

44 AIR DIVISION, BOMBARDMENT

MISSION

LINEAGE

44 Bombardment Wing (Heavy) established, 15 Feb 1943
Activated, 1 Mar 1943
Redesignated 99 Combat Bombardment Wing (Medium), 2 Nov 1943
Redesignated 99 Combat Bombardment Wing, Medium, 13 Aug 1944
Redesignated 99 Bombardment Wing, Medium, 16 Jun 1945
Inactivated, 4 Oct 1945
Redesignated 44 Bombardment Wing, Very Heavy, 27 May 1947
Activated in the Reserve, 26 Jun 1947
Redesignated 44 Air Division, Bombardment, 16 Apr 1948
Inactivated, 27 Jun 1949

STATIONS

Salt Lake City AAB, UT, 1 Mar 1943
Biggs Field, TX, 14 May 1943-4 Jul 1943
Aldermaston, England, 28 Jul 1943
Great Dunmow, England, 12 Nov 1943
Beaumont, France, 25 Sep 1944
Tirlemont, Belgium, 27 Apr 1945
Namur, Belgium, 1 Jul-8 Aug 1945
Camp Myles Standish, MA, 3-4 Oct 1945
Brooks Field, TX, 26 Jun 1947-27 Jun 1949

ASSIGNMENTS

Second Air Force, 1 Mar 1943
Eighth Air Force, 28 Jul 1943
VIII Air Support Command, 28 Sep 1943
IX Bomber Command (later, 9 Bombardment Division [Medium]; 9 Air Division), Nov 1943-16 Sep 1945
Army Service Forces, 17 Sep-4 Oct 1945
Tenth Air Force, 26 Jun 1947
Fourteenth Air Force, 1 Jul 1948

Twelfth Air Force, 12 Jan-27 Jun 1949

COMMANDERS

Unkn, 1 Mar-11 Nov 1943

Brig Gen Herbert B. Thatcher, 12 Nov 1943

Col Reginald F. C. Vance, 7 Nov 1944

Maj Charles F. Salter, 1 Jul 1945

Lt Col William W. Brier, 13 Jul 1945

Brig Gen Richard C. Sanders, 12 Aug-4 Oct 1945

Unkn, 26 Jun 1947-27 Jun 1949

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II

European African Middle Eastern Theater

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The 44 Bombardment Wing's subordinate units attacked enemy airfields in France, Belgium, and Holland between Dec 1943 and Feb 1944. Beginning in Mar 1944, they bombed railroad and highway bridges, oil tanks, and missile sites in preparation for the invasion of Normandy. Its subordinate units supported the Allied offensive at Caen, France, and the breakthrough at St. Lo, France, in Jul 1944. Between Oct and Dec 1944, they bombed bridges, road junctions, and ordnance depots in support of the assault on the Siegfried Line. On 16 Dec 1944, during a period of poor flying weather, the Germans launched a major offensive, known as the Battle of the Bulge, in the Ardennes Forest. When the weather cleared, 44 wing units bombed supply points, communication centers, bridges, marshalling yards, roads, and oil storage tanks. The 44 activated in the Reserve from 26 Jun 1947-27 Jun 1949 and became an Air Division in Apr 1948.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

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Sources

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