

1104 AERO SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

1104 Aero Squadron organized, May 1918
Demobilized, Jul 1919

STATIONS

AEF
Roosevelt Field, NY

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 1104th Aero Replacement Squadron was organized May 22nd at the Third Aviation Instruction Center, Issoudun, Indre, France, the authorization being an endorsement approving the request for the organization of a replacement squadron at this Center. This request was contained in a letter from the Chief of the Air Service to the

Commanding General, Service of Supply, dated April 24th, 1918. The records were at first kept in the Personnel Office, 1st Lieut. A.M. Drake, the Personnel Officer, who was later appointed captain, in command. The men who were transferred or attached to the organization were quartered and rationed by other squadron on the Post.

On July 26, 1918, Capt. R.S. Noggle, J.M.A., was appointed C.O., relieving Lieut. Drake. The following day 1st Lieut. O.P. Embleton A.S. was assigned as adjutant, and all the available men belonging to the squadron were assembled and quartered in Barracks #10. The enlisted men necessary to form the squadron administrative force were transferred from other organizations on the Post. As Capt. Reggie was CO and Lieut. Embleton Adj. of the Service Division, the Div. Hdq. was located in the Orderly Room of the 1104th, until the Div. was abolished.

The squadron accommodated all incoming enlisted men, singly or in groups, when reporting to this post, if definite arrangements had not been made for them previous to their arrival. Furthermore all organizations on arrival were messed at the 1104th, until they could prepare mess halls to take care of themselves. This was a difficult task to perform, all the more so because of the fact that the troops arrived almost invariably in the small hours of the morning, but it was cheerfully undertaken nevertheless, and no man went hungry to bed.

The paperwork has been even more trying than the mess. All men absent and on detached service from other organizations on the Post were transferred in to the 1104th. And all men on detached service from other Posts were attached when reverting here for duty. This included the enlisted flyers whom were sent here to take the course of instruction. In fact nearly all men in the military service who were on duty at the 3rd A.I.C., and who were without a regular organization, were attached in some way or another to the 1104th. This made necessary so many changes on the Morning Report, that the Sergeant Major was engaged in a constant struggle to keep an accurate account of the men.

Other officers not already mentioned are noted below in the order of their assignment or attachment. On Aug. 6th, 1st Lieut. J. B. Doles was attached together with the Engineer Det engaged in the operation of the Issoudun Branch Railroad, Lieut. Doles being an Engineer officer and C.O. of the Det. Aug. 20th, 2nd Lieuts. F. E. Cooney, P. E. Myers, E. K. Reese, E. M. Riggs, L. D. Seymour, and A. E. Windle all of the Air Service, were assigned but detailed for duty to other departments on the Post. Of these officers Lieut. Windle was transferred to St. Maixent Sept. 12th, Lieuts. Reese and Seymour were transferred to the same place three days later; Lieut. Meyers was transferred to Colombey Les Belles Sept. 17th, and three days later Lieut. Cooney was transferred to the same place. Lieut. Riggs was transferred Nov. 6th, to the 33rd A.S. which was located on Field 9 where he had been doing splendid work ever since he had arrived at this Center, having been appointed A.E.O. of the Field.

Sept. 9th, 2nd Lieuts. R. V. Underwood and J. E. Gee were assigned, the former being

detailed for duty to the Construction Dept., the latter to the Maintenance Dept. While at this Post he made an exhaustive study of the fire risk conditions, the results of which were bodied in a detailed report to Headquarters. On Oct 15th he was transferred to St. Maixent. Lieut. Underwood while he was with this squadron made every effort to be placed on the flying list, finally having an operation performed to accomplish this end. His perseverance was awarded and has transferred to St. Maixent Nov. 10th, to take a course of instruction Aerial observation.

2nd Lieut. D. E. Thompson, Ord. Corps, was attached Sep. 6th and detailed for duty to the Aero Supply as Ordnance Officer, Post. He was relieved from this position and detached from the squadron six days later, going to tho Ammunition Dump at Chenevier where he is made adjutant.

1st Lieut. P.H. Graham, formerly C.O. of the 101st A.S. was assigned on Sep 10th, and detailed as Supply Officer, of the squadron and mess officer of the Service Division A Short time afterward he was relieved from these duties and transferred as adjutant of the 26th A.S.

On Oct 3rd Capt. H. S. Curry was placed in command, Lieut, Embleton again becoming

14. On Nov. 8th, the squadron CO was appointed Major. This promotion was due to his excellent work as maintenance Officer, Fire Marshall, Prison Officer and several other positions he had held previously. At one time he held so many offices that it we almost impossible to obtain an interview with him. He was a man of unlimited energy, with Great ability as an executive and no detail too small enough to be passed over. A large part of the credit to his success should be given to his consideration to those who worked under him and to all with whom he was associated. Immediately after his promotion he was assigned as CO of the HQ Det, and brought about the splendid results which were expected of him, making the Det., in spite of the difficulties which he had to contend with, on of the most efficient departments on the Post, it being already one of the most important. Lieut. Embleton was again appointed CO of the 1104th, vice Maj. Curry, relieved. On Oct. 8th, Capt. A. C. Simonin was transferred to squadron. He was Officer in charge of training, so he was transferred to the Hqs Det thirteen days later.

This squadron being a replacement Squadron there was no change of station. The paper work at times threatened to engulf the office force which was smaller than that of most ordinary squadrons. This was due to the constantly shifting personnel. Each month there were from fifty to one hundred organizations represented on the payroll. One bad feature was the tremendous effort necessary to put but things in shape for the weekly inspections. Just about the time a man was properly drilled in the matter of laying out his equipment, he was transferred out and the same thing had to be gone over again with the man who took his place. IN November the number of men connected with the squadron became so large it was necessary to use two sets of barracks and two mess halls to accommodate them. The prisoners who were confined in the post guard house being messed at one of the mess halls.

The Squadron personnel is preparing to handle an even larger number of men as organizations of this post moving out to ports of Embarkation will be compelled to leave behind men on special duty, and sick in the hospital and all these will be attached to the 1104th. We are already resigned to the fact that we shall probably be the last organization to leave the post, homeward bound.

Air Force Unit Histories

Created: 2 Dec 2020

Updated:

Sources

US Army Order of Battle 1919-1941. Steven E. Clay. Combat Studies Institute Press. US Army Combined Arms Center. Fort Leavenworth, KS. Nd.