

178 AERO SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

178 Aero Squadron

STATIONS

ASSIGNMENTS

WEAPON SYSTEMS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

DURING January, 1918, the 178th Squadron was organized. This exceptional Squadron was formed of a body of very promising young men. Every heart was gladdened on that day by being informed that we would come to Kelly Field No. 2, there to remain for a period of two months equipping, training and preparing for overseas duty.

The first day or two was spent in establishing the Squadron in the new field. The Squadron was then under the command of Lieut. W. A. Fredericks, who was soon succeeded by Lieut. W. F. Boedker and assigned to the Supply Department. Lieut. Litherland was assigned as Adjutant, being succeeded

shortly by Lieut. R. M. Stover. Lieut. G. L. Voorhees was assigned as Mess Officer.

To the surprise and astonishment of the entire squadron on the fourth day of its infancy, each man was given his machine and honored by being given the chance to try it on the new field which Uncle Sam had recently secured. But to the sorrow of the men we could not fly our machines. We used them instead in the preparation of the new field for flying. However, despite all the hard work and discouragements, it was not the spirit of the men to be at all slack in the discharge of their duties, and they tilled away at the work that had been assigned to them,. About one week was spent at this kind of work and then all were relieved and assigned to work in the various departments of the Flying Field. Great interest was shown in the work, as all were working for promotions. The morale was greatly strengthened by the squadron being moved into barracks and equipped for overseas duty.

By this time the affairs of the squadron were moving along smoothly. Men were becoming more proficient in their work, learning the old army game, and being promoted as they deserved.

The desire and ambition of the squadron was to get across. In February, the personnel of the Squadron was changed by men being transferred to other squadrons and new men being transferred in. Lieut. Boedker was succeeded at this time by Lieut. L. H. Kronig who performed a great work in improving the squadron all around and strengthening its morale. From time to time there have been men assigned to the squadron making the total number of men assigned to date 734.

Every commanding officer has been very anxious to carry the squadron abroad and help in the conflict over there, but the personnel has been such that it was found best by the Aeronautical Directors to keep it here, owing to the efficiency and satisfactory work done. On July 22nd. the 178th Squadron was changed to Squadron "D" and made a permanent squadron on the field. Among the selections of the men from, Kelly Field. Squadron "D" took her share of the honors in sending five men to S. M. A., twelve to the Central Officers Training School and three being commissioned direct. One thing that has contributed largely to the reputation of Squadron "D" is the conferences that have been held between the commanding officer and the noncommissioned officers each week, to collect ideas of interest for the squadron and to work out a plan to best utilize the forces of the squadron in promoting the work on the field, for the one great purpose of training cadets to become aviators.

Lieut. Kronig was succeeded by Lieut. E. W. Raley, R. M. A., a man who watched after the interests of the men very closely and did all in his power to lift the standard of the Squadron. Lieut. Raley was succeeded by Lieut. L. G. Devaney who was no less a man than the former in executive and administrative ability.

The Squadron has now been in existence in the Flying Department, Kelly Field, almost one year and has done its part there. Every man has had his shoulder to the wheel at all times and has tried to discharge, to the best of his ability, whatever duty the administration of our great army has ordered. The Squadron has not been lax in the social side of army life. One end of the Mess Hall was fitted out as a Recreation Room. A piano, victrola and pool table were installed and two large floor mats were purchased for the room. Several members of the Squadron made two library tables and two settees and a number of folding chairs were purchased which completed the equipment of the room.

Following the establishment of the Recreation Room, several dances were given, which met with popular favor, and an orchestra was formed which furnished many a pleasant evening's entertainment for the members of the Squadron and their friends.

We are proud that the honor has been ours to be a member of this well recognize organization in performing the duties that have fallen to our lot, and to have had the honor to serve in Kelly Field, one of the largest and best organized Fields in the world, and to have had a chance to serve in the Army of the United States, the greatest and most efficient in existence.

USAF Unit Histories

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Sources

US Army Order of Battle 1919-1941. Steven E. Clay. Combat Studies Institute Press. US Army Combined Arms Center. Fort Leavenworth, KS. Nd.