

145th AERO SQUADRON

LINEAGE

145th Aero Squadron (Repair) organized Oct 1917
Demobilized, Sep 1919

STATIONS

Kelly Field, TX

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

THE presence of from thirty to forty thousand men in Kelly Field during the fall and winter of 1917 and the dearth of amusement were the prime causes for the formation of the Kelly Field Band, which was an out-growth of an idea of Major P. E. VanNostrand, then Adjutant of the post.

By dint of hard work and perseverance on the part of the organizers of the squadron, not only was the band brought to full strength, but an excellent orchestra, known as the Kelly Field Symphony Orchestra, was soon formed and has since been of invaluable service as a moral builder throughout the entire Military District of San Antonio, Texas.

The need of instruments and music for the band and orchestra was met by a fund derived from a Minstrel performance given by Kelly Field and San Antonio talent, January 10-11, 1918, in San Antonio at the Grand Opera House, under the direction of Major J. M. White and Sgt. Kenneth O'Hara. Special scenery was painted by Lieut. Wm. G. Perry. Capt. Harry H. Robertson also assisted with his excellent vocal talents.

The success of the Minstrels brought forth such an array of talent that soon thereafter was formed the Kelly Field Amusement Unit under the able direction of Lieut. Jacobson. The unit assisted by the orchestra, successfully staged the well known play "Kick In," at the Majestic Theatre in San Antonio.

As the duty of the squadron was becoming more and more of a morale nature it is not strange that the Kelly Field Base Ball Team desired to be the champions of the entire Southern Department was assigned to its rolls. Then followed Kelly's premier performers of the cinder track, among whom was Pvt. Eric Larson, the world's champion high jumper, formerly of Brigham Young University, Salt Lake City, Utah; also among the famous athletes of the squadron was Chauff. Geo. L. Kelly, formerly of the New York Giants.

The following is a list of officers, each of whom has commanded this Squadron at some time since its organization; Capts. W. J. Petrick and Edwin H. Frith and Lieut. Craig—the officers longest with us and more intimately associated with the work of the organization: Capt. W. J. Petrick, Capt. Edwin H. Frith, 2nd Lieut. J. M. Gutekunst, 1st Lieut. Wayne G. Borah, 1st Lieut. I. W. Craig, 2nd Lieut. Wm. H. Smith, 2nd Lieut. Nathan K. Gallinger and the present commanding officer 2nd Lieut. Ira B. Vanocker.

The following is a list of the non-commissioned staff at the time of the organization of the squadron: Sgt. Major C. V. Small, Sgt. O. E. Allen, clerk; Sgt. Geo. W. Ehlers, 1st Sgt.; Supply Sgt. Amos B. Chapman; Mess Sgt. Mark C. Richards; Sgts Stanley B. Warren. Erie M. Poison and Geo. L. Whorton as Duty Sergeants; Sgt. E. A. Holloway, Band Leader and later succeeded by M.S.E. John Weber, and Sgt. A. Frankle as orchestra leader.

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 10 Mar 2012

Updated:

Sources