

915 EXPEDITIONARY AIR REFUELING SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

15 Bombardment Squadron (Light) constituted, 22 Dec 1939
Activated, 1 Feb 1940
Redesignated 1 Pursuit Squadron (Night Fighter), 1 Apr 1942
Redesignated 15 Bombardment Squadron (Light), 7 May 1942
Disbanded, 1 Oct 1943

915 Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy constituted, 7 Apr 1958
Activated, 1 Sep 1958
Inactivated, 30 Jun 1971

15 Bombardment Squadron (Light) 915 Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy consolidated, 19 Sep 1985.

Redesignated 915 Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron, and converted to provisional status, 23 Jan 2003

STATIONS

Barksdale Field, LA, 1 Feb 1940
Lawson Field, GA, 7 Oct 1940
Ft Dix, NJ, 8 Dec 1941 (operated from Mitchel Field, NY, 8-15 Dec 1941)
Lawson Field, GA, Feb-18 Apr 1942

Grafton Underwood, England, 14 May 1942
Molesworth, England, 9 Jun 1942
Podington, England, 13 Sep 1942
Tebessa, Algeria, 13 Nov 1942
Tafaraoui, Algeria, 10 Dec 1942
Youks-les-Bains, Algeria, 22 Dec 1942
Nouvion, Algeria, Feb 1943
Sale, French Morocco, May 1943
Nouvion, Algeria, 1 Oct 1943
Ramey AFB, Puerto Rico, 1 Sep 1958-30 Jun 1971

ASSIGNMENTS

27 Bombardment Group, 1 Feb 1940
V Air Support Command, 14 Oct 1941-unkn
VIII Bomber Command, 14 May 1942
Twelfth Air Force, 14 Sep 1942-1 Oct 1943
72 Bombardment Wing, 1 Sep 1958-30 Jun 1971
Air Combat Command to activate or inactivate at any time after 19 Mar 2003

ATTACHMENTS

Northwest African Training Command, 18 Feb 1943

WEAPON SYSTEMS

A-18, 1940
A-20, 1941
DB-7, 1942
A-36, 1943
KC-135, 1958-1971

COMMANDERS

Capt John P. Doyle Jr., 1 Feb 1940
Capt John R. Kelly, By 1941
Maj John H. Griffith, Jul 1941
Maj Charles C. Kegelman, 14 Jul 1942
Maj John H. Griffith, 12 Aug 1942
Lt Col Charles C. Kegelman, 13 Sep 1942-Unkn
Lt Col William H. Mcvey, 1 Sep 1958
Col Paul D. Pohlen, 1 Dec 1958
Lt Col William A. Looney, 1 Jul 1960
Lt Col William P. Armstrong, 27 Jun 1962
Lt Col Earl J. Rookey, 27 Nov 1964
Lt Col E. R. Galloway, 28 Nov 1967
Lt Col William R. Holgate, 15 Jul 1968
Lt Col Charles A. Best, 30 Oct 1970-30 Jun 1971

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Antisubmarine, American Theater

Air Offensive, Europe

Tunisia

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Apr 1960-30 Jun 1961

1 Jul 1968-30 Jun 1969

EMBLEM



15 Bombardment Squadron (Light) emblem: On a blue octagon, a thunderbolt terminating in a drop bomb bend-sinisterwise of silver Approved, 27 May 1940



915 Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy emblem approved, 5 Dec 1960

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Antisubmarine patrols, Dec 1941-Jan 1942. Inaugurated AAF operations in ETO with a mission from England to attack airdromes in Holland on 4 Jul 1942; combat in ETO and MTO, 4 Jul 1942-c. Jan 1943. Air refueling missions beginning Jan 1959, first for SAC bombers, later expanding to include other tactical aircraft; deployed aircraft and aircrews to participate in refueling tactical aircraft deploying to and from SEA beginning Fall 1964, and other tanker task forces worldwide, 1965-1971. Won the Saunders Trophy in the SAC combat competition in 1961.

15th Credited with First US Bombing Mission. The 15th Bombardment Squadron was the first US Army Air Forces unit to fly an American bombing mission from the United Kingdom in World War II. On 4 July 1942, flying British Boston A-20s, six US crews flew with six British-manned A-20s in a low-altitude attack against Nazi airfields in the Netherlands.

First Mission: 4 Jul 1942
Last Mission: 2 Oct 1942
Total Missions: 5
Total Credit Sorties: 48
Total Bomb Tonnage: 44
MIA: none

Activated 1 Feb. 40 as component of 27BG(L). Separated from parent group and sent to UK April 42 to train as night fighter unit with Turbinlite Havocs. Sailed 22 April 1942 on SS Cathay and arrived Newport 13 May 42. As Turbinlite technique discontinued by RAF, the Squadron trained for normal bomber operations under guidance of 226 Sqdn., RAF Several 1 5BS crews on detachment 226 Sqdn. at Swanton Morley 25 June 42-14 July 42. First operational sortie

flown 29 June 42 by Cpt Kegelman's crew in Boston II AL743 MQ:L. On 4 July 42 six Boston IIIs (AL750 MQ:Z Cpt. Kegelman, AL677 MQ:P 2/Lt Loehrl, AL741 MQ:V 2/Lt Lynn AL746 MQ:M Cpt Odell, AL670 MQ:D Cpt Crabtree, Z2303 MQJ Lt Howel). On last raid with RAF Boston MQ:V, H, J, X, Y & D flown. Received own a/c (Boston III) Aug. 42 and commenced ops with 8AF 5 Sep. 42. Assigned 12AF 14 Sep. 42 and flew a/c to North Africa Nov. 42. Squadron later absorbed by 47BG and inactivated

1958 In July, the 72d Bomb Wing began disposing of all RB-36 aircraft in preparation for its conversion to B-52s. The 301st Bomb Squadron was reduced to non-operational status, and on September 1st, the 915th Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy, was activated at the base as a unit of the 72d Bomb Wing.

The last RB-36 of the 72d Bomb Wing left the base on November 18, and on the 5th of December, the first KC-135 arrived at the base for the 915th Air Refueling Squadron, starting a flow of such tankers to the base. 1958

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

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