

49 AIR DIVISION (OPERATIONAL)



MISSION

LINEAGE

49 Bombardment Operational Training Wing (Medium) established, 17 Mar 1943
Activated, 31 Mar 1943
Redesignated 49 Bombardment Wing (Medium), 18 Oct 1943
Redesignated 49 Bombardment Wing (Heavy), 4 Dec 1943
Redesignated 49 Bombardment Wing, Heavy, Aug 1944
Inactivated, 16 Oct 1945
Activated in the Reserve 49 Bombardment Wing (Very Heavy), 20 Dec 1946
Redesignated 49 Bombardment Wing, Very Heavy, 31 Dec 1946
Redesignated 49 Air Division, Bombardment, 16 Apr 1948
Inactivated, 27 Jun 1949
Redesignated 49 Air Division, 25 Oct 1951
Activated, 7 Nov 1951
Redesignated 49 Air Division, Operational, 1 Apr 1952
Redesignated 49 Air Division (Operational), 15 Nov 1954
Inactivated, 1 Jul 1956

STATIONS

Columbia AAB, SC, 31 Mar 1943
Greenville AAB, SC, 28 Apr 1943-2 Feb 1944
Bari, Italy (remained in Italy, possibly at other stations), 11 Mar 1944-16 Oct 1945
Miami AAFld, FL, 20 Dec 1946-27 Jun 1949

Langley AFB, VA, 7 Nov 1951-21 May 1952

Sculthorpe Royal Air Force (RAF) Station (later, RAF Sculthorpe), England, 1 Jun 1952-1 Jul 1956

ASSIGNMENTS

Third Air Force, 31 Mar 1943-3 Feb 1944

Army Service Forces, 3 Feb 1944

Fifteenth Air Force, 11 Mar 1944-16 Oct 1945

Fourteenth Air Force, 20 Dec 1946

Ninth Air Force, 22 Dec 1948

Fourteenth Air Force, 1 Feb-27 Jun 1949

Tactical Air Command, 7 Nov 1951

Third Air Force, 5 Jun 1952-1 Jul 1956

COMMANDERS

Brig Gen William L. Lee, 31 Mar 1943

Col Robert F. Worden, 4 Aug-16 Oct 1945

Col James D. Jones, 7 Nov 1951

Brig Gen John D. Stevenson, by 28 Feb 1952

Brig Gen James F. Whisenand, 26 Feb 1955-1 Jul 1956

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Rome Arno

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

Quarterly argent and sable, rising from base the outline of an atomic cloud counterchanged, overall a lightning flash issuing from sinister chief and striking to dexter base or. (Approved, 23 Dec 1953)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The 49 moved in the spring of 1944 to Italy, where its units began flying missions. As a strategic bombardment organization, it attacked such targets as oil refineries, marshalling yards, aircraft factories, bridges, and airfields in Italy, Germany, Austria and Bulgaria. Subordinate units inflicted heavy damage on the oil refineries at Ploesti, participated in the invasion of southern France in Aug 1944, and supported the final advances of Allied armies in northern Italy in Apr 1945. Beginning in

1947, the 49 served in the Reserve for two years, during which time it was redesignated as an Air Division. After activation in the Regular Air Force, the division moved to England and served the United States Air Forces in Europe. No combat elements were assigned, but wings were attached for operations. The division supervised and participated in numerous training missions such as Quick Shot, Kingpin, and Bear Claw.



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

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Sources

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