

320th TRANSPORT SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

320th Transport Squadron

320th Transport Squadron disbanded, 8 Oct 1948

Reconstituted and consolidated with the 320th Air Refueling Squadron, 19 Sep 1985. (remains inactive)

STATIONS

ASSIGNMENTS

27 ATG

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-47

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Upon their arrival at the famed airdrome, the 320th Transport Squadron of the 27th Air Transport Group was found busily engaged in evacuating wounded from the combat areas, utilizing approximately twenty UC-64 Norsman for the mission. Lt Col Leon R. Brownfield was the first Commanding Officer of the field, ably assisted by LTC Eugene H Callahan as Executive Officer, and Capt Jack L. Jones as Adjutant.

The 320th Transport Squadron, commanded by Major Lyons, preceded the other units to the bombed airfields of France, moving into Le Bourget shortly after the liberating of the Paris area. The unit was employed in aerial evacuation from tactical units.

The 320th Transport Squadron, for its work in evacuation, using C-64 type aircraft, was commended for its performance by the Theater Surgeon General. This squadron was in the meantime re-equipped with C-47 transports.

The 311th Ferrying Squadron was assigned a new commanding officer in Major James Lyons. He was succeeded as commanding officer of the 320th Transport Squadron by Captain Lloyd Shields. The 311th in its operations flew to advanced units so far ahead of intelligence reports that often pilots used maps from the "Stars and Stripes" to find enemy locations.

The 320th Transport Squadron doubled its February operations, flying a total of 1686 flights during the month.

The 320th Transport Squadron (C & M) was activated 1 Nov 1943, per General Order No.52, Headquarters, VIII AFSC. The primary mission of the squadron, as indicated by its name, was the hauling of cargo and mail, with the emphasis on cargo. On the date of activation there were no personnel assigned, but on 7 November, 1943, forty-seven enlisted men arrived. Of these 47 men, Sgt. Robert J. McGinnis had the honor of being the first enlisted man assigned, by virtue of his orders, dated 5 November 1943, one day ahead of the other forty-six. The first officer assigned was Lt. Harold B. Slusher, who reported for duty on 10 November 1943 and assumed command. On 12 November 1943, 1st Lt. DeJay J. Shriner reported for duty, and on the 23rd of November, Capt. James D. Briggs reported, along with other assigned personnel, and assumed command upon arrival. I reported along with Capt. Briggs. By the end of November the strength of the organization was 14 officers and 96 enlisted men.

Under the command of Capt. Briggs the 320th Transport Squadron built up an enviable record hauling cargo. Hauling was done by trucks when the weather was bad, or when aircraft were not available. This procedure led to the formation of a "Traffic Section," which worked in conjunction with the Transportation Section. This played an important part in the operation of the organization. Although the Traffic Section was an unauthorized section according to the TO, the shortage of aircraft left no other alternative.

Under the direction of 2nd Lt. Robert H. Mellinger, his nine able assistants, and Sgt. Herbert S. Hall, the Traffic Section managed to contract for and deliver some sixty to seventy thousand

pounds of freight per month. The loading and unloading of the aircraft and trucks was being done by the remaining fifteen enlisted men who made up the section, under the supervision and the push of the diminutive S/Sgt. Walter "Shorty" L. Stroth.

On the 5th of December, 1943, the 302nd Transport Wing made its first appearance on paper only, without a Commanding Officer. This was to replace the "Air Section" of the 8th Air Force Service Command. On the 21st of December, I went home to Doris on an 8 day leave over Christmas. On 29 December 1943, Capt. Briggs was transferred from the 320th and was assigned as Commander of the 321st Transport Squadron, which was located in Northern Ireland. I returned to the Base on the 30th of December and Captain Briggs informed me that I was in the group of personnel that was being transferred to the 321st Transport Squadron (C & M) with him. We moved shortly after the 1st of January, 1944.

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 5 Mar 2012

Updated:

Sources

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

Unit history. *302 Transport Wing*. Nd.