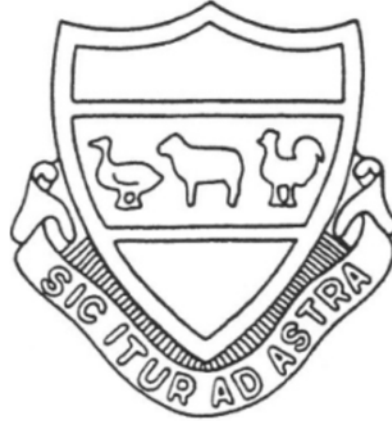


## 21<sup>st</sup> BALLOON GROUP



HQ, 21st Airship Group (1923-37)  
HQ, 21st Balloon Group (1937-39)

HQ-Brooks Field, TX, 1921-22  
Scott Field, IL, 1921-39  
Inactive 1939-41

Subordinate Squadrons: 8th Airship Company 1921-33; 9th Airship Company 1921-33; 9th Airship Squadron 1933-37; 12th Airship Company 1921-33; 16th Airship Company 1921-33; 19th Airship Squadron 1933-37; 24th Airship Service Company 1921-33; 24th Airship Service Squadron 1933-37; 24th Service Squadron 1937-39; 1st Balloon Squadron 1937-39; 2nd Balloon Squadron 1937-39; 3rd Balloon Squadron 1937-39; 8th Balloon Squadron (RAI) on 1937-39; 12th Balloon Squadron (RAI) on 1937-39; 21st Photo Section 1922-37

Constituted in the Regular Army on 13 September 1921 as 1st Balloon Group Headquarters, and assigned to the Zone of the Interior. Concurrently activated at Brooks Field, TX. Redesignated as 1st Airship Group Headquarters 3 January 1922. Transferred on 1 July 1922 to Scott Field, IL, to perform duties as support troops for the Air Service Balloon and Airship School. Redesignated as Headquarters, 21st Airship Group on 1 January 1923. Assigned to the General Headquarters Reserve 8 May 1929. Assigned to the General Headquarters Air Force 1 October 1933. Relieved from control of the General Headquarters Air Force 12 August 1936 and placed under control of the Commanding General, Sixth Corps Area. Consolidated on 20 November 1936 with Headquarters, 1st Balloon Group (a WWI unit organized on 16 October 1917 as Headquarters Company, 2nd Balloon Squadron at Fort Omaha, NE; redesignated as Headquarters Company, Balloon Group, I Army Corps 8 October 1918; demobilized in December 1918 at Colombey-les-Belles, France; reconstituted on 20 November 1936). Reorganized and redesignated as Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, 21st Balloon Group on 1 June 1937. Relieved from the Sixth Corps Area 19 February 1939 and assigned to the 3rd Wing. Inactivated 1 June 1939 at Scott Field. Location 7 December 1941—Inactive.

Commanders, 21st Airship Group 21st Balloon Group

Lt. Col. John A. Paegelow 13 Sep 21-1 Jun 33 Col. Frank M. Kennedy 3 Aug 33-1 Mar 37 Capt. Ira R. Koenig 1 Jun 33-3 Aug 33 Col. Arthur G. Fisher 1 Mar 37-1 Jun 39

## **LINEAGE**

## **STATIONS**

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

## **COMMANDERS**

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

## **Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

## **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

Airships, semirigid and nonrigid, were the center of activity at Scott Field during the 1920's. During those years, the 8th, 9th, and 12th Airship Companies, each with as many as six airships; the 21st Balloon Group Headquarters, the 24th Airship Service Company, and a balloon and airship school carried out extensive training programs, making the field one of the busiest airship ports in the country. During the early 1930's, the Air Corps gave less attention to airships than to airplanes; consequently, the once proud fleet of blimps dwindled in number year by year. In May, 1937, when the War Department ordered the Air Corps to abandon airships, only three TC-type craft remained in operation, and two of those the TC-11 and T-14 were stationed at Scott Field. The three airships were transferred to the Navy and later became the nucleus around which the antisubmarine patrols were organized in 1941. After the loss of the only airships on the base, activities at Scott Field centered around observation balloons. Only the 21st Balloon Group Headquarters and the 15th Observation Squadron, in addition to base squadrons and special detachments from ordnance, Signal Corps, finance, medical, and quartermaster departments remained on the field.

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Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

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