

# **347<sup>th</sup> FIGHTER GROUP, ALL WEATHER**

## **MISSION**

### **LINEAGE**

347<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group constituted, 29 Sep 1942

Activated, 3 Oct 1942

Inactivated, 1 Jan 1946

Redesignated 347<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, All Weather activated, 20 Feb 1947

Inactivated, 24 Jun 1950

### **STATIONS**

New Caledonia, 3 Oct 1942

Guadalcanal, 29 Dec 1943

Stirling, Treasury Islands, 15 Jan 1944

Sansapor, New Guinea, 15 Aug 1944

Middleburg, New Guinea, 19 Sep 1944

San Jose, Mindoro, 22 Feb 1945

Puerto Princesa, Palawan, 6 Mar-Dec 1945

Camp Stoneman, CA, 30 Dec 1945-1 Jan 1946

Nagoya, Japan, 20 Feb 1947

Itazuke, Japan, 25 Sep 1947

Bofu, Japan, 15 Oct 1948

Ashiya, Japan, 6 May 1949

Nagoya, Japan, 1 Apr-24 Jun 1950

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

#### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

P-39

P-400

P-38

P-39

F-61

F-82

### **COMMANDERS**

LTC George M Mc-Neese, 3 Oct 1942  
Col Leo F Dusard Jr, Jan 1944  
LTC Leonard Shapiro, 25 Jun 1945-unkn  
Unkn, Feb 1947-Aug 1948  
Maj Elmer G DaRosa, Aug 1948  
Maj Alden E West, Sep 1948  
LTC John L McGinn, Oct 1948-unkn  
LTC Clyde A Thompson, unkn-Jun 1950

### **HONORS**

#### **Service Streamers**

#### **Campaign Streamers**

China Defensive  
Guadalcanal  
New Guinea  
Northern Solomons  
Bismarck Archipelago  
Western Pacific  
Leyte  
Luzon  
Southern Philippines  
China Offensive

#### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

#### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citation  
Netherlands East Indies, 7, 20, and 22 Nov 1944  
Philippine Presidential Unit Citation

#### **EMBLEM**

None

#### **MOTTO**

#### **NICKNAME**

#### **OPERATIONS**

Detachments of the group, which was assigned to Thirteenth AF in Jan 1943, were sent to Guadalcanal, where they used P-39 and P-400 aircraft to fly protective patrols, support ground

forces, and attack Japanese shipping. When the Allied campaign to recover the central and northern Solomons began in Feb 1943, the detachments, still operating from Guadalcanal and using P-38 and P-39 aircraft, escorted bombers and attacked enemy bases on New Georgia, the Russell Islands, and Bougainville. Headquarters moved up from New Caledonia at the end of 1943, and the following month the group moved from Guadalcanal to Stirling Island to support ground forces on Bougainville, assist in neutralizing enemy bases at Rabaul, and fly patrol and search missions in the northern Solomons. Moved to New Guinea in Aug 1944. Equipped completely with P-38's. Escorted bombers to oil refineries on Borneo; bombed and strafed airfields and installations on Ceram, Amboina, Boeroe, Celebes, and Halmahera. Received a DUC for a series of long-range bombing and strafing raids, conducted through intense flak and fighter defense, on the airfield and shipping at Makassar, Celebes, in Nov 1944. Moved to the Philippines in Feb 1945. Supported landings on Mindanao in Mar 1945, bombed and strafed enemy installations and supported Australian forces on Borneo, attacked Japanese positions in northern Luzon, and flew escort missions to the Asiatic mainland. Moved to the US in Dec 1945.

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Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

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

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