

## 64 BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON, MEDIUM



### MISSION

### LINEAGE

64 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 20 Nov 1940

Activated, 15 Jan 1941

Inactivated, 29 Apr 1946

Redesignated 64 Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy and activated, 1 Oct 1946

Redesignated 64 Bombardment Squadron, Medium, 2 Jul 1948

### STATIONS

Langley Field, VA, 15 Jan 1941

Bangor, ME, 29 Aug 1941-17 Feb 1942

Sydney, Australia, 16 Mar 1942

Daly Waters, Australia, 16 May 1942

Fenton Field, Australia, 2 Aug-25 Sep 1942

Iron Range, Australia, 12 Oct 1942

Mareeba, Australia, 8 Nov 1942

Port Moresby, New Guinea, 20 Jan 1943

Dobodura, New Guinea, 10 Dec 1943

Nadzab, New Guinea, 11 Mar 1944

Owi, Schouten Islands, 10 Jul 1944

Tacloban, Leyte, 23 Nov 1944

Clark Field, Luzon, 22 Mar 1945  
Ie Shima, 26 Jul 1945  
Ft William McKinley, Luzon, 10 Dec 1945-29 Apr 1946  
Davis-Monthan Field, AZ, 1 Oct 1946  
Carswell AFB, TX 15 Mar 1961  
Little Rock AFB, AR, 1 Sep 1964-31 Jan 1970

### **DEPLOYED STATIONS**

Fairford, England, 18 Sep 1954-9 Dec 1954

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

43 Bombardment Group, 15 Jan 1941-29 Apr 1946  
43 Bombardment Group, 1 Oct 1946  
43 Bombardment Wing, 16 Jun 1952

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B-18, 1941-1942  
B-17, 1942-1943  
B-24, 1943-1945  
B-29, 1946-1950  
B-50, 1948-1954  
B-47, 1954-1960  
B-58, 1960

### **COMMANDERS**

Capt Harry Moore, 15 Jan 1941  
Maj Irving N. Selby, 20 May 1941  
Capt Eugene H. Halliwill, 1 Jan 1942  
Maj Jack W. Bleasdale, 15 Jul 1942  
Maj Allen Lindbergh, 11 Dec 1942  
Capt Charles H. Giddings, 5 Jan 1943  
Maj Kenneth D. McCullar, 15 Jan 1943  
Capt Charles H. Giddings, 12 Apr 1943  
Maj Harold T. Hastings, 15 Apr 1943  
Capt Paul T. Williams,  
Capt Ealon S. Hocutt, 20 May 1943  
Cpt Harold M. Brecht, 7 Aug 1943  
Capt Frank J. Krones, 29 Nov 1943  
Capt Arthur F. Mulligan, 1 May 1944  
Cpt Lin Parker, Jr., Jan 1945  
Maj Carl M. Cramer, 22 May 1945  
Lt Col Norris R. Smith, #1964

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

#### **Campaign Streamers**

Antisubmarine

American Theater

East Indies

Air Offensive, Japan

China Defensive

Papua

Guadalcanal

New Guinea

Northern Solomons

Bismarck Archipelago, Western Pacific

Leyte

Luzon

Southern Philippines

China Offensive

#### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

#### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citations

Papua [13 Aug] 1942-23 Jan 1943

Bismarck Sea, 2-4 Mar 1943

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Aug 1960-1 Aug 1962

## **EMBLEM**



## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

Antisubmarine, Dec 1941-Feb 1942; combat in Southwest and Western Pacific, c. 13 Aug 1942-12 Aug 1945. Not fully manned or equipped, 23 Nov 1945-29 Apr 1946.

On December 27, 1960, USAF Headquarters advised the AMC that each B-58 wing would have 40, rather than 36 aircraft. Accordingly, each squadron would be assigned 12 B-58's. At that time, and throughout the forthcoming operational years of the B-58 in AF service, the assigned B-58 squadrons would consist of the 63rd (Medium), 64th (Medium), and the 65th (Medium) for the 43rd BW, and the 364th (Medium), 365th (Medium), and the 366th (Medium) for the 305th BW. Eventually, each wing would have 70 crews certified as combat ready. A normal duty assignment for a crew was between three and five years. Accordingly, the wing training program was designed to add three combat-ready crews to the wing each six-month period.

14 June 1947 A Boeing B-29A-70-BN Superfortress, 44-62228, of the 64th Bombardment Squadron, 43rd Bombardment Group, off-course in stormy weather, slammed into the granite face of Hawks Mountain a few hundred feet below its 2,300 foot crest, near Springfield, Vermont just before midnight, killing all eleven crew. The bomber, based at Davis-Monthan AFB, Tucson, Arizona, had refueled at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and was bound for Bedford, Massachusetts when it apparently became lost. Local residents reported hearing it circle over Springfield and nearby Perkinsville shortly before impact and seeing it blinking its lights at an altitude of 1,000 feet or less.

B-17E, #41-9209, "Blues in the Night", of the 64th Squadron, hit a wallaby during a night take-off from 7 Mile airfield killing Ken McCullar. There were also reports that there may have been an engine fire prior to the impact with the wallaby. After this accident the 43rd Bomb Group called itself "Ken's Men" in honour of Ken McCullar.

B-24D Liberator, #42-40814, of the 64th Squadron of the 43rd Bomb Group, disappeared on a flight from Port Moresby to Brisbane on 19 July 1944.

Sandwiched between shipping strikes during the winter of 1942-1943 were attacks on the enemy's garrisons at Lae, Buna, Madang, and Salamaua, New Guinea, and raids on harbor installations and the airdromes of Rapopo, Lakunai, and Vunakunau, Rabaul. On 5 January "Ken's Men" participated in their first daylight raids against Rabaul. During that mission a plane piloted by Major Jack Bleasdale, former Commanding Officer of the 64th Squadron, and carrying Major Allen Lindberg, 64th Squadron Commander, and Brigadier General Kenneth Walker, Commanding General of the V Bomber Command, was lost in action. Throughout the remainder of the month the 43rd kept up small but effective strikes against Rabaul at regular intervals; it sometimes added novelty to the missions by dropping beer bottles and garbage on the city.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

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Sources

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

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

