

# 309<sup>th</sup> AIR DIVISION, BOMBARDMENT

## MISSION

### LINEAGE

309<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing, Heavy established, 20 Jan 1944  
Activated, 1 Feb 1944  
Inactivated, 25 Mar 1946  
Redesignated 309<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing, Very Heavy, 6 Jan 1947  
Activated in the Reserve, 10 Jan 1947  
Redesignated 309<sup>th</sup> Air Division, Bombardment, 16 Apr 1948  
Inactivated, 27 Jun 1949

### STATIONS

Lae, New Guinea, 1 Feb 1944  
Saidor, New Guinea, 3 Mar 1944  
Noemfoor, Schouten Islands, 28 Jul 1944  
Owi, Schouten Islands, 9 Nov 1944  
San Marcelino, Luzon, Philippine Islands, 8 Feb 1945  
Lingayen, Luzon, Philippine Islands, 29 May 1945  
Chitose AB, Japan, 12 Oct 1945-25 Mar 1946  
Hensley Field (later, AFB), TX, 10 Jan 1947-27 Jun 1949

### ASSIGNMENTS

Fifth Air Force, 1 Feb 1944-25 Mar 1946  
Tenth Air Force, 10 Jan 1947  
Fourteenth Air Force, 1 Jul 1948  
Twelfth Air Force, 12 Jan-27 Jun 1949

### COMMANDERS

BG Paul B. Wurtsmith, 1 Feb 1944  
Col Neel E. Kearby, 26 Feb 1944  
MG St Clair Streett, 3 Mar 1944  
LTC Robert R. Rowland, 5 Apr 1944

Col Jack W. Saunders, 13 May 1944  
Col Norman D. Sillin, 16 Dec 1944  
Col Herbert L. Grills, 20 Oct 1945-25 Mar 1946  
Unkn, 10 Jan 1947-27 Jun 1949

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

None

### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II  
Luzon  
New Guinea

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

### **Decorations**

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation

## **EMBLEM**

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

The 309th Bombardment Wing from Feb 1944 served as the forward element of all Fifth Air Force units. Numerous tactical and support components were assigned or attached to the wing during World War II. Its subordinate units flew missions against shipping, coastal installations, storage buildings, gun positions, airdromes, and, when possible, Japanese troop concentrations, and its tactical reconnaissance units flew numerous photo missions. After the Japanese surrendered, 309th personnel systematically destroyed Japanese aircraft and equipment of no value to the U.S. Government. Another effort involved supporting aircraft that staged through Chitose AB on their return to the United States. Operational duties consisted of surveillance flights by P 51 aircraft covering northern Honshu and Hokkaido Islands. The 309th , while active in the Reserve, Jan 1947-Jun 1949, was designated as a division.

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Air Force Order of Battle

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### Sources

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