

153 AERO SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

153 Aero Squadron
Organized, Dec 1917

STATIONS

Kelly Field, TX
Chanute Field, IL, 19 Dec 1917-18 Jan 1918
Garden City, NY, Jan 1918
Port of Embarkation, Hoboken, Jan 1918
AEF, Jan 1918
Garden City, NY

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

In December, the 152d, 153d, 173d, and 174th Squadrons reported from Kelly Field, Texas, to fill vacancies in shops, hangars, and classrooms. Classes were conducted daily in every branch of aviation related to the maintenance and repair of airplanes, including specialized training for mechanics, carpenters, riggers, and hangar men.

Between December 15 and April 1, flying ceased at Chanute Field, and all instructors and students were transferred to southern camps to continue training during the winter months. Instruction of ground crews and administrative personnel from various aero squadrons continued as before. The training planes, though unused, were serviced and maintained by student mechanics, riggers, and electricians just as they had been during the busy flying season.

Shortly after Christmas, the War Department ordered the 153rd Aero Squadron overseas.

In mid-January 1918 the squadron was also ordered overseas, but before the squadron could leave Chanute, two winter storms paralyzed the area.

The one that hit on 11 January 1918 was the worst blizzard in 22 years with temperatures plummeting to -24 degrees and winds reaching 60 miles per hour. This storm delayed the departure of the 153rd until the evening of 18 January when the 152 men, officers, and members of the medical corps attached to the squadron left Rantoul by special train.

Service Period: February 28 to August 30, 1918

Locations: Dover, Hounslow, Northolt, Thetford, Wye

From July 20 to August 18, D Flight (Transportation) was on temporary duty in the area around Dunkirk, France. On September 13, the squadron moved to France from Flower Down Camp.

USAF 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.