

THE HISTORY OF THE 50TH AERO SQUADRON

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The History of the 50th Aero Squadron by Daniel P. Morse

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DANIEL P. MORSE

**THE HISTORY OF
THE 50TH AERO
SQUADRON**

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By DANIEL F. MORSE, JR.
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"With Best Regards" your old C. O.

**The History of the
50th Aero Squadron**

BEING the log and operations of the Squadron while with the American Expeditionary Force in France, 1918-19, with other sundry items of interest to former members of the Squadron and personal recollections by the author

H 826.350.5



The Author

Dedication

To Our Comrades who have made the great sacrifice this volume is respectfully dedicated.

In Memoriam

Bellows, Franklin B.

Bleckley, Erwin R.

DeCamp, Floyd

Dodge, Gordon

Dryden, Ralph

Eppert, George E.

Gardiner, Edward H.

Goettler, Harold E.

Hoisholt, A. K. B.

Kleinhenz, Harry K.

Phillips, George R.

Stevens, Henry L.

Upton, Charles H.

Waples, Ray M.

Wilder, John R.

Young, David R.

INTRODUCTION

TO keep alive the pleasant memories of our days in O.D., and to hold and strengthen the ties of friendship formed between the members of the 50th Aero Squadron, after they have been demobilized and have again become plain citizens of the United States of America, this small volume has been printed.

The facts set forth herein, though few they be, represent the dreams and achievements of the squadron from the C.O. down to the last buck private; and in the years to come, when we have all attained to the dignity of Colonels and are inclined to "give her the gun" and "zoom her" a bit when relating our experiences of the great war, they may help us to remember why "Bill Smith" was such a "good old scout," and the occasion on which "Sam Jones" won his D.S.C.

This little volume is sent to you by your former commanding officer with the hope that in future days it will recall the friendships made and good times found while in the 50th Squadron in France—in spite of the hard times we all went through in the great European War. Although none of us who came through it successfully would choose to go through it again, it is something we are glad we have not missed.

It has been written solely for the men of the squadron, and only 350 copies printed. Each volume is numbered and fully copyrighted and therefore is not for outside publication. This has been done in order to make the book very valuable to you and something which you will keep for your lifetime.

If it had been meant for a commercial publication, an entirely different plan in writing it would have been used, so I ask you to respect this wish and keep it a book solely for "us."

Much credit is due "Bill" Frayne for his help in writing the log and operations, as much of his composition has been included without change. Also to "Bullets" Wessman for his work in binding the book.

DANIEL P. MORSE, JR.

New York City, January, 1920.

The number of this volume is 319.

CALENDAR

- Aug. 6, 1917. Organized at Kelly Field No. 1, San Antonio, Texas.
- Sept. 12, 1917. Moved to Kelly Field No. 2, San Antonio, Texas.
- Nov. 10, 1917. Moved to Kelly Field No. 1, San Antonio, Texas.
- Dec. 28, 1917. Entrained for Garden City, N.Y.
- Jan. 3, 1918. Arrived at Garden City, N.Y.
- Jan. 9, 1918. Sailed on H.M.S. *Carmania* for overseas duty.
- Jan. 23, 1918. Landed at Liverpool, England.
- Jan. 24, 1918. Arrived at American Rest Camp, Romsey, England.
- Feb. 4, 1918. Moved to Harlaxton, Grantham, England.
- Feb. 4 to July 3, 1918. Attached to Royal Air Force for training.
- July 3, 1918. Moved to Flower Down, England.
- July 13, 1918. Embarked at Southampton for France on S.S. *St. George*.
- July 14, 1918. Arrived at Le Havre, France.
- July 15, 1918. Left Le Havre for St. Maxient.
- July 17, 1918. Arrived at St. Maxient.
- July 23, 1918. Entrained for Gondrecourt.
- July 27, 1918. Arrived at Gondrecourt. Reported to 1st Corps Aerial Observers' School, Amanty.
- Aug. 3, 1918. Received first Liberty plane.
- Aug. 20, 1918. First Liberty crash.
- Aug. 22, 1918. First fatal casualty.
- Sept. 4, 1918. Moved to Behonne (near Bar-le-Duc).
- Sept. 7, 1918. Moved to Bicquely (near Toul).
- Sept. 12, 1918. St. Mihiel drive started. First operations over the lines. One machine lost in action.
- Sept. 23, 1918. Moved to Remicourt.
- Sept. 26, 1918. Argonne drive started.
- Oct. 7, 1918. Found the Lost Battalion of the 77th Division in the Argonne.
- Oct. 28, 1918. Moved to Clermont-en-Argonne.
- Nov. 6, 1918. Last mission over the lines.
- Nov. 11, 1918. Armistice signed.
- Dec. 6, 1918. "A" Flight moved to Langres.
- Dec. 12, 1918. "C" Flight moved to La Valbonne (near Lyon).
- Dec. 15, 1918. "B" Flight moved to Clamecy.
- Jan. 20, 1919. "A" Flight moved to Clamecy.
- Jan. 21, 1919. "C" Flight moved to Clamecy.
- April 19, 1919. Entrained at Clamecy for Marseilles.
- April 20, 1919. Arrived at Marseilles.
- April 22, 1919. Embarked on S.S. *Caserta* for New York.
- May 8, 1919. Arrived in New York.
- May 31, 1919. Demobilization completed.