

1102 AERO REPLACEMENT SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

1102 Aero Squadron

Organized, May 1918

Demobilized, Mar 1919

STATIONS

AEF

Camp Lee, VA

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Unlike the rest of the Air Service organizations, the 1102nd Aero Replacement Squadron found its origin in the A.E.F.

Up to this time, casualties arriving at his post from hospitals etc, were, as a rule, attached to the headquarters squadron until such time as was found expedient to forward them to their respective units, but as the members were gradually increasing and large drafts of unassigned men were unexpected overseas it was found necessary to institute an organization whose sole object would be the handling of these men

Therefore, the 1102nd Aero Replacement Squadron came into being on 12 May 1918. Its first quarters were at Coiffe Barracks under the command of no less a personage than Captain Robert E. Bell, who was formally commanding officer of Canclaux Barracks, and started with a personnel of about 40 men about six of whom were actually transferred to the 1102nd before the organization was generally known, others were casualties quartered at Canclaux Barracks who were attached to the new organization for return to their units

It was foreseen that, inasmuch as the 1102d was to handle large replacement drafts and all casualties arriving at the Post, a system must be inaugurated whereby large drafts of men could be efficiently received and dispatched in the shortest possible time. This was soon accomplished by the inauguration of a card system, whereby a record of every man passing through the organization is kept on file.

Captain Bell was relieved as Commanding Officer, on May 16 1918, and Captain C.J. Ryan, assumed command and was relieved May 23rd, 1918. Major J.R. Peyton was then announced as Commanding Officer and was relieved May 31st, 1918. Then followed Captain Edward K. Jones, who was relieved a day after his assignment. Captain Boyd F. Briggs, was next announced on June 5th, 1918, and remained in command until July 11th, 1918 when he was succeeded by 1st Lieut. Thomas E. Brady. He was an ardent worker and took an active interest in the affairs of the organization. It was he who personally selected those who were to carry on the work of the organization and help him make it the most efficient of this kind, and in consequence made a number of noncommissioned officers, as the majority of the permanent personnel up to that time were privates. [sic]

The office personnel of the Squadron is a very efficient one under the leadership of an excellent Sergeant Major. They are all experts in squadron paperwork and know Service Records thoroughly. Let it be mentioned that the 1102d spares no time nor pains to make sure a Service Record is in first class condition before it is forwarded to an organization.

All entries are verified before a Service Record is accepted, as far as practical but in cases of large drafts of men, the Service Records are often in poor condition, many with omissions and irregular entries which are all corrected by the 1102d Squadron, before being forwarded with the man.

When the Kelly Field June Replacement Draft, consisting of eight hundred and fifty men were assigned to this squadron, every Service Record had to be checked and Reports of Assignments executed. However this was done and also two hundred and fifty transferred that same day. When the task of indorsing two hundred and fifty Service Record in one day, is considered, along with the careful checking of eight hundred and fifty records, some idea can be gotten of what the 1102d Squadron has to do.

The Squadron is fortunate in having an excellent non-commissioned personnel for handling and equipping large numbers of men. The work of the Supply Department, has increased greatly, necessitating the carrying of an extra large stock of clothing and equipment.

Every man is completely equipped before being transferred, and in the case of men destined to the front, care is taken to see that they are supplied with steel helmets and gas masks.

The messing facilities of the Squadron are excellent, under the direction of a long experienced Mess Sergeant, anywhere from one hundred to eight hundred men can be messed systematically from three kitchens.

The First Sergeant and Duty Sergeant, are well experienced in handling men and have developed a high degree of efficiency that work. Practically all the fatigue and other details are furnished by this Squadron, for the entire post.

The work of the Squadron so greatly increased that more space was required to properly handle the men, so about September 1st, 1918, the Squadron moved to Presbytere Barracks, which it now entirely occupies.

On October 1st, 1918, Lt. Brady, was relieved as Commanding Officer and 1st Lt Ross G. Scruggs, was announced who at present writing commands the 1102d Squadron.

Since its organization this Squadron has handled over seven thousand enlistee men and has had in all about forty officers attached.

Although the work of the 1102nd Squadron has not been of a spectacular nature, the Squadron has, however proven itself to be an efficient behind the lines organization and in which its members take great pride.

Air Force 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.