



456th Bombardment Group

Constituted as 456th Bombardment Group (Heavy) on 14 May 1943. Activated on 1 June 1943. Trained with B-24s for duty overseas. Moved to Italy, December 1943 - January 1944. Began combat with Fifteenth Air Force in February 1944, operating chiefly against strategic targets until late in April 1945. Early operations included attacks against such objectives as marshalling yards, aircraft factories, railroad bridges, and airdromes in Italy, Austria, and Rumania.

Received a DUC for performance at Wiener Neustadt on 10 May 1944 when other groups turned back because of adverse weather, the 456th proceeded to the target and, withstanding repeated attacks by enemy interceptors, bombed the manufacturing center. Helped to prepare the way for and supported the invasion of Southern France during July and August 1944. At the same time, expanded previous operations to include attacks on oil refineries and storage facilities, locomotive works, and viaducts in France, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Austria, and the Balkans. Received second DUC for a mission in Hungary on 2 July 1944 when the group braved severe fighter attacks and antiaircraft fire to bomb oil facilities at Budapest.

In April 1945 bombed gun positions, bridges, roads, depots, and rail lines to support US Fifth and British Eighth Army in their advance through Italy. Transported supplies to airfields in northern Italy after V-E Day. Returned to the US in July 1945. Redesignated 456th Bombardment Group (Very Heavy) in August. Inactivated on 17 October 1945.

Allotted to the reserve. Activated on 12 July 1947. Inactivated on 27 June 1949. Redesignated 456th Troop Carrier Group (Medium). Activated on 1 December 1952. Assigned to Tactical Air Command and equipped with C-119s. Inactivated on 1 Mar 1955.

SQUADRONS

744th: 1943 - 1945; 1947-

745th: 1943 - 1945; 1947 - 1949; 1952 – 1955.

746th: 1943 - 1945; 1947 - 1949; 1952 - 1955.

747th: 1943 - 1945; 1947 - 1949-

STATIONS

Wendover Field, Utah, 1 June 1943; Gowen Field, Idaho, 14 July 1943; Bruning Army Air Field, Nebraska, c. 30 July 1943; Kearns, Utah, c. 11 September 1943; Muroc Army Air Base, California, October - December 1943; Cerignola, Italy, January 1944; Stornara, Italy, January 1944 - July 1945; Sioux Falls Army Air Field, South Dakota, 1 August 1945; Smoky Hill Army Air Field, Kanas, 17 August - 17 October 1945; McChord Field, Washington, 12 July 1947 - 27 June 1949; Miami International Airport, Florida, 1 December 1952; Charleston Air Force Base, South Carolina, 15 August 1953 - 1 March 1955.

COMMANDERS

Unknown, 1 June - 14 July 1943; Col. Thomas W. Steed, 14 July 1943, Lt. Col. Joseph G. Russell, 16 July 1944; Col. Thomas W. Steed, October 1944; Lt. Col. Robert C. Whipple, c. 19 May 1945 – unknown; Col. George E. Henry, 31 August 1945; Col. John W. White, 4 September 1945-unknown; Col. Leonard J. Barrow Jr, c. December 1952; Lt. Col. Malcolm P. Hooker, c. February 1953; Col. Jay D. Bogue, February 1953 – 1 March 1955.

CAMPAIGNS

Air Combat, EAME Theater; Air Offensive, Europe; Rome - Arno; Normandy; Northern France; Southern France; North Apennines; Rhineland; Central Europe; Po Valley.

DECORATIONS

Distinguished Unit Citations: Wiener Neustadt, Austria, 10 May 1944; Budapest, Hungary, 2 July 1944.