

2nd DAY BOMBARDMENT GROUP

LINEAGE

2nd Day Bombardment Group organized, 1 Jul 1918

STATIONS

Ourches Aerodrome, France, 1–11 Nov 1918

ASSIGNMENTS

Air Service, United States Second Army

WEAPON SYSTEMS

COMMANDERS

Maj George A. Reinburg

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The Second Day Bombardment Group is the only missile-throwing outfit of the Second Army. It came into being November 5th, 1918, under command of Major George A. Reinburg, and "toot

sweet" set up shop on hill No. 291 near Ourches-sur-Meuse. As originally formed, it was composed of the 100th and the 163rd Aero Squadrons, both of which were flying units equipped with de Havilland planes, Bessonneaux hangars to house them, American fighting gasoline to make the Liberty motors "mote", Liberty oil to lubricate the motors and to start the morning fires in the barracks stove, and American mechanics, trained on English machines, to do the manicuring of the ships. The happy family was later increased by the addition of the 73rd Park Squadron, which operated the three-ton limousines and Ford dog-chasers and furnished innumerable thrills to those who were reckless enough to ride with the "dare-devil side-car racing-drivers."

During the last days of the war, the Group was ready to operate, but old King Jupe Pluvius, or whoever it is that has charge of clouds and fogs, was pro-Boche and kept the sky overcast, so that formation-flying was out of the question. The 163rd Squadron sent two reconnoitering patrols to the lines to warn Fritz of what was coming, and incidentally, they gathered up some valuable information.

When peace broke out, the Group began to amuse itself with various activities, ranging from rolling the bones to real honest-to-gosh football games with 500 franc side-bets among the yowling spectators. The 100th Squadron absorbed the pay-roll of the 163rd, and they in turn emptied the coffers of the 73rd. It was "pere" Reinburg who suggested and saw to the construction of a hangar, to be used as a combination theater and gymnasium. Everything from fistic encounters to musical comedies took place in the "Ourches Hippodrome," as it was called, and these diversions to did more make waiting endurable than any other one thing

In the mean time, the different departments were making themselves ever more efficient. The Group Operations Sanctum became an indescribable scene of action. Maps of every sector, every section of every sector, every plot of every section, and even the length of the timber in the woods was ascertained and recorded in purple ink on the border of each map. Every German aerodrome was registered on at least one of the thousand odd maps, and the information as to which enemy organization occupied said "drome" at any given season of the year, was to be found in indexed form. Even the habits of the winds, and their playmates the clouds, could be learned from this omniscient source.

The Ninth and Sixteenth Photographic Sections procured pictures of much of the territory along the American Sector, compiling information so complete as to elucidate, with clairvoyant superiority, the number of hangars on any of the nearby fields, the number of shingles on each barracks of those fields, and the number of eggs in each bird nest in the surrounding woods.

The Medical Department, with an unlimited supply of large and small C. C. and O. D. pills and gallons of iodine, maintained an enviable health record. At the behest of the M. O. a bath house with hot showers was installed, where those who had the courage to buck the traditions of the country could rid themselves of many of the discomfitures incident to life in France.

The Group today is a happy and contented lot. One hope is in the back of every man's head, which has developed in some a rare sense of rumor. Fifteen minutes notice will be sufficient for the slowest K. P. to doff his blue jeans, don his best issue uniform, roll his pack and catch the train for that long dreamed of Port of Embarkation.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.

Unit history. *The Second Army Air Service Book*. U. S. Army. April 1919. Toul, France.