

**A HISTORY OF THE 17TH
AERO SQUADRON,
DECEMBER 1918**

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A history of the 17th aero squadron, December 1918 by Frederick Mortimer Clapp

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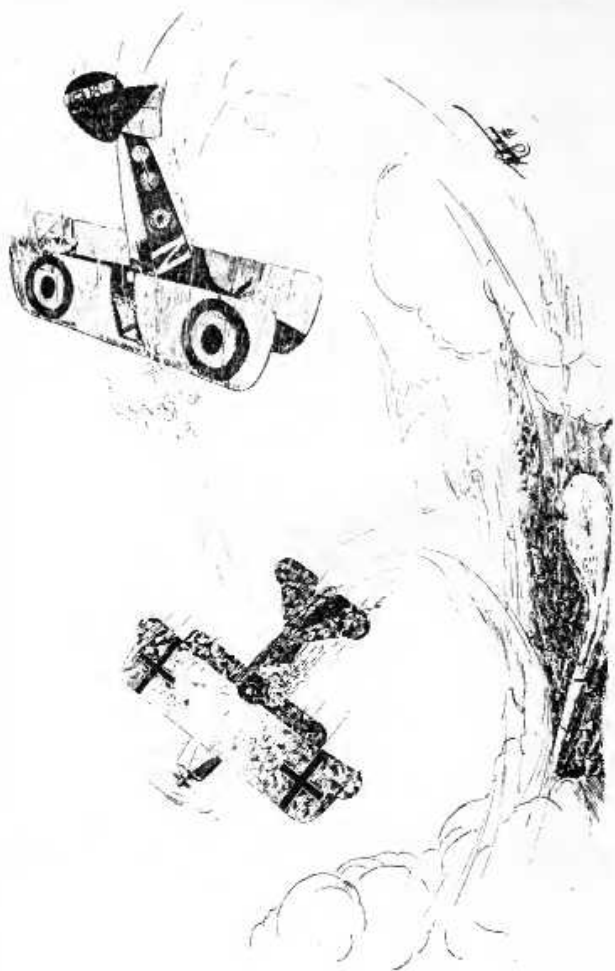
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FREDERICK MORTIMER CLAPP

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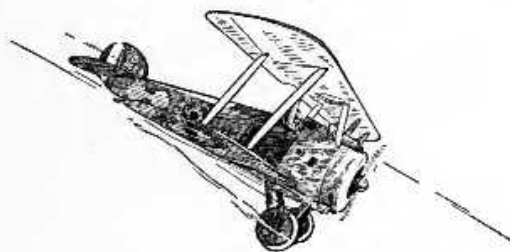
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LIVELY OR
LIVELY



Our first Hun

A HISTORY
of the
17th AERO SQUADRON

Clapp, Frederick Mortimer



Nil actum reputans si quid superesset agendum

December 1918

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

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UNIVERSITY OF
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CONQUERORS

*Tribute? But what tribute to them can there be,
Now it is finished, now they are finished, and we
Have only now mere thoughts that stumble through mere words to give
While, having had like us their lives to live,
They, in their self-effacing enterprise,
Over Flanders and its chill seas mist-hung,
Or over France, through hostile wind-swept skies—
They sought the fateful bullet made for them,
Their bullet destined how no man can tell
And seeking it, fearless, found it and so fell
Dead, but not conquered, out of the fight not won
Yet, and yet less bitter for their skill,
For their undying daring, less hard to win;
And so they measured finally their fears
And all the mortal dangers of their days
And made their high fate clean of all decays,
Supreme as was their readiness
And as their victory over self supreme.
Tribute of words? How poor to them would seem
Words, even words of deepest understanding
And how distasteful to them any tears!*

*Still, lest in reading after futile years
These pages along which their going has sown
The only glory this our tale can have—
Lest we should say, vanquished by life all unaware,
Trapped in mere living's pitfalls
Or basely by our very days undone,
Theirs was the only way and theirs the only peace. . . .*

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CONQUERORS

*Not then for their sake, but for our own,
Here are their names and dates,
Set like a gateway over the days and ways
In which they left us, passing on to where
No chance dark finger of a meaner hour
Can lay its sully on their memory now.*

*A gateway of their names—what tribute can there be
To them who gave Life life to make it free
Other than this or worthier or more proud?
Save this alone perhaps, if fate allow,
That, for their sake and for our own sake, we
Forget not, as their clear eyes saw, to see
Steadfastly their victory victoriously
In ways that they would not condemn.
What more? What more could be?
There is no other tribute we can pay to them!*

Flying Officers Killed in Action

1st Lieut. George P. Glenn	July 20, 1918
1st Lieut. Murray K. Spidle	August 4, 1918
1st Lieut. Ralph D. Gracie	August 12, 1918
1st Lieut. Lyman E. Case	August 14, 1918
2nd Lieut. William H. Shearman	August 14, 1918
1st Lieut. Merton L. Campbell	August 23, 1918
1st Lieut. Lloyd A. Hamilton	August 24, 1918
1st Lieut. Lawrence Roberts	August 26, 1918
2nd Lieut. Howard P. Bittinger	August 26, 1918
2nd Lieut. Harry H. Jackson, Jr.	August 26, 1918
2nd Lieut. Gerald P. Thomas	September 22, 1918
1st Lieut. Harold G. Shoemaker	October 6, 1918
1st Lieut. Glenn D. Wicks	October 6, 1918

