

158 AERO SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

158 Aero Squadron
Organized, Dec 1917
Demobilized, Mar 1919

STATIONS

Kelly Field, TX
Gerstner Field, LA, Dec 1917
Garden City, NY, Jan 1918
Port of Embarkation, Hoboken, NY, Jan 1918
AEF, Jan 1918
Garden City, NY

ASSIGNMENTS

WEAPON SYSTEMS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Gerstner Field suffered two incidents of massive destruction in its history. The first occurred on February 5, 1918 when a German submarine sunk the *Tuscania*, a British troopship, off the coast of Ireland. Because the ship was traveling in a convoy, 91 percent of its passengers were rescued. Nevertheless, 166 American servicemen drowned in the attack, becoming the first Americans to be killed during passage to Europe. Among the dead were about twenty-seven men of the 158th Aero Squadron. They had trained at Gerstner Field and had left the base less than four weeks before.

158 Aero Squadron

Type: Service (Day Bombardment)

Service Period: February 6 to August 25, 1918

Locations: Beverley, Catterick, Cramlington, Manston, Scampton, Waddington

The 158th Aero Squadron was on the SS *Tuscania* when it was sunk. Divided into flights on August 16 but reassembled at Flower Down Camp on August 25 and shipped to France on September 4.

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.