

96th AIR DIVISION, BOMBARDMENT

MISSION

LINEAGE

96th Combat Bombardment Wing (Heavy) established, 8 Nov 1943
Activated, 11 Jan 1944
Redesignated 96th Combat Bombardment Wing, Heavy, 7 Aug 1944
Redesignated 96th Bombardment Wing, Heavy, 9 Jun 1945
Redesignated 96th Bombardment Wing, Very Heavy, 17 Aug 1945
Inactivated, 17 Oct 1945
Activated in the Reserve, 12 Jun 1947
Redesignated 96th Air Division, Bombardment, 16 Apr 1948
Inactivated, 27 Jun 1949

STATIONS

Horsham St Faith, England, 11 Jan 1944
Ketteringham, England, 1 Jun-5 Aug 1945
Sioux Falls AAFld, SD, 14 Aug 1945
Peterson Field, CO, 16 Aug-17 Oct 1945
Scott Field, IL, 12 Jun 1947-27 Jun 1949

ASSIGNMENTS

Eighth Air Force, 11 Jan 1944
2nd Bombardment (later, 2nd Air) Division, 22 Feb 1944
VIII Fighter Command, 16 Jul-6 Aug 1945
Army Service Forces, 6 Aug-14 Aug 1945
Second Air Force, 14 Aug-17 Oct 1945
Second Air Force, 12 Jun 1947
Tenth Air Force, 1 Jul 1948-27 Jun 1949

COMMANDERS

BG Walter R. Peck, 11 Jan 1944

Col Irvine A. Rendle, 10 May 1945
BG Walter R. Peck, 1 Jun 1945
Col Fred Feasel, 31 Aug 1945
Unkn, 12 Jun 1947-27 Jun 1949

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II European-African-Middle Eastern Theater

Campaign Streamers

None

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

None

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 97th wing's units entered combat in early 1944, bombing oil refineries, marshalling yards, steel plants, and tank factories plus numerous other assorted targets in the European theater. In Sep 1944, some of the units ceased Bombardment missions and instead flew gasoline for Army units to airfields in France. Others air-dropped supplies to Allied troops during the airborne attack on Holland that same month. During the Battle of the Bulge, Dec 1944 Jan 1945, subordinate units of the 97th aided Allied ground forces by bombing German transportation lines. Besides strategic Bombardment, they also dropped supplies to Allied troops during the airborne assault across the Rhine River in Mar 1945. Active in the Reserve, Jun 1947-Jun 1949, the organization was redesignated as a division in Apr 1948.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

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