

31 TACTICAL RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

31 Army Reconnaissance Squadron constituted, 20 Nov 1940
Activated, 15 Jan 1941
Redesignated 31 Observation Squadron, 14 Aug 1941
Redesignated 31 Observation Squadron (Medium), 13 Jan 1942
Redesignated 31 Observation Squadron, 4 Jul 1942
Redesignated 31 Reconnaissance Squadron (Fighter), 2 Apr 1943
Redesignated 31 Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, 11 Aug 1943
Inactivated, 3 Feb 1946
Disbanded, 8 Oct 1948

STATIONS

March Field, CA, 15 Jan 1941
Salinas, CA, 1 Oct 1941
San Bernardino, CA, 31 Dec 1941
Ontario, CA, 2 Jun 1942
Laurel, MS, 11 Nov 1942
DeRidder AAB, LA, 9 Apr 1943
Abilene AAFM, TX, 10 Sep 1943
Esler Field, LA, 13 Nov 1943
Key Field, MS, 25 Jan-26 Feb 1945
Maastricht, Holland, 22 Mar 1945
Wiesbaden, Germany, 19 Apr-Jul 1945
Drew Field, FL, 3 Aug 1945
MacDill Field, FL, 21 Dec 1945
Brooks Field, TX, 10 Jan-3 Feb 1946

ASSIGNMENTS

Ninth Corps Area, 15 Jan 1941

Fourth Army, 24 Jan 1941

Fourth Air Force, 1 Sep 1941

IV Air Support Command, 3 Sep 1941

69 Observation (later Reconnaissance; Tactical Reconnaissance) Group, 29 Mar 1942

Ninth Air Force, 20 Mar 1945

363 Tactical Reconnaissance (later Reconnaissance) Group, 23 May 1945

United States Strategic Air Forces in Europe, 25 Jun 1945

Third Air Force, 3 Aug 1945

XIX Tactical Air Command, 10 Jan-3 Feb 1946

ATTACHMENTS

69 Observation Group from Dec 1941

9 Tactical Reconnaissance Group [Prov] from 28 Mar 1945

69 Reconnaissance Group to 3 Feb 1946

WEAPON SYSTEMS

O-49, 1941-1942

O-52, 1942

L-3B, 1942

P-40, 1943

P-39, 1943-1944

O-47

L-4

L-5

L-6 1942-1943

A-20

RDB-7

O-47

O-52

L-5 1943

P-40F, 1944-1945

P-51/F-6, 1945

COMMANDERS

Capt James G. Leavitt

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Antisubmarine, American Theater

Central Europe

Air Combat, EAME Theater

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



31 Observation Squadron emblem: Because the members of the 31 Observation Squadron have so often expressed a deep-rooted belief in the superiority of American fighting men and planes in their relation to the outcome of World War II, their request for a victory insignia has been honored by Walter Lantz, creator of "Woody Woodpecker." The 31st is a part of the new school of flying strategy, yet it makes use of all the time-tested material and methods which are the foundation of well-balanced fighting units. In his new military role, "Woody Woodpecker" comes clothed in the brilliantly hued garments he is used to wearing. This fearless exponent of feathered democracy peers through his spyglass in seeming observation of a not too distant victory symbolized by the Morse code, three dots and a dash. The interpretation of his trust he expresses with the fingers of his right hand.

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Antisubmarine patrols, Jan-Sep 1942; combat in ETO, 22 Apr-11 May 1945. Not operationally manned and equipped, Aug 1945-Feb 1946

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

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

Unit yearbook. *March Field Air Base, CA, 1941*. Army and Navy Publishing Co. Inc. Baton Rouge, LA. 1941.

War Insignia Stamp Album, Vol 3, Heart Publications, Inc, 1942.