

190 AERO SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

190 Aero Squadron
Organized, Nov 1917
Demobilized, Feb 1919

STATIONS

Kelly Field, TX
Ellington Field, TX, Dec 1917
Park Place, Houston, TX, Jul 1918
City Auditorium, Houston, TX, Jan 1919

ASSIGNMENTS

WEAPON SYSTEMS

JN-4

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

No we never went across. We never were cited for bravery on a foreign battlefield. We never dropped bombs on a German city or reported enemy movements from the air. Of the war but not in it, that was us all over. We celebrated our first anniversary as an organization just about the time the last shell was fired into Germany and the Hun, as a nation, cried "kamerad".

One hundred and fifty raw recruits were herded at Kelly Field in November, 1917, and sent to Ellington, a new training field, in charge of Lieutenant L. Suckert. There we made our debut in the care and handling of "ships", and for seven months labored, fatigued and swapped overseas duty rumors.

Lieutenant Suckert was replaced by Lieutenant W. Dunn, who soon gave way to Captain W. Tilt. Soon afterward the latter was sent to Aberdeen, Md., with the 271st squadron, and Lieutenant William B. Sudlow, our supply officer, was placed in charge.

Eldridge J. Jenks had been our first "top" sergeant, but had gone (in a long furlough, and before his return O. D. Thomas was given the place. He lasted about a month and went away with Captain Tilt and the 271st. E. R. Kimball was made first sergeant in May and held down the job to the finish.

Soon after Captain Tilt left us we were selected as one of the two best squadrons at Ellington and ordered to Park Place to establish the Second Provisional Wing. Tents, innumerable tents, had to be put up—many of them hangar tents that needed twelve poles and were big enough to accommodate all the families of a New York tenement. Ditches had to be dug. We ditched and ditched. The Panama Canal must have been an easy task compared with ours.

Lieutenant Sudlow was succeeded by Lieutenant Harry L. Mc-Donough and the latter by Lieutenant William D. Prindle. Lieutenant Edward P. Howard took charge in September and remained our commanding officer until the end. Paul Marselle was our sergeant major, but for three months following the airplane accident in which Lieutenant Maxwell was killed, Marselle, his passenger, was confined to the hospital. He fully recovered. During his absence C. C. Cullen served as sergeant major.

The sending of a detachment to Port Lavaca for extended field maneuvers and the fun the boys had shooting water targets and buncombe is a separate story. So are the reports on many other camp activities in which the 190th participated. We had our fun and hardship during quarantine. We bought our share of Liberty Bonds. We boasted the champion fighter of nearby fields—Clyde Schwab—and saw him knocked out by a lucky jolt delivered by Marcey of the 191st.

At various times during our later life we had the finest and the worst mess in the army. Maybe

Joe Dufour, our mess sergeant, should have written a special article on this subject. It was discovered that we had \$1100 in our mess fund. And then how we did feed! Every meal was a feast. The \$1100 lasted only two weeks and we jumped from affluence to poverty. We had to live on breakfasts of biscuits and coffee for another week in order to get even again.

But that was life in the Air Service. Just like an airplane—we were in the clouds one minute and in the mud the next. We had good officers, and bad ones. We joyfully went to the train that was to take us East; we gloomily returned when the orders were cancelled.

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.