

2nd RESERVE AERO SQUADRON

LINEAGE

STATIONS

ASSIGNMENTS

WEAPON SYSTEMS

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT SERIAL NUMBERS

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT TAIL/BASE CODES

UNIT COLORS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Chief Signal Officer Brig. Gen. George O. Squier proclaimed the inclusion of the Organized Reserve Corps as being among the most important sections of the National Defense Act, and he aimed to develop it to its full potential. He sought to acquire a body of experienced technical men whom he could organize and train in peacetime for availability when needed. Since the use

of aviation seemed to be increasing in the European war and comparatively few men in the United States had aeronautical skills; Squier thought it all the more important in late 1916 that a large air reserve be trained. He intended to organize reserve aero squadrons gradually from the commissioned and enlisted reserve personnel acquired under the law.” During the war, the Signal Enlisted Reserve Corps also served as an administrative vehicle for enlisting candidates for flying training who were tested at ground schools organized at a number of large universities. The Aviation Section developed a perpetual waiting list of candidates for aviation training, and it never lacked applicants for enlistment. Pursuant to General Squier’s wishes, the War Department authorized two air reserve units near New York City and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in the early weeks of the war.

The 2d Reserve Aero Squadron was organized about 12 Jul 1917 at Chandler Field, Pennsylvania. Redesignated the 45th Aero Squadron on August 8, it moved to Gerstner Field, Louisiana, where it spent the rest of the war.” The advent of war having overtaken the requirement for a peacetime reserve, no further reserve aero squadrons were organized. That first air reserve unit at Mineola had no recruiting difficulties. This resulted in large measure from the activities of the Aero Clubs which actively supported the Preparedness Movement and furnished money to train National Guardsmen. By June 20,1916, the club had sent twenty-six officers and twelve enlisted men to aviation schools so they could volunteer for the punitive campaign being conducted by the United States against Pancho Villa in Mexico.”

Air Force Order of Battle
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Sources
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.