

## 81 FIGHTER-BOMBER GROUP



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

81 Pursuit Group (Interceptor) constituted, 13 Jan 1942  
Activated, 9 Feb 1942  
Redesignated 81 Fighter Group, May 1942  
Inactivated, 27 Dec 1945  
Activated, 15 Oct 1946  
Redesignated 81 Fighter Interceptor Group, Jan 1950  
Redesignated 81 Fighter-Bomber Group, Apr 1954  
Inactivated, 8 Feb 1955

#### STATIONS

Morris Field, NC, 9 Feb 1942  
Dale Mabry Field, FL, 1 May 1942  
Muroc, CA, 28 Jun-4 Oct 1942  
Mediouna, French Morocco, 5 Jan 1943  
Thelepte, Tunisia, 22 Jan 1943  
Le Kouif Airfield, Algeria, 17 Feb 1943  
Youks-les-Bains, Algeria, 22 Feb 1943  
Le Kouif Airfield, Algeria, 24 Feb 1943  
Thelepte, Tunisia, Mar 1943  
Algeria, 3 Apr 1943  
Monastir, Tunisia, 26 May 1943  
Sidi Ahmed, Tunisia, 10 Aug 1943  
Castelvetrano, Sicily, 12 Oct 1943  
Montecorvino Airfield, Italy, Feb 1944  
Karachi, India, 2 Mar 1944

Kwanghan, China, 12 May 1944  
Fungwansham, China, Feb 1945  
Huhsien, China, Aug-Dec 1945  
Wheeler Field, TH, 15 Oct 1946-21 May 1949  
Kirtland AFB, NM, 17 Jun 1949  
Moses Lake AFB, WA, 1 May 1950-21 Aug 1951  
Bentwaters RAF Station, England, 3 Sep 1951-8 Feb 1955

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

Twelfth Air Force  
Fourteenth Air Force  
81 Fighter-Bomber Wing

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

P-39  
P-40  
P-47  
P-51  
F-47  
F-80  
F-86

### **COMMANDERS**

Unkn, Feb-May 1942  
Cpt Harry E. Hammond, 5 May 1942  
Cpt John D. Sureau, 10 May 1942  
LTC Paul M. Jacobs, 22 May 1942  
LTC Kenneth S. Wade, c. Jul 1942  
Col Philip B. Klein, May 1943  
LTC Michael J. Gordon, 2 Jul 1943  
Maj Frederick S. Hanson, 15 Jul 1943  
Col Philip B. Klein, 26 Aug 1943  
LTC Fred G. Hook Jr., 27 Sep 1944  
Col Oliver G. Cellini, 24 Oct 1944-unkn  
Col Oswald W. Lunde, 1946  
Col Gladwyn E. Pinkston, 1948  
LTC Clay Tice Jr., Apr 1950  
LTC Lucius D Clay Jr., 1950  
LTC Clay Tice Jr., Feb 1951  
Col Robert J. Garrigan, Aug 1951  
Col Benjamin B. Cassidy Jr, Jul 1953  
Col Walter L. Moore, 1 Dec 1954

### **HONORS**

## **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

Air Combat, EAME Theater

Algeria-French Morocco

Tunisia

Sicily

Naples-Foggia

Anzio

Rome-Arno

China Defensive

China Offensive

## **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

## **Decorations**

### **EMBLEM**



Or, a dragon salient wings displayed and addorsed azure, armed and langued gules, incensed proper, holding in its dexter claw a stylized boll weevil sable. (Approved, 2 Mar 1943)

### **MOTTO**

LE NOM-LES ARMES-LA LOYAUTE—The Name, The Arms, and Loyalty

### **NICKNAME**

### **OPERATIONS**

Moved overseas, Oct 1942-Feb 1943, the ground echelon arriving in French Morocco with the force that invaded North Africa on 8 Nov, and the air echelon, which had trained for a time in England, arriving in North Africa between late Dec 1942 and early Feb 1943. Began combat with Twelfth AF in Jan 1943. Supported ground operations during the Allied drive against Axis forces in Tunisia.

Patrolled the coast of Africa and protected Allied shipping in the Mediterranean Sea, Apr-Jul 1943. Provided cover for the convoys that landed troops on Pantelleria on 6 Jun and on Sicily on 10 Jul 1943. Supported the landings at Anzio on 22 Jan 1944 and flew patrols in that area for a short time. Moved to India, Feb-Mar 1944, and began training with P-40 and P-47 aircraft. Moved to China in May and became part of Fourteenth AF. Continued training and on occasion flew patrol and escort missions before returning to full-time combat duty in Jan 1945. Attacked enemy airfields and installations, flew escort missions, and aided the operations of Chinese ground forces by attacking troop concentrations, ammunition dumps, lines of communications, and other targets to hinder Japanese efforts to move men and materiel to the front. Inactivated in China on 27 Dec 1945.

Activated in Hawaii on 15 Oct 1946. Equipped with P-51s; converted to F-47s early in 1948. Moved to the US in 1949 and converted to jet aircraft, receiving F-80s at first but changing to F-86s soon afterward.

The group was composed of three tactical squadrons the 91st, 92nd and 93rd and equipped with P-51 Mustangs. By January, 1947, P-47 Thunderbolts became the mission aircraft.

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Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

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

Unit yearbook. *81 Tactical Fighter Wing. 1959*. Reg. Cholerton. Newton-Le-Willows, England. 1959