

24th PURSUIT GROUP

LINEAGE

24th Pursuit Group (Interceptor) constituted, 16 Aug 1941
Activated, 1 Oct 1941
Inactivated, 2 Apr 1946

STATIONS

Clark Field, Luzon, 1 Oct 1941
Mariveles, Luzon, 1 Jan-May 1942

ASSIGNMENTS

WEAPON SYSTEMS

P-35
P-40

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Philippine Islands

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations
Philippines, 7 Dec 1941-10 May 1942
Philippines, 8-22 Dec 1941
Philippines, 6 Jan-8 Mar 1942

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Augmented by two attached squadrons (21st and 34th) and equipped with P-35 and P-40 aircraft, this group comprised the entire pursuit force in the Philippines in Dec 1941. When enemy aircraft were reported to be approaching Luzon on the morning of 8 Dec (7 Dec in the US), the 24th group attempted to intercept but failed because radar and visual sighting facilities were inadequate. Later that day, after the group's planes either had landed for refueling or had run so low on fuel that they could not fight, the Japanese attacked and inflicted heavy losses on the organization. In the days that followed, the group's strength declined rapidly, but the 24th flew some patrol and reconnaissance missions, engaged the enemy in the air, and attacked enemy airfields and shipping. By late in Dec the ground personnel were absorbed by infantry units and some pilots were evacuated to Australia. The remaining pilots continued operations in the Philippines with the few planes that were left. Eventually all of the men, except the few who had gone to Australia, were either killed or captured by the enemy. Although not re-manned, the group was carried on the list of active organizations until after the war.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources