

# **341<sup>st</sup> BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON, HEAVY**

## **MISSION**

### **LINEAGE**

341<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 28 Jan 1942  
Activated, 3 Feb 1942  
Inactivated, 29 Oct 1945  
Redesignated 341<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, 15 Jul 1946  
Activated, 4 Aug 1946  
Redesignated 341<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Squadron, Medium, 28 May 1948  
Redesignated 341<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Squadron, Heavy, 1 Oct 1959  
Discontinued and inactivated, 1 Feb 1963

### **STATIONS**

MacDill Field, FL, 3 Feb 1942  
Sarasota, FL, 29 Mar-16 May 1942  
Polebrook, England, 12 Jun 1942  
Algeria, 16 Nov 1942  
Tafaraoui, Algeria, 22 Nov 1942  
Biskra, Algeria, 27 Dec 1942  
Chateaudun-du-Rhumel, Algeria, 8 Feb 1943  
Pont-du-Fahs, Tunisia, 11 Aug 1943  
Depienne, Tunisia, 14 Aug 1943  
Cerignola, Italy, 12 Dec 1943  
Amendola, Italy, 17 Jan 1944  
Marcianise, Italy, Oct-29 Oct 1945  
Smoky Hill AAFld, KS, 4 Aug 1946  
Biggs AFB, TX, 24 May 1948  
Blytheville AFB, AR, 1 Jul 1959  
Dow AFB, ME, 15 Feb 1966-1 Feb 1963

## **DEPLOYED STATIONS**

Eielson AFB, AK, 4 Nov 1947-12 Mar 1948  
Lakenheath, England, 2 Mar 1952-3 Jun 1952  
Upper Heyford, England, 5 May 1956-4 Jul 1956

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

97<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group, 3 Feb 1942-29 Oct 1945  
97<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group, 4 Aug 1946  
97<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing, 16 Jun 1952  
4038<sup>th</sup> Strategic Wing, 15 Feb 1961-1 Feb 1963

## **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B-17, 1942-1945  
B-17E  
B-17F  
B-17G  
B-29, 1946-1950  
B-29A  
B-50, 1950-1955  
B-50D  
B-47, 1955-1959  
B-52, 1960-1963  
B-52G

## **COMMANDERS**

LTC Harold E. Humfield, 1949  
LTC Stephen H. Sherrill, Jr., #1954

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

None

### **Campaign Streamers**

Antisubmarine, American Theater  
Egypt-Libya  
Air Offensive, Europe  
Tunisia  
Sicily  
Naples-Foggia  
Anzio  
Rome-Arno  
Normandy

Northern France  
Southern France  
North Apennines  
Rhineland  
Central Europe  
Po Valley

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

#### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citations  
Steyr, Austria, 24 Feb 1944  
Ploesti, Rumania, 18 Aug 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award  
2 Jul-3 Nov 1957

#### **EMBLEM**



341<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Squadron, Heavy emblem

341<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Squadron, Heavy emblem: On a shield of a chessboard in perspective, medium blue and white, a chief of light blue sky; over all in sinister, a chess knight wearing jet helmet with winged plume and white goggles, details black, and in dexter a castle (or rook) and a true chess knight, all red; in chief a white cloud issuing from the dexter, three fissionable flowers, orbits black, nuclei red, electrons white, and three white futuristic bombers in formation; outlines and details black throughout. (Approved, 6 Aug 1957)

#### **MOTTO**

#### **NICKNAME**

#### **OPERATIONS**

Antisubmarine, Mar-Apr 1942; combat in ETO and MTO, 17 Aug 1942-26 Apr 1945.

The 341st Bombardment Squadron became a combat-ready outfit in December 1960.

A Boeing B-52G 59-2576, of the 341st Bombardment Squadron explodes in flight on 30 March 1961 at 2115 hrs. with the wreckage falling near Denton, North Carolina. Debris was scattered over a ten-mile (16 km) area, setting fires in woods and fields. Of eight crew, only six have ejection seats, only five eject and only two survive. Dead are Capt. William D. McMullen, 36, commander/pilot, Bad Axe, Michigan; Capt. William W. Farmer, 29, co-pilot, Wilson, North Carolina; Capt. Robert M. Morgenroth, 31, radar navigator, Christiana, Pennsylvania; Capt. George W. Beale, 34, competition observer, Bowling Green, Virginia; Sgt. James H. Fults, 29, instructor gunner, Tracy City, Tennessee; and A1C Robert N. Gaskey, 28, Providence, Rhode Island. The survivors are Major Wilbur F. Minnich, 40, Des Plaines, Illinois; and 1st Lt. Glen C. Farnham, 25, electronics warfare officer, Loveland, Texas. The survivors bailed out at 50,000 feet (15,000 m) and landed six to seven miles (11 km) away from the crash site. Maj. Minnich, the navigator, suffered a dislocated arm when he bailed out. Lt. Farnham complained of back pains but was apparently unhurt. There were no nuclear weapons on board the bomber. Minutes before the explosion the plane had attempted to make contact with a Boeing KC-135 to be refuelled in flight. Col. Oscar V. Jones, commander of the 4241st Strategic Air Command Wing at Seymour Johnson AFB, Goldsboro, North Carolina, stated that the bomber was in "the observation position 100 to 200 feet behind and below the tanker just before the explosion, but never made contact."

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Air Force Order of Battle

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Updated:

#### Sources

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

Unit yearbook. *Biggs AFB, TX*, El Paso, TX. 1949.

Unit yearbook. *810<sup>th</sup> Air Division, Biggs AFB, TX*. 1954.