

# 675 AERO SQUADRON

## MISSION

## LINEAGE

337 Aero Squadron organized, Dec 1917  
Redesignated 675 Aero Squadron (Supply), Feb 1918  
Demobilized, Apr 1919

## STATIONS

Kelly Field, TX  
Aviation Gen Sup Dep, San Antonio, TX, Jan 1918

## ASSIGNMENTS

## COMMANDERS

## HONORS

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

## EMBLEM

## MOTTO

## NICKNAME

## OPERATIONS

ONE of the busiest organizations at Kelly Field is the 675th Aero Supply Squadron, of the Aviation General Supply Depot. For more than twelve months the members of this squadron have worked incessantly in the big warehouse located on the Frio City road, handling in that time vast quantities of

aero supplies with an aggregate value of millions of dollars.

This squadron was first designated as the 337th, but was, on February 1, 1918, changed to the 675th for reasons best known to those in authority. Line thirty-one of the Recruit Camp in Kelly Field No. 1, was selected as the point of organization; the first men chosen as its members being sent there for duty during the first days of December, 1917. Unlike the other squadrons which were formed on the field, each man was personally examined by the officers in command of the organization before being assigned for duty, special emphasis being placed upon the man's fitness and ability. Consequently when the organization was completed the officers knew which men were best qualified for the various duties that were to be filled in the operation of the Supply Depot.

It was during the time that Kelly Field was at its best that this squadron was organized. That is, when the largest number of men were in the field. Then it was that every one was a rookie and with a few exceptions all, at that time, were getting their first taste of army life. Those were the days when sandstorms and "northers" predominated in Kelly Field. Mess halls, bathhouses and other buildings of shelter and comfort were as unknown as the regular meal was to the swarming multitude of rookies, who at that time constituted Kelly's enlisted personnel. The Field was in the making and the 675th Squadron was one of the products of those never-to-be-forgotten days.

Following the organization of the squadron, Line 31 was vacated and temporary quarters were made in the huge warehouse of the Supply Depot where the men were to work. At that time, there was very little work to be done, as the handling of the aero supplies proper had not begun. The men had it very easy for a spell, bunk fatigue being their main occupation. But they were rudely awakened from their dreams and ere many days had passed, supplies began to arrive from all points of the country. Some were for storage and some were for Distribution to aviation fields not alone here but overseas. It was not an easy matter to develop expert "Gold Brickers" into real plebeian laborers, but it was done. The men left their bunks of ease (with many a stretch and groan) and turned to their important work with alacrity. As days melted into weeks and weeks melted into months the work continued to increase and to the extent that the old adage of "Eight hours for work, eight hours for play and eight hours for sleep," was overruled and forgotten. At such times the elite office force vied with the hard boiled K. P's. for honors as jugglers of lumber, airplanes and "everything." The surroundings were exceptionally good, however, and the men carried on.

The inrush of merchandise was such that the space occupied by the men in the warehouse had to be sacrificed and they were installed in tents located within a few yards of the west wing. Shortly afterwards the tents were abandoned and the men were installed in permanent barracks.

Then there came a time when the desire to go overseas was felt. Men were needed badly, of course, and the members of the 675th considered it their duty to go. They tried; but in vain. They were told that they would do their fighting in Kelly Field and that transfers were not to be thought of. "Men in Kelly Field are allowed to transfer," they argued. "And so they are," replied the commanding officer, "but the 675th is not under the jurisdiction of Kelly Field and you are in a class by yourselves." Later, when the Germans launched their big offensive and the indications were that every available organization in the United States would be needed to stem the tide, many wild reports originated)

and circulated in the outfit as to when the 675th Squadron would be a part of the American Expeditionary Forces, Each and every rumor was declared to be "official," but each and every one went the way of the usual camp report, and like the Castle in Spain ;t would vanish with the rose-tinted morning mist. But he reports continued to come, and finally, when it was o:'icially announced that the squadron would be given instruction in gas defense, the wise ones declared eloquently .tad positively that it meant nothing more or less than service in foreign lands. The gas drill was completed in cue time and many of the men made their last will and testament in preparation for their trip across. When arrangements had been fully made, the news broke, telling •:i Germany's desire for peace, and the hopes of the men in tie 675th died to give place to thrills which the signing :t the armistice brought.

A considerable number of the enlisted men of the fcuadron were sent to the various training camps for cttlcers. It is doubtful if any other squadron in Kelly Field equals the record made by the men chosen to attend ttese camps,

Lieut. John C. Dewey, Jr., was the first Commanding Oft'icer of the Squadron. This officer together with Lieut. William P. Bates, who was transferred to the Aviation General Supply Depot at Houston, Texas, organized the s-iuadron.

At the present time Lieut. J. W. Dean, who comes from 7;ome. Ga., is guiding the squadron's destiny. Lieut. Dean enlisted at Memphis, Tenn., was sent to S. M. A., Atlanta, Ga.. was assigned to duty at Kelly Field on May 17, 1918, and Squadron A. Kelly No. 2 soon after and later transferred to the A. G. S. D. and the 675th Aero Squadron which command he now holds.

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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.