

463rd TROOP CARRIER GROUP

MISSION

LINEAGE

463rd Bombardment Group (Heavy), 19 May 1943
Activated, 1 Aug 1943
Inactivated, 25 Sep 1945
Redesignated 463rd Troop Carrier Group, Medium
Activated, 16 Jan 1953
Inactivated,

STATIONS

Geiger Field, WA, 1 Aug 1943
Rapid City AAB, SD, Aug 1943
MacDill Field, FL, 5 Nov 1943
Lakeland AAFld, FL, 3 Jan-2 Feb 1944
Celone Airfield, Italy, 9 Mar 1944-25 Sep 1945
Memphis Mun Aprt, TN, 16 Jan 1953
Ardmore AFB, OK, 24 Aug 1954

ASSIGNMENTS

Fifteenth Air Force
Tactical Air Command

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-17
C-119

COMMANDERS

LTC Elmer H. Stambaugh, 9 Aug 1943
Col Frank A. Kurtz, 27 Aug 1943
Col George W. McGregor, 11 Sep 1944
Col Ephraim M. Hampton, Apr-Sep 1945
Col John R. Roche, 16 Jan 1953

Col Woodrow T. Merrill, 10 Aug 1953
Col Benjamin M. Tarver, Jr., 12 Aug 1954

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Air Combat, EAME Theater
Air Offensive, Europe
Rome-Arno
Normandy
Northern France
Southern France
North Apennines
Rhineland
Central Europe
Po Valley

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations
Ploesti, Rumania, 18 May 1944
Germany, 24 Mar 1945

EMBLEM

Azure, on a representation of a cloud argent a silhouette of mythical Pegasus drawing a chariot driven by Mars, the mythical Roman God of War, all sable. (Approved, 30 Aug 1954)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Entered combat on 30 Mar 1944 and operated chiefly against strategic objectives. Attacked such targets as marshalling yards, oil refineries, and aircraft factories in Italy, Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Yugoslavia, and Greece. Received a DUG for bombing oil refineries at Ploesti on 18 May 1944: when clouds limited visibility to such an extent that other groups turned back, the 463d proceeded to Ploesti and, though crippled by opposition from interceptors and flak, rendered destructive blows to both the target and the enemy fighters. Received second DUG for leading the wing through three damaging enemy attacks to bomb tank factories in Berlin on 24 Mar 1945. Also engaged in interdictory and support missions. Bombed bridges during May and Jun 1944 in the campaign for the liberation of Rome. Participated in the invasion of Southern France in Aug 1944 by striking bridges, gun positions,

and other targets. Hit communications such as railroad bridges, marshalling yards, and airdromes in the Balkans. Operated primarily against communications in northern Italy during Mar and Apr 1945. After V-E Day, transported personnel from Italy to Casablanca for return to the US.

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 19 Feb 2011

Updated:

Sources

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

Unit yearbook. *Ardmore AFB, OK*. Army and Navy Publishing Co., Inc. 1955.