

23 BALLOON COMPANY

MISSION

LINEAGE¹

Balloon Company No. 23

Organized, Feb 1918

Demobilized, Jan 1919

Reorganized, Jun 1919

Demobilized, Aug 1919

Reconstituted and redesignated 23 Balloon Company and organized, 25 Sep 1919

Redesignated Balloon Company No. 23, 13 Sep 1921

Demobilized, 26 Jun 1922

Reconstituted and redesignated 23 Balloon Company on 24 March 1923

Organized, June 1930

Inactivated, June 1932

Demobilized, 1 Oct 1933

STATIONS

Waco, TX

Camp Morrison, VA, Mar 1918

Lee Hall, VA, Jul 1918

Camp Morrison, VA, Oct 1918

Port of Embarkation, Newport News, VA, Oct 1918

Europe, Oct 1918

Camp Devens, MA, Jan 1919

Ross Field, CA, Jun 1919

Post Field, OK, 1919-22

Inactive 1923-30

Chicago, IL, 1930-32

Inactive 1932-33

¹ Steven E. Clay. *US Army Order of Battle 1919-1941*. Combat Studies Institute Press. US Army Combined Arms Center Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Nd.

ASSIGNMENTS

22 Balloon Group, 8 May 1929

WEAPON SYSTEMS

COMMANDERS

Lt Joseph S. Jablonski, 12 Dec 1918

1Lt Carlton F. Bond, 25 Sep 1919-Oct 1920

Cpt Roger S. McCullough, Oct 1920-27 Jan 1922

Cpt William B. Mayer, 27 Jan 1922-26 Jun 1922

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

On Nov. 28, 1918, twenty-two enlisted men, made up of the various branches of balloon work, with Lieut. Yerguson in charge, left for Camp Souge, Bordeaux, France, for School work there.

By this time the company mail had begun coming in regularly. Various opinions were expressed as to the probable time of our departure for the United States, ranging from one to ten months. Rumors were often heard of troops of the Air Service Department being sent home.

On Dec. 12, 1918, Lieut. Joseph S. Jablonski, assumed command and made a very favorable impression with the men. This has since ripened into a wholesome friendship and respect. Several promotions were made at this time in the company, among them being the appointment of four sergeants to the grade of Sergeant First class. About this time four of our men were given furloughs; to visit Lime. Now we fluted them as they started off on their vacation, with a chance to see gay Parse. However, we contented ourselves with the thought that everybody being agreeable, perhaps someday we might see the famous village, without the direction of an I.P.

A few days before Christmas, Lieut. William h. Sohooley, F.A., arrived for assignment to the company. He has been accepted as the company Christmas present, for we gathered from his

orders that the company was soon to embark for the U.S. on Sunday, Dec. 22, 1918 orders were received to prepare the Air Service property for shipment, overland and it was a peppy bunch that escorted the Delahayes along the muddy roads that Sunday night, nearly as proud as the day they first took their girls home from church. On the 23rd. they started overland with the trucks, Ninohes, and other property for Hamorantin, seven enlisted men with Lieut. Own in charge the rest of the time there, the company spent in getting ready to move. We were very sorry to have to leave two of our number in the Hospital, on Dec. 29, 1918, when we finally got orders to proceed to Brest for shipment to the U.S.

Arriving at Brest, about 5:00 A.M. Dec. 30, 1918, we marched out to Camp Pontanezen, where we were quartered in tents. It was a long march, but every man made the trip with the company, and by 8 o'clock we settled. Guards were posted and general details looked after.

Every day we looked forward to dope concerning our leaving. When one ge started home, it is mighty hard to put on the brakes, and stop for gasoline. On Jan. 3, 1919 we moved into barracks in billeting section, 3, Camp Pontanezen, and the following day we were inspected for short equipment. When the order came out saying that the 23rd. was due to sail on the Big Pond. And now it is time to start up the gang plank on that long trail that leads to somewhere in the good Old U.S.A.

Arrival in France

Arrival at the front 3 Nov 1918

Days ascensions made in S.O.S

Days ascensions made in Z.O.A

Total days ascensions made

Number of ascensions made in S.O.S.

Number of ascensions made in Z.O.A.

Total number of ascensions made

Total number of hours in air S.O.S.

Total number of hours in air Z.O.A.

Total number of hours in the air

Artillery adjustments in S.O.S.

Artillery adjustments in Z.O.A

Total number or artillery adjustments

Enemy shells observed

Enemy aircraft observed

Enemy balloons observed

Enemy artillery batteries observed

Enemy traffic on road and railroad observed

Smoke, fires and flares observed

Explosions observed

Jumps from basket

Balloons attacked

Balloons burned

Balloons destroyed
Observers killed
Observers captured

Arrived at the port of Boston, MA, on 21 Jan 1919 on the S.S. Canada as Balloon Company No. 23. Transferred to Camp Devens, MA, and arrived there the same day.

Demobilized on 29 Jan 1919 at Camp Devens. Reconstituted and organized 16 Jun 1919 at Ross Field, Arcadia, CA.

Demobilized on 31 Aug 1919 at Ross Field.

Reconstituted and organized 25 Sep 1919 at Post Field, OK, as the 23rd Balloon Company.

Reactivated with personnel from the inactivated 39th Balloon Company. Redesignated as Balloon Company No. 23 on 13 Sep 1921.

Demobilized on 26 Jun 1922 at Post Field.

Reconstituted in the Regular Army as the 23rd Balloon Company on 24 Mar 1923 and 19th Airship Company made Active Associate.

Allotted to the Sixth Corps Area on 5 Sep 1928.

Organized by Jun 1930 with Organized Reserve personnel as a RAI unit at Chicago, IL.

Inactivated by Jun 1932 at Chicago by relief of personnel.

Designated mobilization training station was Scott Field 1923-33.