

122 TACTICAL FIGHTER GROUP



MISSION

LINEAGE

358 Fighter Group constituted, 20 Dec 1942
Activated, 1 Jan 1943
Inactivated, 7 Nov 1945
Redesignated 122 Fighter Group and allotted to ANG (IN), 24 May 1946
Extended federal recognition, 9 Dec 1946
Redesignated 122 Fighter Interceptor Group
Inactivated, 7 Feb 1952
Redesignated 122 Fighter-Bomber Group and activated, 1 Nov 1952
Inactivated, 9 Dec 1974

STATIONS

Richmond AAB, VA, 1 Jan 1943
Baltimore, MD, 28 Apr 1943
Camp Springs AAFld, MD, 28 May 1943
Philadelphia Mun Aprt, PA, 16 Jun 1943
Richmond AAB, VA, 13 Aug-25 Sep 1943
Goxhill, England, 20 Oct 1943
Leiston, England, 29 Nov 1943
Raydon, England, 31 Jan 1944
High Halden, England, 13 Apr 1944
Cretteville, France, 3 Jul 1944
Pontorson, France, 14 Aug 1944
Vitry-le-Francois, France, 14 Sep 1944
Mourmelon, France, 16 Oct 1944

Toul, France, 9 Nov 1944
Sandhofen, Germany, 2 Apr 1945
Reims, France, 23 Jun-Jul 1945
La Junta AAFld, CO, 3 Aug-7 Nov 1945
Stout Field, IN, 1 Feb 1951
Baer Field, IN, 10 Mar 1951-7 Feb 1952

ASSIGNMENTS

Eighth Air Force
Ninth Air Force
Air Defense Command

WEAPON SYSTEMS

P-47
P-51
F-84

COMMANDERS

LTC Cecil L. Wells, 1 Jan 1943-13 Sep 1944
Col James B Tipton, 20 Sep 1944
LTC John M Thacker, 1945
Col John A Carey, 1951-Feb 1952
LTC Allison Maxwell

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

American Theater
Air Offensive, Europe
Normandy
Northern France
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations
24 Dec 1944-2 Jan 1945
19-20 Mar 1945
8-25 Apr 1945

French Croix de Guerre with Palm

EMBLEM

Azure (light blue) a bordure or (Air Force yellow), overall and saltirewise an escutcheon in prospect, (per bend or and sable, in chief four mullets of the last) and a jet type aircraft with exhaust fire all proper. (Approved, 28 Jul 1954)

MOTTO

CONQUER ABOVE

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Moved to England during Sep-Oct 1943. Began operations on 20 Dec 1943 and served in combat with Eighth and, later, Ninth AF until V-E Day. Engaged in escort work until Apr 1944 to cover the operations of bombers that the AAF sent against targets on the Continent. Dive-bombed marshalling yards and airfields during Apr to help prepare for the invasion of Normandy.

Continued attacks on enemy communications and flew escort missions during May. Escorted troop carriers over the Cotentin Peninsula on 6 and 7 Jun, and attacked bridges, rail lines and trains, vehicles, and troop concentrations during the remainder of the month. Moved to the Continent in Jul and took part in operations that resulted in the Allied breakthrough at St Lo. Continued to fly escort, interdiction, and close-support missions during the Allied drive across France and into Germany, earning four citations before the end of the war.

Received first DUC for operations from 24 Dec 1944 to 2 Jan 1945 when the group not only supported Seventh Army by attacking rail lines and rolling stock, vehicles, buildings, and artillery, but also destroyed numerous fighter planes during a major assault by the German Air Force against Allied airfields. Received second DUC for 19-20 Mar 1945, a period in which the 358th destroyed and damaged large numbers of motor transports and thus hampered the evacuation of German forces that were withdrawing from the area west of the Rhine. Received third DUC for performance between 8 and 25 Apr 1945 when the group attacked enemy airfields in the region of Munich and Ingolstadt, engaged the enemy in aerial combat, and supported advancing ground forces by attacking such targets as motor transports, tanks, locomotives, guns, and buildings. Received fourth citation, the French Croix de Guerre with Palm, for assisting in the liberation of France. Returned to the US in Jul 1945.

Extended federal recognition on 9 Dec 1946. Ordered into active service on 1 Feb 1951. Assigned to Air Defense Command. Redesignated 122 Fighter Interceptor Group. Trained with P-51 and F-84. Inactivated on 7 Feb 1952. Relieved from active service, returned to ANG, On 9 Dec 1946, the 122 Tactical Fighter Group was formed at Stout Field, Indianapolis, Indiana, and was assigned the P-51 .

122 Fighter Interceptor Group: Federalized ANG on 10 February 1951 as the 122 Fighter Group and assigned to the 122 Fighter Interceptor Wing at Stout Field, IN; moved to Baer Field, IN, as the 122 Fighter Interceptor Group by May 1951; inactivated on 7 February 1952.

Air Force Unit Histories

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Sources

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