

# **5<sup>th</sup> AERIAL PORT OPERATIONS SQUADRON**

## **LINEAGE**

### **STATIONS**

Donaldson AFB, SC

Tripoli, Libya

Neubiberg, Germany

Mildenhall AB, England

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

### **COMMANDERS**

LTC Charles E. Powell, Jr.

### **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

### **EMBLEM**

### **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

### **MOTTO**

### **NICKNAME**

### **OPERATIONS**

The 5th Aerial Port Operations Squadron was activated at Donaldson AFB, SC, and active manning began in Jan 1954. The personnel came from every type of unit to comprise the 5th, and were installed in Donaldson's "Steel City." After averaging a new commander every six months, it

became static under the command of LTC Charles E. Powell, Jr.

By this time the unit was "hot to trot" with rumours of France, Spain, Libya, and various points east being rife. On October 7th, 1954, orders were concrete and the unit was Tripoli bound.

Two days out of New York, the available seats at mess were open without regard for schedules. Green faces and lost meals and appetites ran rampant.

Southern sun shone finally at Casablanca, and the opportunity to get shaky feet on terra firma was afforded some fifty per cent of the personnel. The excursion was a complete success, with wine, cognac, lost watches and wallets, and a vivid memory of Morocco.

On December 17th, 1954, the squadron landed in what was to be their home for the next year. Propaganda had it that Tripoli was an arid spot, but the 5th were welcomed by a deluge.

Activity began in earnest; detachments were set up and manned in Nouasseur, Rome, Athens and Neubiberg, and familiar faces now became names on the roster and far away. Problems arose and most of these were resolved. A school was set up for our loadmaster-dropmaster personnel, and the 5th was in business.

More rumours arose that the squadron was moving again, and finally orders came to move to Neubiberg. C-119s and C-124s were loaded up, farewells taken, and the "Famous Fifth" move on to Germany and the welcome of sub-zero weather.

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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.