



History
306th Bombardment Group

- HISTORY -
306TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP



Constituted as 306th Bombardment Group (Heavy) on 28 Jan 1942. Activated on 1 Mar 1942. Trained for combat with B-17's. Moved to England, Aug-Sep 1942, and assigned to Eighth AF. During combat, Oct 1942-Apr 1945, operated primarily against strategic targets, striking locomotive works at Lille, railroad yards at Rouen, submarine pens at Bordeaux, shipbuilding yards at Vegesack, ball-bearing works at Schweinfurt, oil plants at Merseburg, marshalling yards at Stuttgart, a foundry at Hannover, a chemical plant at Ludwigshafen, aircraft factories at Leipzig, and other objectives on the Continent. Took part in the first penetration into Germany by heavy bombers of Eighth AF on 27 Jan 1943 by attacking U-boat yards at Wilhelmshaven. Sgt Maynard H Smith received the Medal of Honor for his performance on 1 May 1943: when the aircraft on which he was a gunner was hit by the enemy and fires were ignited in the radio compartment and waist sections, the sergeant threw exploding ammunition overboard, manned a gun until the German fighters were driven off, administered first aid to the wounded tail gunner, and extinguished the fire. Without fighter escort and in the face of powerful opposition, the 306th completed an assault against aircraft factories in central Germany on 11 Jan 1944, being awarded a DUC for the mission. Received another DUC for action during Big Week, the intensive campaign against the German aircraft industry, 20-25 Feb 1944: although hazardous weather forced supporting elements to abandon the mission, the group

effectively bombarded an aircraft assembly plant at Bernberg on 22 Feb. Often supported ground forces and attacked interdiction targets in addition to its strategic operations. Helped to prepare for the invasion of Normandy by striking airfields and marshalling yards in France, Belgium, and Germany; backed the assault on 6 Jun 1944 by raiding railroad bridges and coastal guns. Assisted ground forces during the St Lo breakthrough in Jul. Covered the airborne invasion of Holland in Sep. Helped stop the advance of German armies in the Battle of the Bulge, Dec 1944-Jan 1945, by attacking airfields and marshalling yards. Bombed enemy positions in support of the airborne assault across the Rhine in Mar 1945. Remained in the theater after V-E Day as part of United States Air Forces in Europe, and engaged in special photographic mapping duty in western Europe and North Africa. Inactivated in Germany on 25 Dec 1946.

Redesignated 306th Bombardment Group (Very Heavy). Activated in the US on 1 Jul 1947. Assigned to Strategic Air Command. Not manned until Aug 1948. Redesignated 306th Bombardment Group (Medium) in Aug 1948. Equipped with B-29's and later with B-50's. Inactivated on 16 Jun 1952.

SQUADRONS. 367th: 1942-1946; 1947-1952. 368th: 1942-1946; 1947-1952. 369th: 1942-1946; 1947-1952. 423d: 1942-1946.

STATIONS. Gowen Field, Idaho, 1 Mar 1942; Wendover Field, Utah, c. 6 Apr-1 Aug 1942; Thurleigh, England, Sep 1942; Giebelstadt, Germany, Dec 1945; Is-

tres, France, Feb 1946; Furstenfeldbruck, Germany, 16 Aug 1946; Lechfeld, Germany, 13 Sep-25 Dec 1946. Andrews Field, Md, 1 Jul 1947; MacDill AFB, Fla, Aug 1948-16 Jun 1952.

COMMANDERS. Col Charles B Overacker Jr, c. 16 Mar 1942; Col Frank A Armstrong Jr, 3 Jan 1943; Col Claude E Putnam, 17 Feb 1943; Col George L Robinson, c. 20 Jun 1943; Col James S Sutton, Sep 1944; Col Hudson H Upham, c. 16 Apr 1945; Col Robert F Harris, May 1946; Lt Col Earl W Kesling, Jun 1946-unkn. Lt Col Charles R Heffner, 13 Aug 1948; Lt Col Loran D Briggs, c. 1 Nov 1948; Col John A Hilger, 1 Sep 1949; Col Michael N W McCoy, Mar 1950-16 Jun 1952.

CAMPAIGNS. Air Offensive, Europe; Normandy; Northern France; Rhineland; Ardennes-Alsace; Central Europe.

DECORATIONS. Distinguished Unit Citations: Germany, 11 Jan 1944; Germany, 22 Feb 1944.

INSIGNE. *Shield:* Per fess enhanced dancette azure and or, in base the Indian idiom for the jaws of a rattlesnake gules. *Motto:* ABUNDANCE OF STRENGTH. (Approved 6 Jan 1943. This insigne became an element of a new insigne approved 2 Oct 1951.)

367th BOMBARDMENT



LINEAGE. Constituted 367th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) on 28 Jan 1942. Activated on 1 Mar 1942. Inactivated on 25 Dec 1946. Redesignated 367th Bombardment Squadron (Very Heavy) on 11 Jun 1947. Activated on 1 Jul 1947. Redesignated 367th Bombard-

ment Squadron (Medium) on 11 Aug 1948.

ASSIGNMENTS. 306th Bombardment Group, 1 Mar 1942-25 Dec 1946. 306th Bombardment Group, 1 Jul 1947; 306th Bombardment Wing, 16 Jun 1952-.

STATIONS. Gowen Field, Idaho, 1 Mar 1942; Wendover Field, Utah, c. 6 Apr-1 Aug 1942; Thurleigh, England, c. 6 Sep 1942 (detachments operated from Lagens, Azores, 20 Aug-Oct 1945; Dakar, French West Africa, Sep 1945; Marrakech, French Morocco, Oct 1945); Giebelstadt, Germany, 25 Dec 1945; Istres, France, 26 Feb 1946; Furstenfeldbruck, Germany, 16 Aug 1946; Lechfeld, Germany, 13 Sep-25 Dec 1946. Andrews Field, Md, 1 Jul 1947; MacDill AFB, Fla, 1 Aug 1948-.

AIRCRAFT. B-17, 1942-1946. B-29, 1948-1951; B-50, 1950-1951; B-47, 1951-.

OPERATIONS. Combat in ETO, 9 Oct 1942-19 Apr 1945. Photo-mapping, Europe and Africa, Jun 1945-Mar 1946; later, courier missions to aid photo-mapping operations of the group. Apparently not manned, 1 Jul 1947-1 Aug 1948.

SERVICE STREAMERS. None.

CAMPAIGNS. Air Offensive, Europe; Normandy; Northern France; Rhineland; Ardennes-Alsace; Central Europe; Air Combat, EAME Theater.

DECORATIONS. Distinguished Unit Citations: Germany, 11 Jan 1944; Germany, 22 Feb 1944. Air Force Outstanding Unit Award: 22 Jan 1953-8 Dec 1956.

EMBLEM. Gules, a griffin sergeant holding in his dexter claw a lightning bolt of four flashes or. *Motto:* PARATUS PRO RETALIATO, Prepared for Retaliation. (Approved 7 Aug 1953.)

368th BOMBARDMENT



LINEAGE. Constituted 368th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) on 28 Jan 1942. Activated on 1 Mar 1942. Inactivated on 25 Dec 1946. Redesignated 368th Bombardment Squadron (Very Heavy) on 11 Jun 1947. Activated on 1 Jul 1947. Redesignated 368th Bombardment Squadron (Medium) on 11 Aug 1948.

ASSIGNMENTS. 306th Bombardment Group, 1 Mar 1942–25 Dec 1946. 306th Bombardment Group, 1 Jul 1947; 306th Bombardment Wing, 16 Jun 1952–.

STATIONS. Gowen Field, Idaho, 1 Mar 1942; Wendover Field, Utah, c. 6 Apr–1 Aug 1942; Thurleigh, England, c. 6 Sep 1942 (detachment operated from Gibraltar, 18 Aug 1945–Jan 1946; Port Lyautey, French Morocco, Feb–15 Jul 1946); Giebelstadt, Germany, 25 Dec 1945; Istres, France, 24 Feb 1946 (detachment operated from Dakar, West Africa, Jan–Mar 1946); Furstenfeldbruck, Germany, 16 Aug 1946; Lechfeld, Germany, 13 Sep–25 Dec 1946. Andrews Field, Md, 1 Jul 1947; MacDill AFB, Fla, 1 Aug 1948–.

AIRCRAFT. B-17, 1942–1946. B-29, 1948–1951; B-50, 1950–1951; B-47, 1951–.

OPERATIONS. Combat in ETO, 9 Oct 1942–19 Apr 1945. Photo-mapping, Europe and Africa, Jun 1945–Jul 1946. Apparently not manned, 1 Jul 1947–1 Aug 1948.

SERVICE STREAMERS. None.

CAMPAIGNS. Air Offensive, Europe; Normandy; Northern France; Rhineland; Ardennes-Alsace; Central Europe; Air Combat, EAME Theater.

DECORATIONS. Distinguished Unit Citations: Germany, 11 Jan 1944; Germany, 22 Feb 1944. Air Force Outstanding Unit Award: 22 Jan 1953–8 Dec 1956.

EMBLEM. On a white cloud the representation of the Norse mythological god Thor issuant, habited in a red cloak, a gold cap with black horns, casting with his upraised right arm a black chain mace. (Approved 26 August 1942.)

369th BOMBARDMENT



LINEAGE. Constituted 369th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) on 28 Jan 1942. Activated on 1 Mar 1942. Inactivated on 29 Jun 1946. Redesignated 369th Bombardment Squadron (Very Heavy) on 11 Jun 1947. Activated on 1 Jul 1947. Redesignated 369th Bombardment Squadron (Medium) on 11 Aug 1948.

ASSIGNMENTS. 306th Bombardment Group, 1 Mar 1942–29 Jun 1946. 306th Bombardment Group, 1 Jul 1947; 306th Bombardment Wing, 16 Jun 1952–.

STATIONS. Gowen Field, Idaho, 1 Mar 1942; Wendover Field, Utah, c. 6 Apr–1 Aug 1942; Thurleigh, England, 6 Sep 1942 (detachment operated from Istres, France, 31 Aug–Sep 1945; Marrakech, French Morocco, 6 Sep 1945–Jan 1946); Giebelstadt, Germany, 25 Dec 1945; Istres, France, 26 Feb–29 Jun 1946. Andrews Field, Md, 1 Jul 1947; MacDill AFB, Fla, 1 Aug 1948–.

AIRCRAFT. B-17, 1942–1946. B-29, 1948–1951; B-50, 1950–1951; B-47, 1951–.

OPERATIONS. Combat in ETO, 9 Oct 1942–19 Apr 1945. Photo-mapping, Europe and Africa, Jun 1945–Jun 1946. Apparently not manned, 1 Jul 1947–1 Aug 1948.

SERVICE STREAMERS. None.

CAMPAIGNS. Air Offensive, Europe; Normandy; Northern France; Rhineland; Ardennes-Alsace; Central Europe; Air Combat, EAME Theater.

DECORATIONS. Distinguished Unit Citations: Germany, 11 Jan 1944; Germany, 22 Feb 1944. Air Force Outstanding Unit Award: 22 Jan 1953-8 Dec 1956.

EMBLEM. On a turquoise blue disk, a caricatured black bug with green face, wings, and markings on stomach, wearing black helmet, black boxing gloves and black shoes, in fighting stance on black irregular figure at base of, and in front of a large white cloud formation. (Approved 10 Aug 1944.)

423d BOMBARDMENT



LINEAGE. Constituted 34th Reconnaissance Squadron (Heavy) on 28 Jan 1942. Activated on 1 Mar 1942. Redesignated 423d Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) on 22 Apr 1942. Inactivated on 25 Dec 1946. Redesignated 423d Bombardment Squadron (Light) on 15 Nov 1952. Activated on 1 Jan 1953. Inactivated on 19 Jul 1954. Redesignated 423d Bombardment Squadron (Medium) on 6 Oct 1958. Activated on 1 Jan 1959. Discontinued, and inactivated, on 1 Jan 1962.

ASSIGNMENTS. 306th Bombardment Group, 1 Mar 1942-25 Dec 1946 (attached to 305th Bombardment Group, 16 Jul 1946-25 Dec 1946). 4430th Air Base Wing (attached to 4400th Combat Crew Training Group), 1 Jan 1953; 4400th Combat Crew Training (later Tactical Bombardment) Group, 1 May

1953-19 Jul 1954. 306th Bombardment Group, 1 Jan 1959-1 Jan 1962.

STATIONS. Gowen Field, Idaho, 1 Mar 1942; Wendover Field, Utah, c. 6 Apr-1 Aug 1942; Thurleigh, England, c. 9 Sep 1942 (detachment operated from Istres, France, 31 Aug-Dec 1945); Giebelstadt, Germany, 17 Dec 1945; Istres, France, 26 Feb 1946 (detachments operated from Dakar, French West Africa, Mar-May 1946; Gibraltar, Jun-26 Sep 1946); Lechfeld, Germany, 16 Jul-25 Dec 1946 (detachment operated from Port Lyautey, French Morocco, 16 Jul-26 Sep 1946). Langley AFB, Va, 1 Jan 1953-19 Jul 1954. MacDill AFB, Fla, 1 Jan 1959-1 Jan 1962.

AIRCRAFT. B-17, 1942-1946. B-26, 1953-1954. B-47, 1959-1961.

OPERATIONS. Combat in ETO, 9 Oct 1942-19 Apr 1945. Photo-mapping, Europe and Africa, Jun 1945-Sep 1946.

SERVICE STREAMERS. None.

CAMPAIGNS. Air Offensive, Europe; Normandy; Northern France; Rhineland; Ardennes-Alsace; Central Europe; Air Combat, EAME Theater.

DECORATIONS. Distinguished Unit Citations: Germany, 11 Jan 1944; Germany, 22 Feb 1944.

EMBLEM. On and over a globe checky light blue and Air Force blue, a red winged chess knight in profile, highlights and details Air Force golden yellow, nostril and eye white between in dexter an olive branch arched and in sinister a lightning flash arched, Air Force golden yellow, shaded golden brown. *Motto*: On a red scroll, IMPE-DIMUS HOSTES, We Check the Adversary, inscribed Air Force golden yellow. (Approved 27 Jan 1961.)