

# **343<sup>rd</sup> AERO SQUADRON**

## **MISSION**

## **LINEAGE**

343<sup>rd</sup> Aero Squadron organized, Aug 1918  
Demobilized, Feb 1919

## **STATIONS**

Park Place, TX

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

## **COMMANDERS**

## **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

IN July there was a certain squadron that strutted like a proud peacock in full plumage and openly admitted it was the best squadron in the Wing. But that was before the birth of the 343rd. During the latter part of that month about fifteen men, all expert wing sergeants and trouble shooters, arrived at Park Place from Gerstner Field, La. Lieutenant Colonel, then Major, Cook looked them over and decided to organize a new squadron.

Not having enough dashing officers to spare from the other two squadrons, the 190th and 191st, an S. O. S. was sent out for a leader, and Gerstner Field picked it up. Lieutenant, and later Captain, Murray Earle was recommended as a capable leader and agreed to pilot the destinies of the newT outfit.

Now it happened about this time that Pilots M. S. E. Popham, M. S. E. Rempson, Sergeants Short and Thomas, had attained such proficiency in flying and engineering at Gerstner that they were recommended for overseas duty. Therefore Lieutenant Earle brought them with him to Park Place.

As distinguished service crosses were not being issued at the Wing, Sergeant Bisailon had not been decorated for his bravery in assisting the M. P.'s in escorting young ladies across Houston's traffic congested streets. Therefore he was admitted to the 343rd and made its top sergeant.

In order to make our mess second to none, we inducted at the recommendation of Mess Sergeant Carr the following graduates of the Camp Logan Cooks and Bakers Academy: Schenert, whose ability as an egg-wrecker and compounder of savory stews explains his abnormal physique; Coggan, who established a world's record in the 191st for getting speed out of K. P. 's, and Shattuck, the pie king. Shat-tuck's only failing is that he likes his own cooking.

Stahu, another member of our squadron, became a speed demon and roused the enmity of Houston's street car motormen. He beat them, all but one that one ran him down, and Lieutenant Tierney, as his side-car passenger, enjoyed the sensation, Neither was hurt.

"Red" Seidenfaden, another of our men, established new records as a ground p flyer. He took off cross, with or against the wind, daily in dodging fatigue duties.

In our dizzy circle we also boasted Ernest (Kid) Wendt, formerly chief jester at the officers' mess, and needless to say, we "had music with our meals."

When demobilization time came, the 343rd had 38 men on its roster, and stoutly regulation size.

In everything we held up our end. We had a lot of fun and a lot more hard work, but we believe that at all times seen our duty and done it noble.

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Air Force Order of Battle  
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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.