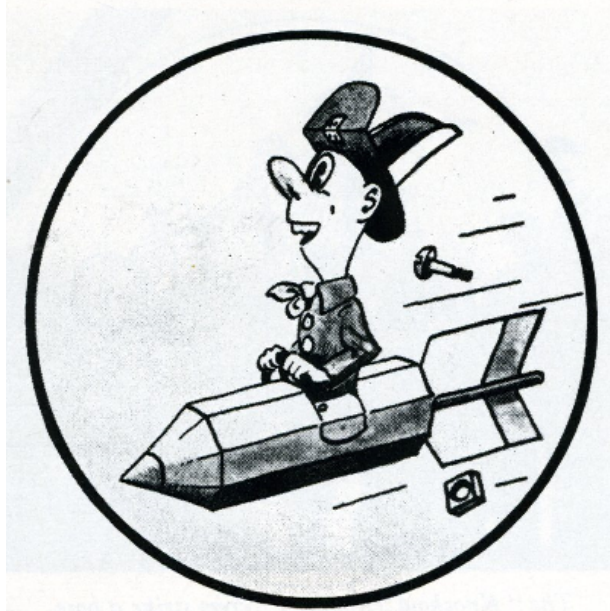


360th BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON, MEDIUM



MISSION

LINEAGE

360th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 28 Jan 1942
Activated, 3 Feb 1942
Inactivated, 25 Jul 1945
Redesignated 360th Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, 11 Jun 1947
Activated, 1 Jul 1947
Inactivated, 6 Sep 1948
Redesignated 360th Bombardment Squadron, Medium, 27 Aug 1951
Activated, 4 Sep 1951

STATIONS

Pendleton Field, OR, 3 Feb 1942
Gowen Field, Idaho, 11 Feb 1942 (operated from Muroc, CA, 28 May-14 Jun 1942)
Alamogordo, NM, 17 Jun 1942
Biggs Field, TX, 7-24 Aug 1942
Molesworth, England, 12 Sep 1942
Casablanca, French Morocco, 31 May-25 Jul 1945
Andrews Field, MD, 1 Jul 1947-6 Sep 1948
Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ, 4 Sep 1951

DEPLOYED STATIONS

Fairford, England, 28 Apr 1954-5 Jun 1954
Greenham Common, England, 17 Mar 1954-28 Mar 1954
Andersen AFB, Guam, 12 Jul 1956-4 Oct 1956

ASSIGNMENTS

303rd Bombardment Group, 3 Feb 1942-25 Jul 1945

303rd Bombardment Group, 1 Jul 1947-6 Sep 1948

303rd Bombardment Group, 4 Sep 1951

303rd Bombardment Wing, 16 Jun 1952

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-17, 1942-1945

B-17E

B-17F

B-17G

B-29, 1951-1953

B-47, 1953

COMMANDERS

LTC Walter K. Shayler

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

Antisubmarine, American Theater

Air Offensive, Europe

Normandy

Northern France

Rhineland

Ardennes-Alsace

Central Europe

Air Combat, EAME Theater

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation

Germany, 11 Jan 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Jan 1961-31 Mar 1962

EMBLEM

On a shield Air Force blue, a sphere, water areas light blue, land areas white; the sphere encircled with an electronic symbol of three ellipses with arrows all white. Above the shield a light blue scroll,

spattered with white stars, centered on the scroll a red ribbon. (Approved, 21 Mar 1956)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Antisubmarine patrols off California coast, c. late May-early Jun 1942. Combat in ETO, 17 Nov 1942-25 Apr 1945. Apparently not manned, 1947-1948. THE SUCCESS of any organization depends upon the caliber of the men in the organization. With that fact understood, it is no mystery why the 360th Squadron has played such a big part in the success of the group. Back in 1942 when the squadron was still a pup, four combat crews were assigned to it. They included three first pilots-1st Lt. Lewis E. Lyle, 1st Lt. William S. Raper, and Captain Charles E. Marion-and a co-pilot, 2nd Lt. Walter K. Shayler. With Lts. Lyle and Raper, now full colonels and group commanders, Colonel Marion, deputy chief of staff for operations at 1st Air Division, and Lt. Col. Shayler commanding the squadron, it would be unusual if the rest of the squadron had not advanced accordingly-if not in rank, at least in efficiency and ability.

This efficiency is evidenced in a comparison of the first mission in which the 360th took part and anyone of the last of the 300. Where the armament section took four hours to load the planes for St. Nazaire, it now takes one hour. Pre-flight time for a line crew is now numbered in minutes. Operations can turn out their flight plans with the ease of writing a letter home.

After 300 missions each man in the squadron has found his job and can do it with professional skill. It is only natural that with a record like this, the 360th Squadron has been given the responsibility of leading some of the most outstanding and successful missions. Their planes led the group when we bombed Germany for the first time. They were at the front of the formation on D-day when the group blasted a way for ground troops. They were the first of the group over Heroya in Norway, Posen in Poland, and the huge Nazi oil refinery in Brux, Czechoslovakia. On all of these missions 360th planes set the pace for close, destructive bombing patterns that crippled these German war plants for months. In the process of completing 300 nussions, 360th men have also picked up a few medals.

The first Distinguished Service Cross ever awarded in the E.T.O. for consistently outstanding heroism and an over-all superior job was given to Colonel Lewis E. Lyle, former squadron commander. Another D.S.C. was won by 2nd Lt. Thomas J. Dello Buono, bombardier, who survived a direct hit by a 20mm. cannon shell. Undaunted, Lt. Dello Buono stayed at his nose guns, firing at the enemy fighters until target time forty minutes later. Then he released his bombs squarely in the bombing pattern.

Captain George V. Stallings, Jr., won the British D.F.C. when he baled his crew out over the English coast and then flew his crippled bomber "Quinine-the Bitter Dose" out over the Channel before baling out himself. The Silver Star was awarded to Captain John A. Long, killed in action, who kept his blazing Fortress in formation long enough to drop his bombs in the squadron pattern before going down out of control. Engineering men who have won Bronze Stars for outstanding work include

Master Sergeants Walter Melton, Mike Abraham, Norman Bossie and Alexander Borque, Jr. The 360th has had its share of colorful aircraft. Although none reached the national fame of "Hell's Angels" and "Knockout Dropper," men from the base made special trips to view the pictures on "Iza Vailable," "Ida Liza," "Sack Time," "Miss Umbriago" and that masterpiece of warped imagination, "The Witches Tit." These names might not mean much to the outsider, but to the men of the 360th they are a sign of high morale. As long as the ground men have the spirit to name their planes and the combat men grin when they fly them, the 360th Squadron will.

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 13 Aug 2011

Updated:

Sources

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

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