

7th RECONNAISSANCE GROUP

LINEAGE

7th Photographic Group constituted, 5 Feb 1943
Activated, 1 May 1943
Redesignated 7th Photographic Reconnaissance and Mapping Group, May 1943
Redesignated 7th Photographic Group (Reconnaissance), Nov 1943
Redesignated 7th Reconnaissance Group, Jun 1945
Inactivated, 21 Nov 1945
Disbanded, 6 Mar 1947

STATIONS

Peterson Field, CO, 1 May-7 Jul 1943
Mount Farm, England, 7 Jul 1943
Chalgrove, England, 22 Mar 1945
Hitcham, England, 25 Oct-21 Nov 1945

ASSIGNMENTS

Eighth AF

WEAPON SYSTEMS

F-5A 1943
F-5B 1943
F-5C 1944
F-5E 1944
F-5F
F-5G
Spitfire XI 1943
P-51D
P-51K

COMMANDERS

Col James G Hall, 7 Jul 1943
Col Homer L Saunders, 14 Sep 1943
Col Paul T Cullen, 1 Jan 1944
LTC George A Lawson, 17 Feb 1944

LTC Norris E Harrwell, 7 May 1944
LTC Clarence A Shoop, 9 Aug 1944
Col George W. Humbrecht, 25 Oct 1944
Maj Hubert M. Childress, 19 Jun 1945

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

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

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation
France, 31 May-30 Jun 1944

French Croix de Guerre with Palm
1944

EMBLEM

None

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Transferred, without personnel and equipment, to England on 7 Jul 1943. Used Spitfires and L-5's to obtain information about bombardment targets and damage inflicted by bombardment operations; provide mapping service for air and ground units; observe and report on enemy transportation, installations, and positions; and obtain data on weather conditions. Prior to Jun 1944, photographed airfields, cities, industrial establishments, and ports in France, the Low Countries, and Germany. Received a DUG for operations during the period, 31 May-30 Jun 1944, when its coverage of bridges, marshalling yards, canals, highways, rivers, and other targets contributed much to the success of the Normandy campaign. Covered missile sites in France during Jul, and in Aug carried out photographic mapping missions for ground forces advancing across France. Provided reconnaissance support for the airborne attack on Holland in Sep and for the Battle of the Bulge, Dec 1944-Jan 1945. Used P-51's to escort its own

reconnaissance planes during the last months of the war as the group supported the Allied drive across the Rhine and into Germany. Took part in the final bomb damage assessment following V-E Day.

Air Force Order of Battle
Created: 13 Nov 2010
Updated: 13 Jan 2014

Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.