

659 REPAIR SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

233 Aero Squadron Organized, Dec 1917
Redesignated 659 Aero Squadron (Supply), Feb 1918
Demobilized, Jul 1919

659 Repair Squadron Constituted in the Organized Reserve, 1 Oct 1933

659 Aero Squadron (Supply) reconstituted and consolidated with 659 Repair Squadron, 4 Dec 1936. Consolidated organization designated 659 Repair Squadron.

Disbanded, 31 May 1942

STATIONS

Kelly Field, TX
Garden City, NY, Feb 1918
Port of Embarkation, Hoboken, NY, Mar 1918
AEF, Mar 1918
Mitchel Field, NY

ASSIGNMENTS

520 Air Depot

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 659th Aero Supply Squadron, was originally organized as the 253rd Aare Squadron at Kelly Field #1, South an Antonio, Texas on December 22nd, 1917. Lt. McLaughlin was placed in charge of the Organization, and on December 24th, 1917, Second Lt. Gardiner Coogan was designated as Commanding Officer.

The Squadron personnel having just come from the recruit lines, were gsing through their trade testa and attending the Technical classes that were being opened. Or January 14th, 1918, let Lt. Mitchell Wilby, A.S., Sig., R.C. was assigned to take command of the Squadron, 2nd Lt. Charles D. Baker, Jr., A.S.Sic., R.C., 2nd Lt. John C. Beaty, A.S. Sig., R.C., and 2nd Lt. John R. Utak, A.S. Sig., B.C. were also assigned on the same order. Lt. Wilby designated Lt. Beaty as squadron Adjutant, Lt. Baker as Supply Officer, and Lt. Mick was given charge of the Mess, Calisthenics, and drill of the men. The next day on January 15th, the Squadron wee ordered to move from Line 26, Kelly Field, #1 to Line 100, Kelly Field #3, which was knewrals the Quarantine Camp, for leolatioe and Quarantine preparatory for orders Oversees.

The date eat for leaving Kelly Field, was January 28th, 1918, but owing to a contagious case breaking out, the Squadron was held at Kelly Field until February 7th, 1918, when they received orders to report to the Commanding Officer, Aeronautical General Supply Depot, and Concentration Camp, Garden City, L. I., N. Y. At the time of departure at Kelly Field, let Lt. Charles H. Howell, M. R. C., and four medical enlisted men, were assigned to the Squadron, bringing the total strength to Three Officers and One Hundred and Fifty Four enlisted men. Lt. Beaty. and Lt. Utak, were detached from the Squadrons and left at Kelly Field.

On February 11th, 1918 the squadron arrived at Garden City, L.I., N.Y., and there received orders to leave for Overseas on February loh, 1916, but on February 16th, a came of Scarlet ever developed, which took the Camp Squadron oft the sailing list, and placed in quarantine.

The Commanding Officer of the designated the Squadron to be held indefinitely for duty there. On the afternoon of March 18th, 1918, the Squadron wee notified, that it would he required to leave for Overseas duty on March 20th, 1918. At 6 A.M. on that day the Squadron left Garden. City, for Hoboken, N.J., and upon arrival there, kid boarded the Steamship "Antigone".

The "Antigone" sailed with a convoy of some half dozen other Transports on the afternoon of March 22nd, and the next day the "Antigone" broke down a short distance out of New York Barber, and was forced to "put back" to Hoboken.

The troops and the equipment necessary for a short stay on shore were unloaded on Sunday March 24th, and the troops were ordered to Camp Dix, N.J., where they reported at about Noon. The Squadron stayed at Camp Dix, until Thursday evening March 28th, when it left with the other troops sent there at the same time, for the Port of Embarkation and reported again for transportation overseas on the morning of March 29th. At about 10 A.M., the Squadron again boarded the steamship "Antigone".

During the four days spent at Camp Dix, the members of the Squadron participated in Calisthenics and drill in the morning, and the afternoons devoted to various Athletics Games and Sports. The voyage across to France began for the second time on the evening of March 30th, and was completed on the evening of April 13th, upon arrival at St. Nazaire. The Squadron marched from the Port of Debarkation to Cantonment #1, Base Section W1, reporting to the Commanding Officer of the Depot. On Monday April 14th, orders were received for the Squadron to report for duty and station at the First Air Depot, Zone of Advance. On Thursday April 18th, the Squadron left Cantonment #1, Base, Section #1, and on Sunday Morning April 21st, the Squadron arrived at Sariseyelaecote, from where they marched to the First Air Depot, Zone of Advance, reporting to the Commanding Officer.

The work of the Squadron during the last seven months has been in every department on the field. We have worked in the Supply Department, Headquarters, repairing Planes, and many Chauffeurs, Motor-Cycle Drivers were sent on Detached levies, to work during the important drives that were being made by the Allies on the West at this Depot, the Boehe Planes flew over numerous times, but seemed unable to locate their Objective. However, on various occasions the enemy dropped their Bombs on the field, and in the immediate vicinity. without doing any material damage.

The records show that the discipline of the Squadron has been good, and that the appointments, and promotions of the N. C. Ole, were carefully made, after receiving the recommendations from the Officers in Charge of their various departments. Three Corporals and One Private First Class, is the total number of reductions in rank, and up to the present time, there have been only two cases in the Squadron of confinement in the Guard House. On May 9th, Lt. Charles D. Baker, Jr., who had come over with the Squadron as Supply Officer, was transferred out, and placed on permanent duty here with the Supply Department, and Lt. Glen Peterson, Officer in Charge of the Hardware and Miscellaneous at the Supply Department, was assigned to the Squadron on June 25th, 1918.

On July 9th, Captain Clifton L. Brod, A.G.S.C. was assigned to the Squadron as Commanding Officer, until about August 9th, when he was transferred out, and Lt. Wilby resumed command. On Sunday evening 8th, under orders from General Sample, Lt. Wilby was ordered to report to H.Q., Advance Section, S.O.S., for temporary duty, and Lt. Peterson has taken command of the Squadron.

659th Repair Squadron Constituted in the Organized Reserve 1 October 1933, assigned to the 520th Air Depot, and allotted to the Sixth Corps Area. Chicago, IL, designated as headquarters on organization, but the unit was never organized at that location. Consolidated on 4 December 1936 with the 659th Aero Squadron (Supply) (a WWI unit organized in December 1917 as the 233rd Aero Squadron (Supply) at Kelly Field, TX; redesignated as the 659th Aero Squadron (Supply) February 1918; demobilized in July 1919 at Mitchel Field, NY; reconstituted on 4 December 1936). Disbanded 31 May 42.

Air Force Lineage and Honors

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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.