

869th BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (VERY HEAVY)



LINEAGE

869th Bombardment Squadron (Very Heavy) constituted, 19 Nov 1943
Activated, 20 Nov 1943
Inactivated, 31 Mar 1946

STATIONS

El Paso Mun Aprt, TX, 20 Nov 1943
Clovis AAFld, NM, 1 Dec 1943
Pratt AAFld, KS, 13 Apr-17 Jul 1944
Isley Field, Saipan, 17 Sep 1944-1 Nov 1945
Camp Stoneman, CA, 14 Nov 1945
March Field, CA, 26 Nov 1945
MacDill Field, FL, 5 Jan-31 Mar 1946

ASSIGNMENTS

497th Bombardment Group, 20 Nov 1943-31 Mar 1946

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-17, 1944
B-29, 1944-1946

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT SERIAL NUMBERS

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT TAIL/BASE CODES

UNIT COLORS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers
None

Campaign Streamers

Air Offensive, Japan

Eastern Mandates
Western Pacific

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations
Japan, 27 Jan 1945
Japan, 26 Jul-2 Aug 1945

EMBLEM

Over and through a light turquoise blue disc, a large, caricatured pug stalking across a small white cloud formation in base, wearing a red-and- white-striped turtleneck sweater, purple trousers, brown shoes and derby, carrying a large yellow aerial bomb under the left arm, while smoking a cigar, roper, and flourishing with the right hand to indicate "it's a cinch." (Approved, 10 May 1944)

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Combat in Western Pacific, 28 Oct 1944-14 Aug 1945.

There was one other loss on the 18th. Early in December, orders had been issued for Weather Strike Missions to be flown nightly against the Empire. Their purposes were to be two-fold — first, the crews were to gather valuable weather information; second, they were to drop bombs, usually incendiaries, on some vital section of Japan to lower morale. The first mission was flown on 6/7 December by three B-29s of the 869th Squadron of the 497th Bomb Group, the lead plane being "Dauntless Dotty". From 6 through 19 December, 35 such sorties were flown by planes of the Group. The first loss occurred on the 18th when "Special Delivery", A Sq 29, was forced to ditch, ten of the twelve men aboard being rescued.

6 June 1945

The Boeing B-29 Superfortress that led the first B-29 raid on Tokyo on 24 November 1944, 42-24592, named "Dauntless Dotty", of the 869th Bomb Squadron, 497th Bomb Group, 73rd Bomb Wing, 20th Air Force, departs Kwajalein at 0306 hrs. for the second leg of a ferry flight back to the United States, commanded by Capt. William A. Kelley, of Tifton, Georgia. Forty seconds after takeoff, the aircraft strikes the Pacific Ocean and sinks, killing 10 of 13 on board instantly. Co-pilot 1st Lt. John Neville, of Bradley, Illinois, tailgunner S/Sgt. Glenn F. Gregory, of Waldron, Illinois, and left gunner S/Sgt. Charles McMurray (also spelt McMurry in one source), of Memphis,

Tennessee, are thrown from the wreckage and are recovered by a rescue boat after some 45 minutes in the water.

440217	B-25G	42-64999	869BS	497BG	Clovis AAB, Clovis, NM	LACMF	Young, Walter R	Clovis AAB, Clovis, NM
440526	B-17F	42-5183	869BS	497BG	Pratt AAF, KS	FLFDF	Abar, Exerett, P	2 mi NE of Preston, KSFL
441115	B-29	42-63471	869BS	497BG		LAC	Wolff, George (NMI)	Herington AAF
441108	B-29	42-24599	869BS	497BG		TAC	Carroll, John W	
451005	B-29A	44-61663	869BS	497BG		KCR	Fate, Richard E	Kobler Fld



Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 16 Jan 2012

Updated:

Sources

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

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.