

# **417<sup>th</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP (LIGHT)**

## **MISSION**

## **LINEAGE**

417<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (Light) constituted, 23 Mar 1943

Activated, 28 Mar 1943

Inactivated, 15 Nov 1945

## **STATIONS**

Will Rogers Field, OK, 28 Mar 1943

DeRidder AAB, LA, 4 Aug-10 Dec 1943

Cape Sudest, New Guinea, 28 Jan 1944

Dobodura, New Guinea, 7 Feb 1944

Saidor, New Guinea, 8 Apr 1944

Noemfoor, 9 Sep 1944

Tacloban, Leyte, 6 Dec 1944

San Jose, Mindoro, 22 Dec 1944

Okinawa, 17 Aug 1945

Itami, Japan, 1-15 Nov 1945

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

Fifth Air Force

## **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

A-20

## **COMMANDERS**

Col Jack W. Saunders, 31 Mar 1943

LTC Howard S. Ellmore, 5 Jul 1944

LTC Milton W. Johnson, 2 Jan 1945

LTC Charles W. Johnson, 28 Apr 1945

LTC James E. Sweeney, 10 Oct-15 Nov 1945

## **HONORS**

## **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

New Guinea

Leyte

Luzon

Southern Philippines

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citation

Philippine Islands, 30 Dec 1944-2 Jan 1945

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation

### **EMBLEM**

### **MOTTO**

### **NICKNAME**

### **OPERATIONS**

Began combat in Mar 1944, operating in support of ground forces on New Guinea and striking airfields, bridges, personnel concentrations, installations, and shipping in that area. Operated from Noemfoor, Sep-Dec 1944, attacking airfields and installations on Ceram, Halmahera, and western New Guinea. Moved to the Philippines in Dec 1944, and until Jun 1945 supported ground forces and attacked enemy airfields, transportation, and installations on Luzon, Cebu, Negros, and Mindanao. Received a DUC for attacking Japanese convoys at Lingayen, 30 Dec 1944-2 Jan 1945, action that not only impaired enemy shipping and supply strength, but also helped to clear the way for the American invasion of Luzon. Flew its last missions in Jul, dropping propaganda leaflets to Japanese troops on Luzon.

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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.