

30 BALLOON COMPANY

MISSION

LINEAGE

30 Balloon Company
Organized, 6 Mar 1918
Inactivated, Apr 1919
Redesignated Balloon Company No. 30, 13 Sep 1921
Inactivated, 20 Sep 1921
Demobilized, 6 Sep 1922
Reconstituted 30 Balloon Company, 24 Mar 1923
Demobilized, 1924

STATIONS

Waco TX
Fort Omaha, NE, Apr 1918
Camp Morrison, VA, Sep 1918
Port of Embarkation, Newport News, VA, Oct 1918
Europe, Oct 1918
Mitchel Field, NY, Apr 1919
Lee Hall, VA, 1919-1922

ASSIGNMENTS

Army Balloon School

COMMANDERS

2LT Elmer J. Bowling, Jan 1920
1LT James B. Wallace, 9 Mar 1920
Cpt Hoyt G. Ross, 10 Sep 1920
2LT Ambrose V. Clinton, 27 Nov 1920
2LT Robert V. Ignico, 16 Dec 1920
1LT William J. Flood, 8 Feb 1921
1LT Ira B. Koenig, 18 Feb 1921

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

OPERATIONS

Paragraph 3, General Orders 32, March 6th, 1918, Aviation Camp, Waco, Texas organized the 30th Balloon Company with Chester J. Sharp, 2nd Lieut, Commanding. Men from the fifteen Recruit Squadrons of the First Provisional Regiment formed the enlisted personnel. Although organized March 6th, 1918, the Company was not called together until March 12th, 1918, when Headquarters were established in the 13th Recruit Squadron. The men were quartered in the 12th and 13th Recruit Squadrons. Charlton W. Corwin and Harold Cogswell, 2nd Lieutenants S.R.C.A.S. were assigned to Company. Lieut. Corwin joined the same date and was appointed Supply Officer. Lieut. Cogswell, at date of assignment was sick in the Base Hospital, Camp McArthur, Texas, and consequently could not report for duty.

During the following period men were equipped with both Quartermaster and Ordnance supplies, special pains being taken to have the men equipped with neat fitting uniforms. Owing to the fact that a great amount of construction work was being done at that time throughout the Camp, and soldier labor being the only labor available, nearly all men available for duty were required to report daily for fatigue. This left but little time for drill. What little time could be used for drill was well utilized and before long the company was regarded as being a well drilled company.

As there was no Balloon School at Waco Texas, it was necessary that the company be sent elsewhere for the necessary training before going overseas. There were many rumors afloat as to the possible destination; some were to the effect the company would proceed directly to some Port of embarkation for France; some that it would proceed to Fort Sill, Oklahoma; others that it would land at Fort Omaha, Nebr.; some even had the company in Egypt. It wasn't very long before the minds of the men were put at rest, for orders were received to prepare to leave for Fort Omaha, Nebr. Most of the men had been members of the Recruit Squadrons since the first of the year, and consequently were very anxious to move and see something new. The word that company would receive its training at Fort Omaha was received with no small degree of delight as all of the officers of the Company had received their training at Fort Omaha and their description of Fort Omaha and the neighborhood left but little not to be desired.

On the 19th day of March, William B. Harned, 1st Lt. M.R.C., and four enlisted men, Medical Corps, were attached to the Company, but did not report for duty until 21st. The members of the company consider themselves very fortunate having Lt. Harned with them as Surgeon, for

Lt. Harned is a man of broad experience in the science practice of improving and preserving the health of his fellow beings. Under Lt. Harned care the men contracted very little sickness and in case any man was taken sick, Dr. Harned put himself to great pains to have him quickly on the road to recovery.

Because of Lt. Cogswell's improbable recovery in time to depart with the company, he was relieved from assignment to the company on March 22nd and Edward J. Verheyden Jr., 2nd Lieut was assigned to the Company in place of Lt. Cogswell. Lt. Verheyden reported for duty the same day and besides his the duties, appointed to be Company Mess Officer. As a Mess Officer, Lt. Verheyden certainly would be hard to beat.

April 1st orders were received that the 30th Balloon Company with 100 men of the 3rd Provisional Regiment attached, was to leave for Fort Omaha as soon as the necessary transportation could be secured, so all preparations for departure were made. As approximately five percent of the entire personnel originally assigned to company were physically unfit to accompany the same, transfers were made to correct this deficiency.

For a short time it looked as if more transfers would have to be made, for a case of measles broke out among the men living in one tent. This man was quickly removed to the hospital and the others not affected were isolated. No further cases developed, so these men were soon given their freedom. April 2nd the railroad authorities notified the company commander that transportation has been secured and a baggage car run on the side track, to be equipped as a kitchen car. A stove was set up, and supplies sufficient for the company were loaded into the car and everything ready to move, when word was received that the transportation intended for the 30th Balloon Company had been sidetracked at Kansas City, and that no other cars would be available for an indefinite period. There was only one thing left to do, unload the supplies from the baggage car and wait. This was done.

The wait was not very long, for on April 4th another baggage car was run onto the sidetrack and orders issued to load same. This was done as before, but not uselessly, for on April 5th orders were received that the Company with the 100 attached men would entrain at 3.30 P.M. April 6th. Upon hearing those orders the men let out one big yell, hats were thrown into the air, and all the usual tactics gone through, as is customary when a bunch of American soldiers hear good news. From then on all was one hurry, and barrack bags were packed with all surplus articles and loaded onto the baggage car that afternoon and continuing throughout the evening. As if to put a damper to the spirits of the boys, a real Texas rainstorm came to bid the boys farewell.

Soon the ground was one mass of sticky mud, but in spite of all the boys were happy. After supper that evening, those who were fortunate enough to have friends or sweethearts near camp, went to bid their last farewell. The morning of April 6th found every man up before reveille, putting last touches to the preparation for departure. Dinner was served early, at 1.00 P.M. the company "fell in" with packs on their backs, and the roll called. Of course everyone was present for none would pass up the chance to get at the Boche, and this was one step nearer.

On the march to the train the men gave cheer after cheer. Envy could be seen plainly on the faces of the boys of less fortunate organizations remaining in camp.

The train pulled up on schedule time, and in a short while the men were all aboard and comfortably settled. About 4.00 P.M. the train began to move.

The journey to Omaha proved uneventful. Stops were made at all the principle cities enroute, where the boys were very hospitably taken care of by the local Red Cross ladies. When time permitted a hike would be taken through the streets of the city.

Arriving at Omaha about 0200 April 8th, the men were permitted to sleep until 0600 when breakfast was served, followed by preparations to detrain. Large trucks were sent from fort Omaha to haul all baggage to the Port.

Details accompanied the baggage back to camp. The other members of the Company were loaded unto street car and taken by them to the Fort. As the street cars drew nearer the Fort the big Caquot balloons could be seen floating lazily high up in the air. All eyes were turned in that direction, for this was the first time that most of the men had seen an observation balloon. Having reached the Fort, the men climbed off of the cars, fell into a column of fours, and were marched in through the gates of Fort Omaha.

Lt Colonel Hersey, Commanding Officer of the Post, personally inspected arrivals, and remarked upon the excellent appearance of the men, after separating the attached 100 men; the Company was marched to their new quarters, which were tents. The remaining part of the day was utilized in getting settled in quarters. Some of the boys spent a great part of the time in max curiously gazing at the Balloons. Many were the comments. One even remarked upon the small size of the cable used to hold the big Balloons up in the air. Another less timid fellow, who had gotten a close view when one of the balloons was on the ground could not understand why the passengers did not break through the fragile appearing floor of the basket.

That the Company was to learn something was something was shown the next morning when orders were received that a detail of some fifty men in charge of a non-commissioned officer report to Bed No. 34, Florence Field, to fly the balloon from that bed.

The men picked for this detail for, obvious reasons, were the heaviest men of the Company. Sergeant First Class Arthur W. Renander was placed in charge of this detail, and was later appointed Maneuvering Sergeant, which position he has ably filled during the entire life of the 30th Balloon Company. Orders were also received to appoint men to attend schools for specialists in Machine Gunnery, handling Winch, driving Automobiles and Trucks, driving Motorcycles, manufacture and handling of hydrogen, Balloon rigging and Army Paper Work.

To enable the Company to work more efficiently, the following officers were assigned to the Company, April 9th, 1918, Paul C. Harding, Stewart R. Kirkpatrick, Glen R. Lassiter, Phillip E.

Philbrook and Theodore Nelson, all of them being second Lieutenants.

Time went by smoothly. That the men were of more than ordinary ability was shown by the reports received from the instructors of the different schools. The 30th Balloon Company soon had the reputation of being able to handle a Balloon better than any other organization at the Post. On the drill ground, in spite of the small amount of time available for practice the same good work was in evidence.

Not only while on duty did the 30th Balloon Company show its good qualities, but likewise on the play ground. The Post baseball team was made up mostly of members of this company. Also in the many games played against teams from other companies at the Post, the 30th always came out the victor, not one game being lost to these companies.

During its stay at Fort Omaha, only four games were lost, and these were to outside teams. The foregoing description gives an idea of only the daylight activities of the company. Nothing this far has been mentioned concerning how the time between retreat and midnight, usually designated as the social hours, were spent. Under the regulations then in force at Ft. Omaha, only one third of the members of a company were permitted on pass each evening, and then from Retreat until 12.30 A.M. only. Of course the two thirds not on leave, would stay in Camp. Most of them would "take in" the moving picture or other program at the Y.M.C.A. or K. of C. buildings. But the one third with "town leave" would visit the hospitable residents of Omaha, where they were always welcome. The hospitality of Mrs. Charles Mallory of Omaha certainly was appreciated, for it was due to her efforts that the boys were introduced into Omaha society. The boys soon won the friendship of the Omaha people.

Four men were transferred from the company April 16th and were not replaced, cutting the total strength to One hundred ninety-six men. This did not affect the efficiency of the Company to any extent. April 19th Lieutenants Harding, Kirkpatrick, Lassiter, Philbrook and Nelson were ordered to report to School of Military aeronautics, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, for further training

Nearly the whole of May had passed before anything eventful occurred, when on the morning of the 24th of May it was discovered that one man was A.W.O.L. The usual ten day period was allowed to pass before declaring him a deserter, but as no trace could be found of him during that time, he was finally disposed of as a deserter. Nothing has been heard of him since. This is the only desertion that has occurred in the organization.

On Memorial day, some of the enlistee men were given an opportunity to make their first ascension. This proved to be a bad day for flying because a heavy fog settled about 0800 which lasted until noon.

As soon as the specialists qualified, they were appointed to the noncommissioned grade consistent with their qualifications. In fact everything possible was done to build up a thoroughly organized company.

June 4th three of the trained Machine Gunners were transferred to an outgoing organization to fill up their machine gun detail.

Orders were received June 14th that Lt. Verheyden was to report for temporary duty at Lincoln, Nebraska, to assist in training new men at the University of Nebraska.

The absence of Lt. Verheyden slightly hindered the work of the company for there were but two officers now left with the company, but this difficulty lasted but a few days, for on the 19th of June Lts. Harding, Kirpatrick, and Philbrook returned from Columbus, Ohio, and were attached to the Company for duty. On the same date the Company moved from the quarters at Fort Omaha to Florence Field.

The change was greatly appreciated, for it gave a better location and more freedom. The greatest change was in the kitchens. The kitchen at the old quarters was an old shack having no protection against flies and dirt. The men had to eat out in the open air. The now kitchen was modern in every respect, with a Mess room at each end. The men were quartered in tents as in the old place. The now place was designated as "Mess Hall No. 5", that being the number of the Mess Hall. This new location also brought the Company nearer to its work, as practically all balloons were flown from Florence Field.

Lt. Verheyden returned to the Company June 22nd. Lt. Lassiter returned from Columbus, Ohio and reported for duty July 3rd. arrangements were made by the different companies to have a track meet at Florence Field July 4th. The 30th Balloon Company was to be well represented. Unfortunately that day the rain prevented any celebration of any kind.

The company now had reached its highest degree of efficiency. The enlisted specialists had completed their schooling and were pronounced as being capable of doing any job in their line of work. The riggers were in charge of the Florence Field repair hanger, and chauffeurs were in charge of the Post Garage.

August 10th the company received orders that they were to move on the next day to the Rifle Range, some seven miles north-east of Fort Omaha, relieving the 17th Balloon Company who had moved out there the week before. This good news was received with delight, for in addition to the target practice, they were to receive, they were to live in a manner similar to that in active duty. As this move had been anticipated for some time, the company had all arrangements completed and all that was left to do was to move.

During the night a heavy rain fell, so that the ground was very slushy. The next morning the company was aroused at 3.30 A.M. that they would get out to the range early. All necessary equipment was loaded onto trucks, some trouble was encountered when the loaded trucks began to move owing to the wet grounds; but the trucks were soon on solid roads, and moved off to the new camp. The company, with the exception of small details of men who accompanied the trucks, marched out reaching there about 10.00 A.M.

Building camp was begun at once. First the field ranges were set-up that dinner might be started. A hole was dug nearby and a large wooden box with cover fitted in. This was to be used as a refrigerator, which purpose it served quite well. After the kitchen was set up the men set up their pup Tented and soon the camp had every appearance of a real war time camp. Finishing the camp, the telephone detail run lines from the switch board, located in an old shed, about a half mile east of the camp to the camp. One line was also run out to the target range. That afternoon the maneuvering detail under the direction of Lt. Verheyden, maneuvering officer, built a bed for and inflated a balloon, and aide several trial flights. By night time everything was ready for work.

The next morning some men were detailed for rifle practice, the others for their regular duties. This schedule was changed every day, that all men should have an opportunity to get his target practice. After all men had finished with the rifle, they were introduced to the automatics pistol. Every evening after retreat all the men that could pile into the three trucks, left with the company for its own use, would ride to a nearby lake and go swimming, others would visit the neighboring farm houses to buy apples or purchase a chicken supper.

Toward the end of the week the company was visited by Lt. Colonel Heresy with a photographer. Photographs of the balloon were taken. After an inspection of the camp, Lieut. Colonel Hersey pronounced himself to be well pleased with the work of the company.

Under these conditions the week passed very quickly, and on the afternoon of August 16th the company was ordered to tear down all telephone lines, pack up and move back to Florence Field the next day.

This was done, and by 3.00 P.M. of August 17th the company, with all equipment, was back to its old quarters, with the exception of the maneuvering detail with the balloons They maneuvered the balloon from the bed at the rifle range to Florence Field. This was no small task, for in the distance of seven miles all kinds of obstacles were encountered, such as trees, high tension power lines, telephone lines, hills, and even one cemetery. The balloon was brought in without any damage.

The company's days at Fort Omaha were numbered. The members had long expected to leave anytime and many were the rumors as to the date of departure, but these dates came without any change. Upon return to Florence Field, from the rifle range, the company was ordered into quarantine.

August 20th the company received its first real shock, for sixty-five of the trained specialists were transferred from the company to form the nucleus for several new companies then being formed at the Post. No one wanted to be among these sixty-five, all had planned on going to France with the company in which they had received their training, and with the boys whom through their long association and become more or less like brothers. Many appealed to Lt. Sharp to be allowed to remain, but it did not lie in his power to help them any for the orders

were from a higher authority.

These sixty-five men were replaced by the same number of men recently from Camp Dodge, Iowa, who had been in the service at the longest only three weeks, and knew but very little of military drill. This was another hindrance to the efficiency of the company. But this was one that could be overcome with but difficulty, for the men were willing to learn, and under the capable direction of the First Sergeant, Sergeant First Class Joseph P. Morrison a former regular who had seen service with the 47th New York Volunteers (Inf.) 1898 to 1899, with 7th U.S. Cavalry 1904 to 1906, and with the 13th U.S. Cavalry 1906 to 1907, these men were soon able to execute the ordinary drill movements very well.

Under paragraph 8, special Orders 234, Fort Omaha, Nebraska, dated August 23rd the company was ordered to proceed to Morrison, Va. as soon as the necessary transportation could be procured. All efforts were made now to have everything in readiness for the new move. All surplus equipment, including barrack bags, was turned back to the quartermaster. Equipment that could not be carried upon the men's back was boxed up to be shipped as freight. Soon everything was in readiness. Before leaving Fort Omaha, the company was doomed to receive another disappointment, for on August 24th Lt. Sharp was relieved from command and duty with the company. This disappointment was keenly felt by the boys, who having been under the command of Lt. Sharp since the organization of the 30th Balloon Company, and knowing his sterling qualities as man and a soldier, had learned to like him very much, and had hoped to go overseas with him but Uncle Sam had made other arrangements.

To replace Lt. Sharp, Edgar T. Ferguson 1st Lt. was assigned to command of the 30th Balloon Company. Lt. Ferguson, just before his assignment to the 30th Balloon Company, had been in command of the 18th Balloon Company for a short while. He was a man of considerable military experience and ability, having been assistant adjutant at Fort Omaha for sometime previous to this assignment to the command of the 18th Balloon Company. With the same ability that marked his career as Assistant Adjutant of Fort Omaha, Lt. Ferguson took charge of the 30th Balloon Company, and if the war had lasted Lt Ferguson would have had the company ranking second to none in the A.E.F.

About this time Paul M. Hatfield was assigned to company as acting personnel Adjutant. This place he ably filled while assigned to the company.

In as much as the order sending the company to Morrison stated that no attached officers would accompany the organization to new station, Lieutenants Kirkpatrick, Lassiter, Philbrook and Harding were on August 31st relieved from duty with the company.

Transportation arrived in Omaha September 2nd, and company entrained that afternoon, leaving behind the record of being the best organization of men trained at Fort Omaha. But that was not all that was left behind, for during the five months stay the boys had won a great many friends among the patriotic Omahans.

It is quite probable that after their release from the Army not a few will return to Omaha to make their homes there. The Journey eastward proved as uneventful as that from Waco to Omaha, only that it took longer. At all of the principle cities on the way Red Cross Ladies provided the boys with hot coffee, cakes, and cigarettes. A long stop was made at St. Louis, Mo., the boys were taken on a tour of sightseeing, after which on returning to the station, availed themselves of the opportunity to take a plunge in the Y.M.C.A. swimming tank.

Arriving at the Aeronautical General Supply Depot and Concentration Camp, Morrison, Va. at 9.30 AM, September 5th, the company detrained and moved to the barracks to which it was assigned and the usual duties taken up.

After their active life at Fort Omaha, to the men, time seemed to drag by. There were no balloons to fly, or any of the other duties usually necessary where balloons are flown. While there was considerable fatigue work to be done at Morrison, there was yet some time available for drill. This was well utilized, and the company began to acquire its former drill efficiency. Long hikes were taken, first with light packs, and gradually increasing the weight until the packs contained the full overseas equipment. Under this practice the men soon developed a hardy physique. During the time following the arrival at Morrison, the company was completely furnished with overseas equipment. Records were checked over and everything made ready for duty overseas.

As at Fort Omaha, the company had the same excellent record at Morrison, both as men and as soldiers. About September 25th the Fourth Liberty Loan Campaign was started. Also about the same time orders were received to have the company in readiness to embark for overseas, passenger and freight lists were to be made and various rosters also, all this work together with the extra work of making out allotment papers incident to the Fourth Liberty Loan caused considerable strain to fall upon the office force of the company. This was taken care of without hitch, and when the last allotment form had been sent to the quartermaster General, the officers and the enlisted men of the 30th Balloon Company had subscribed to a little over \$16,500.00 of Fourth Liberty Loan Bonds.

During the midst of the Liberty Loan Campaign the company was greeted with a welcome surprise, for on the 28th of September Lt. Ferguson received by telegram from the War Department notice of his promotion to Captain in the Air Service.

October 3rd the company received orders to proceed from Morrison to Port of Embarkation, Newport News, Va. October 4th. All freight to be loaded in the hold of the ship was sent to the dock that day. On the afternoon of the 4th of October the company was hailed to the Port of embarkation on trucks and embarked upon the transport, French Steamer called "Lutetia" At the time of this embarkation the Spanish Influenza was at its height at the port, most of the camps having some, and not missing the Aviation Camp, Morrison. At first, the 30th Balloon Company had been extremely lucky not having a single case. On board the boat it was found that the 49th Regiment C.A.C. was in the throes of it. This soon spread, finding in the cramped and air proof compartment of the men an excellent field. The next day while still at the port the

epidemic had spread to such an extent that the Company Commander requested the health authorities return the balloon company to camp. At five o'clock October 5th, 1918 the company returned to the C.C., Morrison, Va, where one hundred and ten men, and Lieuts. Hatfield and Corwin went to the hospital. In the next week this number was raised to a hundred seventy men out of a possible two hundred.

From this number, seven deaths resulted
Adt, Ferdinand E Private, died Oct. 11, 1918
Miller, Lawrence M. Private, died Oct. 11, 1918
Schooley, Elmer Private, died Oct. 12, 1918
Temple, Leslie Clayton Sergeant, died Oct. 12, 1918
Crowe, Leland Russell, Private, died Oct. 16, 1918
Fletcher, Phillip A. Private, died Oct. 15, 1918
Lanata, Angelo George, Private, died Oct. 16, 1918

Shortly after returning to Morrison, the personnel of Balloon Company was changed, reducing the number of enlisted men from two hundred to one Hundred seventy. Transfers from the company were made accordingly, transferring these men who, at the time, were very sick in the hospital.

Under date of October 7th, Clyde A. Kuntz, 2nd Lieut, was assigned to the company and appointed to be Supply Officer in place of Lt. Corwin, who was then sick in the hospital. He at once procured new supplies for the company which had been lost in the hasty debarkation from the transport "Lutetia".

All company property which had been stored in the hold of the "Lutetia" owing to the little time available, could not be unloaded. Among this was a box containing practically all of the company records, and although efforts have since been made several times, both in the U.S. and the A.E.F, to locate them no trace can be found. The absence of these records prevents a more complete history of the former activities of the Company.

The company was once more to embark for overseas. As nearly as possible, everything was prepared to be in readiness. A large number of the men were yet in the hospital and could not accompany the organization for some time. To replace these men, surplus men from other companies were transferred to the 30th Company.

The company was now made up of men one part of which did not know the other members. The officers did not know a great many of them. Some men had not as yet fully recovered from the effects of the influenza. In fact the Company was thoroughly disorganized, and its efficiency at zero. It seemed as if the former training had been for naught and that another six months of intensive training would have to be gone through before the company would see action. This was enough to discourage men with the strongest determination.

It was under these conditions that the company ones more received orders to proceed to the

Port of Embarkation, and on October 20th the 30th Balloon Company with nine other balloon companies embarked upon the transport "Duca d' Aosta", sailing the next day at 2:40 P.M.

Capt. Ferguson being the senior officer assumed command of the troops aboard ship, and Lt. Corwin temporarily placed in command of the 30th Balloon Company.

Aside of the men becoming seasick, the voyage of thirteen days proved uneventful. The weather was nice and the sea quiet most of the time, excepting when nearing the destination a storm was encountered in the bay of Biscay. It was during this storm that when the boat gave a lurch to one side, Capt. Ferguson fell and sprained his ankle. The injury, though not serious, was sufficient to prevent Capt. Ferguson from moving around much and caused him to spend some time at a hospital in Brest.

The transport steamed into the harbor of Brest the morning of November 3rd and company debarked that afternoon at Brest, France. The joy was unlimited in being able to walk on solid ground once more. This was the first time that most of the boys had been in a European country, and the inhabitants and their homes were the cause of many curious stares. The stone houses and the wooden shoes caused many comments.

From the docks the company marched some three miles to the Rest Camp known as Pontenazen Barracks, leaving behind a small detail to unload and guard the company freight. During the stay at Pontenazen Barracks nothing important developed. All available men were required for fatigue throughout the camp, leaving no time for drill. The men were assigned to tents, and slept on the ground with nothing between them and the damp ground but their shelter halves. Matters were made more disagreeable by the fact that it rained most of the time.

On November 8th the company entrained for LaCourtine (Creuse). Part of the company rode in third class coaches and the remaining part rode in box. The journey to Lacourtine proved to be very interesting, giving the boys a chance to see different parts of France. Arriving in Tours late in the evening, and as the train was to stop over until the next morning, the company entrained, and slept that night in the building of the Headquarters of the SOS and left again the next morning.

The train arrived at LaCourtine about 6:00 P.M. November 11th, some seven hours after the Armistice had been signed. The 25th Balloon Company met the new arrivals at the station with trucks and hauled them out to their new home. But the 30th Balloon Company had come too late to do anything towards helping their fellow soldiers crush Kaiserism. The feelings of the boys were mingled with feelings of both joy and disappointment, joy because the allies had won, and disappointment because they could never see action.

The boys were given an opportunity to do something for the Allied cause to which they responded liberally. Since their arrival in France the officers and men have contributed sufficient funds towards the "Orphans fund" conducted by the "Stars and Strips" to support two

orphans.

This covers the history of the 30th Balloon Company from the time of its organization to the date of the signing of the armistice. Had our records not been lost a more complete story would have resulted, this comes as near being as being complete as circumstances warrant.

Arrival in France 3 Nov 1918

Arrival at the front

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

Active at Lee Hall, VA, as of June 1919 as the 30th Balloon Company and assigned to the Army Balloon School. Redesignated as Balloon Company No. 30 on 13 September 1921. Inactivated on 20 September 1921 at Lee Hall and 22nd Balloon Company made Active Associate. Demobilized on 6 September 1922. Reconstituted in the Regular Army as the 30th Balloon Company on 24 March 1923 and 19th Airship Company made Active Associate. Designated mobilization training station was Fort Eustis, VA, 1923-24.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

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Sources

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