTC Hugh D. Wallace, 8 Apr 1943

Col Howard M. Turner, 19 Apr 1943

LTC Hugh D. Wallace, 24 Apr 1943

Col Allen W. Reed, 2 Aug 1943

LTC Quentin T. Quick, 23 Sep-Nov 1943

Unkn, Nov 1943-1 Apr 1944

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

American Theater

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

## **Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

Served as an operational training unit, becoming a replacement training unit in Oct 1943.

Soon after the arrival of the 46th BOTW, a full contingency of men and Boeing B-17 "Flying Fortresses," Squadrons 588, 589, 590 and 591, from the 395th Bombardment Group arrived from Ephrata Army Air Base, Washington. Barracks that had been sparsely occupied since activation, were quickly filled with support troops from various locations. In quick succession, five bombing ranges (2,550-plus acres each) and an air-to-ground gunnery range (9,430 acres) were added to the facilities of the field. On November 24, 1943, the 395th was transformed into the 395th Combat Crew Training School providing instructional personnel for the training of new combat crews for the B-17s.

Finally settling down to business, Ardmore Army Air Field became a receiving facility for new pilots, navigators, gunners, bombardiers, radio operators and flight engineers as they completed their specialty training elsewhere. While serving here, they were conformed through a 24-hour, grueling schedule into highly proficient B-17 combat crews. This was accomplished through a rigorous training program in the classroom and sky. The combat crews were only at the base for five months or less, usually three, before shipping overseas. Reports indicate that combat crew training was coordinated to allow trained crews to finish their three-month training on a five-week graduation schedule. Orders supplied by a former waist gunner stationed at Ardmore, included 55 B-17 crews, transported by rail from the base to Grand Island, Nebraska. Most of the B-17 crews went directly from the Ardmore field to Grand Island, then to European commands to contribute significantly to ending the war. Some crews were assigned B-17s at Grand Island, that they flew to England, others traveled as crews by ocean transport from Camp Kilmer, New Jersey to their overseas assignment. The 395th was inactivated, April 1, 1944.

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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.

Unit yearbook. *222 Combat Crew Training School, Ardmore AAF, OK*. Nd.