

History of the 826th Bombardment Squadron



Adopted Insignia of the 826th Squadron, created by a French jeweler, and adopted by the 824th, and 825th depending on the number of slugs in the ammo belt. The 827th's insignia of a fist holding a lightning bolt was officially adopted by the predecessor company, the 5th Anti Sub Squadron.

Editors Note: Perhaps you are wondering why only the 826th squadron history is being presented here when there were 3 other squadrons? The reason is quite simple: The narrative shown below was locked in a trunk of 826th member Elmer C Martinson who had to quickly remove it from a flooding basement, thus a forgotten manuscript buried for over 50 years was rediscovered. There has not been a rediscovery of the other squadron histories as yet. It was written by Sgt Orville M Steward 826 Sq ASN 36820713. His whereabouts are unknown to the Association at this time. If anyone from the 826 Sq knows of him, kindly inform us. The paragraphs were taken from official sources. The 826th Bombardment Squadron was constituted as a Heavy Bombardment Squadron on 14 September 1943, and activated on 20 September 1943. It was redesignated: 826th Bombardment Squadron (Pathfinder) on 14 February 1944, and reverted back to 826th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) on 11 November 1944, and In-activated on 25 July 1945.

It was assigned to the 484th Bombardment Group, 49th Bombardment Wing, 15th Air Force. The 826th was first assigned to Mountain Home, Idaho but changed to Harvard Airfield, Nebraska, 20 September 1943 to 2 March 1944, thence to Torretta, Italy 8 April 44 to 25 May 1945.

When the Germans capitulated on 7 May 1945 at Reims, France effective 9 May 1945 the 826th squadron was on standby till 25 May when it was transferred to Casablanca, French Morocco, where it was disbanded 25 July 1945.

It was in combat operation in the MTO and ETO but never performed pathfinder functions. Campaigns include: Air Offensive Europe, Rome-Arno, Normandy, Northern France, Southern France, North Apennines, Rhineland, Central Europe; Po Valley, Air Combat, EAME Theater. Decorations include Distinguished Unit Citations Munich, Germany, and Innsbruck, Austria, 13 June 1944; Vienna, Austria, 22 August 1944..

You want more history? Clean out your attics, basements, and barns.

Squadron History - 826th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy)

By Sgt Orville M Steward 826 Sq.

The 826th Bombardment Squadron Heavy was constituted on 20 September, 1943., activated September 20, 1943, redesignated Pathfinder on February 14, 1944, redesignated again Heavy on November 11, 1944. It was assigned to the 2nd Air Force for training to Kerns Utah. In accordance to General Order 135 HQ, 2nd Air Force, was activated by War Department Letter AG 322 (11 Sept 43) OB-L-AFRPG-M, with Kerns Field, Utah, as the field of activation. This was amended on 24 Sep 43 by WD Letter 322, and the Harvard AAB, Nebraska was substituted as

the field of activation.

Actually the cadre of the squadron was formed on 7 October 1943 at Mountain Home, Idaho with personnel mainly from the 5th Anti-Submarine command stationed at Westover Field, Mass, including the Squadron Commander Captain John B Paine, of Texas, holder of the American theatre ribbons, the Air Medal and two bronze oak leaf clusters, and defense service ribbon and rated as pilot,

While the actual formation of the unit was taking place at