

392nd AIR EXPEDITIONARY GROUP



MISSION

LINEAGE

392nd Bombardment Group (Heavy) established, 15 Jan 1943

Activated, 26 Jan 1943

Redesignated 392nd Bombardment Group, Heavy, 20 Aug 1943

Inactivated, 13 Sep 1945

Redesignated 392nd Bombardment Group, Very Heavy, 14 Jul 1947

Activated in the Reserve, 30 Jul 1947

Redesignated 392nd Bombardment Group, Light, 27 Jun 1949

Inactivated, 10 Nov 1949

392nd Bombardment Wing, Light established, 16 May 1949

Activated in the Reserve, 27 Jun 1949

Inactivated, 10 Nov 1949

Redesignated 392nd Fighter-Day Wing, 23 Mar 1953

Redesignated 392nd Strategic Missile Wing and activated, 6 Oct 1961

Organized, 18 Oct 1961

Discontinued and inactivated, 20 Dec 1961

392nd Bombardment Group, Light and 392nd Strategic Missile Wing consolidated, 31 Jan 1984

Redesignated 392nd Air Expeditionary Group and converted to provisional status, 24 Mar 2003

STATIONS

Davis-Monthan Fld, AZ, 26 Jan 1943

Biggs Field, TX, 1 Mar 1943

Alamogordo AAB, NM, 18 Apr-18 Jul 1943
Wendling, England, 1 Aug 1943-15 Jun 1945
Charleston AAFld, SC, 25 Jun-13 Sep 1945
Barksdale Field (later, AFB), LA, 30 Jul 1947-10 Nov 1949
Vandenberg AFB, CA, 18 Oct-20 Dec 1961

ASSIGNMENTS

II Bomber Command, 26 Jan 1943
2nd Bombardment Wing, 1 Aug 1943
2nd Bombardment Division, 13 Sep 1943
14th Combat Bombardment Wing, 14 Sep 1943
96th Combat Bombardment Wing, 1 Jun 1945
Air Transport Command, 25 Jun-13 Sep 1945
307th Bombardment Wing (later, 307th Air Division), 30 Jul 1947
Twelfth Air Force, 27 Jun 1949-10 Nov 1949
Strategic Air Command, 6 Oct 1961
1st Strategic Aerospace Division, 18 Oct-20 Dec 1961
Assigned to Air Combat Command to activate or inactivate at any time after 24 Mar 2003

ATTACHMENTS

202nd Provisional Combat Wing, 3-13 Sep 1943
47th Bombardment Wing, 27 Jun-2 Oct 1949

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-24, 1943-1945
B-26, 1949
Atlas
Minuteman
Titan, 1961

COMMANDERS

Col Irvine A. Rendle, 26 Jan 1943
Col Lorin L. Johnson, 21 Jun 1944
LTC Lawrence G. Gilbert, 27 May 1945-unkn
Col Louis M. Gregory, 30 Jul 1947
LTC Bobby G. Boyd, by Dec 1948
Col Loyd R. Davidson, 27 Jun-10 Nov 1949 (for group)
BG Thomas B. Herndon, 27 Jun-10 Nov 1949 (for wing)
None (not manned), 6-19 Oct 1961
BG Roger B. Crow, 20 Oct 1961
None (not manned), 15-20 Dec 1961

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

Air Offensive, Europe

Normandy

Northern France

Rhineland

Ardennes-Alsace

Central Europe

Air Combat, EAME Theater

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation

Gotha, Germany, 24 Feb 1944

EMBLEM

None on file

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Trained with B-24s in Texas and New Mexico from late Jan to late Jul 1943. Moved to England in Jul and Aug 1943. Began combat with Eighth Air Force on 9 Sep 1943. Bombed primarily strategic targets in Europe such as oil refineries, marshaling yards, railroad bridges, steel plants, tank factories, and gas works until Apr 1945, but also flew some interdiction and close air support missions. During Big Week, 20-25 Feb 1944, the group took part in an intensive campaign against German aircraft factories, earning a Distinguished Unit Citation (DUC) for a raid on Gotha. Bombed airfields and V-weapon sites in France in preparation for the Normandy invasion in Jun 1944, and struck coastal defenses and important intersections on D-Day. Struck enemy positions to assist ground forces to break out at St. Lo in Jul 1944. During the Battle of the Bulge, Dec 1944-Jan 1945, bombed railroads, bridges, and highways to cut German supply lines. Dropped supplies to Allied troops during the airborne assaults on the Netherlands in Sep 1944 and across the Rhine in Mar 1945. Flew its last combat mission on 25 Apr 1945, then dropped food to the Dutch. Returned to the United States in Jun 1945 and inactivated in Sep of that year.

The 392nd Bombardment Group was activated on 26 January 1943, the cadre coming chiefly from the 39th and 34th Bomb Groups, Lt. Colonel Irvine Rendle commanding. The first B-24's of the Group landed at Wendling, Norfolk on 15 August 1943. The first mission was made on 10 September 1943 against Poix Airfield, France. By 1 January 1944, the 392nd Group had 21

missions to its credit.

The Group's outstanding mission was the mission on 24 February 1944 to the Gotha Waggenfabrik at Gotha, Germany, the largest twin engine fighter plant in the Reich. Lt. Colonel Lorin L. Johnson was the command pilot for the 392nd and 14th Bombardment Wing formation. The 392nd ships fought their way into the target and dropped 98 per cent of their bombs within 2000 feet, completely destroying the target.

The 392nd flew its 100th mission on 6 June 1944-D-Day. The target-The Invasion Beach, France. The 392nd was cited by Major General James P. Hodges for a degree of bombing accuracy on its 100 missions consistently better than that of any other unit of the 2nd Air Division. Operational personnel changed in 20 months. All the faces that meant "Old Crew", the teams that trained in the states, disappeared. Some were missing in action, turning up later as prisoners of war. Others were never heard from. Others were retired from combat after completing their tour of missions. Only four men of the crews that flew the first mission, flew in the 200th.

Colonel Lorin L. Johnson replaced Col. "Bull" Rendle as C.O. and the squadrons were commanded by new squadron commanders. At the war's end, the 392nd had flown 285 missions against enemy targets ranging from Norway to Southern France, and as far east as 12 miles ahead of the advancing Russian Armies at Swinemunde near Gdynia. The combat and ground personnel received over 9,000 decorations for valor and meritorious achievement. With this, the outstanding combat record of the 392nd was brought to a close.

Activated in the Reserve at Barksdale Field, LA, on 30 Jul 1947. Trained with B-36 of the 47 Bombardment Wing from 27 Jun-2 Oct 1949, and inactivated on 10 Nov. Activated for about three months at Vandenberg AFB, CA, in 1961 for missile training.

Air Force Order of Battle
Created: 31 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.