

90th AIR DIVISION, RECONNAISSANCE

MISSION

LINEAGE

90th Photographic Wing, Reconnaissance established, 11 Oct 1943
Activated, 22 Nov 1943
Redesignated 90th Reconnaissance Wing, 23 Jun 1945
Inactivated, 23 Oct 1945
Activated in the Reserve, 20 Dec 1946
Redesignated 90th Air Division, Reconnaissance, 16 Apr 1948
Inactivated, 27 Jun 1949

STATIONS

La Marsa, Tunisia, 22 Nov 1943
San Severo, Italy, 14 Dec 1943-4 Apr 1945
Buckley Field, CO, 23 Apr-23 Oct 1945
Niagara Falls Municipal Airport, NY, 20 Dec 1946-27 Jun 1949

ASSIGNMENTS

Twelfth Air Force, 22 Nov 1943
Army Air Forces, 10 Apr-23 Oct 1945
First Air Force, 20 Dec 1946-27 Jun 1949

ATTACHMENTS

311th Photographic Wing, Mapping and Charting, 23 Apr-1 Jun 1945

COMMANDERS

Col Elliot Roosevelt, 22 Nov 1943
Col Karl L. Polifka, 25 Jan 1944
MG George Newton, 8 Jan 1945
Col George G. Northrup, 30 Jan 1945
LTC Karl T. Rauk, 21 Jul 1945
Col Karl L. Polifka, 23 Jul 1945
LTC James D. Berry, 26 Jul 1945
Col Karl L. Polifka, 8 Sep 1945

Maj Clair E. Cheney, 1-23 Oct 1945
Unkn. 20 Dec 1946-27 Jun 1949

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Naples Foggia (Air)

Rome-Arno

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

None

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 90th's subordinate units reconnoitered airdromes, roads, marshalling yards, and harbors in Italy after the Allied landings at Salerno in Sep 1943. They also flew missions to Italy, France, Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and the Balkans. In addition, these units flew some photographic missions at night using specially equipped B 17 and B 25 aircraft. In Jan 1944, they covered the Anzio area and continued to support the Fifth Army in its drive through Italy by determining troop movements, gun positions, and terrain. The 90th's units last flew reconnaissance missions in connection with the invasion of southern France in Aug 1944. After transfer of its tactical groups on 1 Oct 1944, the wing aided in establishing a photo library for use in the European and Mediterranean theaters of operation. Activated in the Reserve at Niagara Falls, NY, from Dec 1946 to Jun 1949; in Apr 1948 it was redesignated as a division.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Updated:

Sources

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