

317th TROOP CARRIER GROUP

MISSION

LINEAGE

317th Transport Group constituted, 2 Feb 1942
Activated, 22 Feb
Redesignated 317th Troop Carrier Group, Jul 1942
Redesignated 317th Troop Carrier Group (Heavy), May 1948
Inactivated in Germany, 14 Sep 1949
Redesignated 317th Troop Carrier Group (Medium)
Activated, 14 Jul 1952

STATIONS

Duncan Field, TX, 22 Feb 1942
Bowman Field, KY, 19 Jun 1942
Lawson Field, GA, 11 Oct 1942
Maxton, NC, 3-12 Dec 1942
Townsville, Australia, 23 Jan 1943
Port Moresby, New Guinea, 30 Sep 1943
Finschhafen, New Guinea, Apr 1944
Hollandia, New Guinea, Jun 1944
Leyte, 17 Nov 1944
Clark Field, Luzon, 17 Mar 1945
Okinawa, 24 Aug 1945
Kimpo, Korea, 31 Oct 1945
Tachikawa, Japan, 15 Jan 1946-21 Sep 1948
Wiesbaden AB, Germany, 30 Sep 1948
Celle RAF Station, Germany, 15 Dec 1948-14 Sep 1949
Rhein-Main AB, Germany, 14 Jul 1952
Neubiberg AB, Germany, 21 Mar 1953

ASSIGNMENTS

Fifth Air Force

United States Air Forces in Europe

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-46

C-47

C-39

C-49

C-60

B-17

LB-30

C-54

C-119

COMMANDERS

Col Samuel V. Payne, 22 Feb 1942

Col Robert L. Olinger, 21 Jun 1944

Col John H. Lackey Jr., 2 Oct 1944

LTC Robert I. Choate, 31 Aug 1945

Col Dwight B. Schannep, Oct 1945-unkn

Col Marshall S. Roth, Jan 1946

Col Othel R. Deering, Jan 1947

Col Thomas K. Hampton, 19 May 1948

LTC James M. Johnson, 18 Aug 1948

Col Bertram C. Harrison, Oct 1948

LTC James M. Johnson, 24 Nov 1948

LTC Walter E. Chambers, 11 Mar 1949

LTC Robert J. DuVal, 13 Jun 1949-unkn

Col Lucion N. Powell, 14 Jul 1952

LTC James E. Bauley, 1 Mar 1954

Col Harry M. Pike, May 1954

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Air Offensive, Japan

New Guinea

Northern Solomons

Bismarck Archipelago

Western Pacific

Leyte

Luzon

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations

New Guinea, 30 Jan-1 Feb 1943

Philippine Islands, 16-17 Feb 1945

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation

EMBLEM

Or issuant from chief a dexter arm, fist clenched inflamed proper, in base a fire of seven tongues of the last, on a chief nebuly azure, three piles of the first. (Approved, 22 Dec 1942)

MOTTO

I GAIN BY HAZARD

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Operated in New Guinea for a short time early in 1943. Received a DUC for making numerous flights in unarmed planes over the Owen Stanley Range, 30 Jan-1 Feb 1943, to transport reinforcements and supplies to Wau, New Guinea, where enemy forces were threatening a valuable Allied airdrome. Exchanged its new C-47's for old C-39's, C-47's, C-49's, C-60's, B-i/s, and LB-30's in New Guinea and began operating from Australia, where the group had maintained its headquarters. Flew troops and equipment to New Guinea, established courier and passenger routes in Australia, and trained with airborne troops. Equipped with C-47's and moved to New Guinea in Sep 1943. Took part in the first airborne operation in the Southwest Pacific on 5 Sep, dropping paratroops at Nadzab, New Guinea, to cut supply lines and seize enemy bases. Until Nov 1944, transported men and cargo to Allied bases on New Guinea, New Britain, Guadalcanal, and in the Admiralty Islands. Also dropped reinforcements and supplies to US forces on Noemfoor, 3-4 Jul 1944. After moving to the Philippines in Nov 1944, transported supplies to ground forces on Luzon, Leyte, and Mindoro, and supplied guerrillas on Mindanao, Cebu, and Panay. Participated in two airborne operations during Feb 1945: on 3 and 4 Feb dropped paratroops south of Manila to seize highway routes to the city, and on 16 and 17 Feb dropped the 502d Regiment on Corregidor to open Manila Bay to US shipping; received a DUC for the latter operation, performed at low altitude over small drop zones in a heavily defended area. Completed two unusual missions on 12 and 15 Apr 1945 when this troop carrier organization bombed Carabao

Island with drums of napalm. Dropped part of 511th Regiment near Aparri on 23 Jun 1945 to split Japanese forces in the Cagayan Valley and prevent a retreat to the hills in northern Luzon. Remained in the theater as part of Far East Air Forces after the war; used C-46 and C-47 aircraft, the latter being replaced in 1947 with C-54's. Flew courier and passenger routes to Japan,

Guam, Korea, and the Philippines, and transported freight and personnel in the area. Redesignated 317th Troop Carrier Group (Heavy) in May 1948. Moved, via the US, to Germany in Sep 1948 and became part of United States Air Forces in Europe for service in the Berlin airlift. Used C-54's to transport coal, food, and other supplies to the blockaded city.

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 19 Feb 2011

Updated:

Sources

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

Unit history. 317th Troop Carrier Wing. @1955.