

4 OBSERVATION GROUP

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4 Observation Group

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The Group, when it first began, found itself at Ourches on the Meuse. Historically, this aerodrome was an interesting sort of place. It had been in use by the French since the early days of the War, had housed at one time the Lafayette Escadrille, had seen the take-off of the first formation of American made planes to cross the lines, and in other ways had provided itself with an interesting

past. Also, for those who loved rolling, pastoral scenery and the quiet of a seldom-seen far-from-anywhere country place, the camp had its charms. As all admitted, the slush and deep mud was a drawback and the sole pleasure of a stroll along the grassy banks of the meandering Meuse with some " straw pile queen " didn't quite make the city dwellers among us enthusiastic about their environments.

Some variety must be had. Some one had heard of a fast and frivolous town called Toul or perhaps he had spent several drizzling hours about the station impatiently awaiting Capt. Zinn's Parmelee transfer service to Colombey-les-Belles. No, loving parents, it was not our interest in the venerable cloisters of the church of Saint-Gengoult, nor the beauty of the Hotel de Ville, nor even a desire to gaze rapturously at the " Fountain " without which a stranger in Toul could scarcely find the Y. M. C. A. or the K. of C., but it was an attraction purely American. There were American hospitals just outside of Toul and in these hospitals were American nurses who parleyed a language gloriously labeled " Made in the U. S. A. " We could talk of Broadway and Keokuk and the sand storms of San Antonio with people who understood. "No compree" for the time being could be forgotten.

On September,30, 1918, the Group beat a strategic retreat to Toul Field No. 1.

In post bellum days the Group's chief business has been to draw its pay and keep a guard at the gate in order to prevent its own members as well as others from taking cars on trips without orders. Like the swan of Grecian lore which died peacefully singing a low sweet song as it drifted down stream, the 4th OG wishes to leave off recording and be but a memory a metaphor of a happy

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Sources

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