

520th SERVICE SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

520th Service Squadron

STATIONS

Warton, England

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

In April when the group was activated, the title, 86th Transport Squadron, was given to that unit at Hendon. The ferry organization at Warton was activated as the 87th Transport Squadron. The unit in

Cornwall was named the 519th Service Squadron, and that at Prestwick the 520th Service Squadron. No sooner were they officially named, than each went far over its authorized strength. In the winter of 1943, additional units were added to the group. These included the 320th and 321st Transport Squadrons and the 311th, 312th and 325th Ferrying Squadrons. These added to the units already in operation went to compose a strong service organization capable of performing almost any mission in the field of transport or aircraft ferrying.

The 520th Service Squadron had behind it a great record of receiving replacement and combat aircraft from, the United States while at Prestwick, Scotland from August 1942 to the Spring of 1944, when it went to Warton to play its part in the Service Section and later the provisional 1001st Service Group. The 10th Airdrome Squadron, though changed little upon the activation of the group, had operated Heston airdrome near London and shared in the manning of Querqueville and Le Bourget. The 1988th Quartermaster Truck Company, since it departed from Jefferson Barracks September of 1942, had seen service at Burton on Trent, throughout Cornwall, Warton and Heston and Le Bourget. The 312th Station Compliment was one of the original units of the Wing. The 1385th Military Police Company came to the command at half strength in March. The 2127th Engineer Fire Fighting Platoon had stood guard over airdromes at Querqueville and Istres. The 20th Mobile Repair and Reclamation Squadron had in seven short months, made a place for itself on the rolls by supporting the "petrol to Patton" line of B-17s and B-24s at Lyneham and Chipping Ongar and by dispatching its mobile teams throughout the United Kingdom and France, It was hard to get used to the lack of individuality and to the required team play that the organization of the service group brought, but soon the esprit de corps was the same as that found formerly in any of these service units.

520th Service Squadron. This squadron found itself at Warton in the Service Section when the 302d Transport Wing took command of the 27th Air Transport Group. The technical supply section was busy assembling spare parts in expectance of 65 new C-47s. A number of C-53 type aircraft, were converted to "VIP" aircraft for use by the transport groups on special flights. In September the squadron began to grow in strength, gathering personnel from Russia, France, Lyneham, Langford Lodge, and just about every other place where men could be found in Air Service Command. The 1st Service Group was famed as a provisional unit to serve both transport groups with Major C. P. Pond, Jr, named as the commanding officer. Captain Roger Hicks replaced Major James Lyons as commanding officer of the squadron, and Captain William Buhler was named Engineering Officer for the "Willow Run of England". Lt S. C. Schaller and Sgt D. E. Krahl departed for France with a ten day level of supplies as the advanced supply section of the group. The next month the squadron commenced to leave in force for the Continent, leaving behind a unit just strong enough to function until operations commenced at Le Bourget. In December the provisional group which had been redesignated as the 1001st disbanded and the service units split to give direct support to the two transport organizations. The 520th was assigned to the 27th Air Transport Group and charged with third and fourth echelon maintenance of this group's aircraft. Before the disbandment of the squadron Captain David Hollyfield replaced Major Hicks, when the latter was named personnel officer for the transport group.