

303rd TECHNICAL SCHOOL SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

303rd School Squadron

Activated, 13 May 1941

Redesignated 303rd Technical School Squadron

STATIONS

Scott Field, IL

Keesler, MS, 8 Aug 1941

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Cpt Raymond L. Wheeler

Lt Norman K. Reinhard, 6 Aug 1941

Cpt Russel O. Hoaster, 19 Nov 1941

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Hut City—there were actually two of them: one near Gate 1 and the other on the east side of Gate 3—was an interim step to provide shelter for trainees. The structures were originally one story tarpaper storage sheds. They were converted into makeshift barracks when the completed warehouse buildings finally provided storage space for the quartermaster supplies. The huts were poorly ventilated, with swing-out windows and floors that flooded during the sudden torrential downpours, but they were used by a number of troops until the barracks were ready for occupancy.

The welcome exodus of recruits from Hut City and Tent City to permanent wooden barracks began in September. Shortly after Labor Day, with only one-quarter of the barracks buildings ready for occupancy, the first school squadrons—301st, 303rd, and 304th—moved their personnel into the new quarters. After the men swept out the pine shavings and wood chips and scraped the stickers from the window glass, their first comment was, "Now let it rain."

The two-story open bay structures, capable of housing 63 men on each floor in a double bunk arrangement, were crude and rustic by today's standards. An open latrine on each floor offered no privacy and facilities were basic. Insulation was unknown in the unfinished interiors. There was no forced air for comfort in the warm, humid climate, and air conditioning was unheard of. There were advantages, nevertheless, over the tents in the Naval Reserve Park. The men no longer had to dig trenches around their pup tents to drain away the late-summer rains. The barracks were dry, and the gas fired heaters kept the men warm and dry during the short, but damp, winter season. Also, screened windows reduced the discomfort from mosquitoes.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.