

288th AERO SQUADRON (SERVICE)

MISSION

LINEAGE

288th Aero Squadron (Service)

STATIONS

Wilbur Wright Field, OH

Chanute Field, IL, 27 Jun 1918-15 Dec 1918

Selfdridge Field, MI

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

While Chanute prepared to resume training in the spring of 1918, the long dreaded German offensive on the Western Front began. So dire was the peril that the Allies for the first time united under a Supreme Commander, the French General Ferdinand Foch. In July 1918, the massive German fourth drive was stopped, and after three days the Allies under Marshal Foch counterattacked so

energetically that the whole aspect of the war shifted irrevocably in a two week period. After the Second Battle of the Marne, the Germans were slowly driven back. While these events were taking place in Europe, Chanute continued to receive and send out squadrons. On 21 May 1918, while the Allies reeled under the German attack, the 112th Aero Squadron arrived from Rich Field in Waco, Texas. A month later, when the United States was pouring soldiers into France, the 267th and the 26th squadrons were ordered overseas. Their place quickly was taken by the arrival on 27 June 1918 of the 287th and the 288th Aero Squadrons from Wilbur Wright Field at Dayton, Ohio. On 20 August, while the Germans fought a desperate rear guard action which cost them a half million men, Chanute sent off the men of the 288th to Selfridge Field, Mt. Clemens in Michigan.* It went from there to New York on its way to Europe.

* Sometime in late July 1918, the squadrons were given letter designations rather than numerical ones. The 38th became A; the 112th, B; the 203rd, C; the 287th, D; and the 288th, E. To avoid confusion, the numeral designation has been retained in this narrative.

Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

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