

# **59 BALLOON COMPANY**

## **MISSION**

## **LINEAGE**

59 Balloon Company  
Organized, Aug 1918  
Demobilized, Jul 1919

## **STATIONS**

Fort Omaha, Nebraska  
Wingfoot Lake, Akron, Ohio, Mar 1919  
Langley Field, Virginia, Jul 1919

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

## **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

## **COMMANDERS**

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt James S. Reber

## **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

The 59th Balloon Company was organized for Overseas Service at Fort Omaha, Nebraska, on Friday, August 23rd, 1918, with the following named officers assigned for duty: David H. Ham, 2nd Lieut., Commanding; Orvil A. Anderson, 2nd Lieut; Frank J. Boyle, 2nd Lieut. and Harold S. Case, 2nd Lieut. On Wednesday, August 28th, 1918, James S. Reber, Jr., 2nd Lieut. A.S.M.A. was assigned to duty with the Company as Commanding Officer, succeeding Lieut. Ham, who was given command of the 53rd Balloon Company.

On September 6th, 1918, Sanford M. Warren, Jr., 2nd Lieut. A.S.M.A., was attached to the Company for duty as maneuvering officer, and on Wednesday, September 11th, 1918, the Company lost two officers; Lieut. Case being transferred to the Balloon School at Arcadia, California, and Lieut. Boyle being assigned to duty with the First Flying Cadet Company, Lieut. Anderson succeeding Lieut. Boyle as Supply and Mess Officer.

Wednesday, November 6th, 1918, the Company moved to Florence Field, to receive its final training before departing for Overseas duties. While stationed at the Field the Company handled the Italian Balloon, which had been brought to the Fort from Italy for the purpose of testing it out to discover its advantages and disadvantages over the Cocquot type observation balloon in use. About two weeks before the date set for the Company to leave for point of embarkation for Overseas duties, the Armistice was signed, which killed all hopes of the Company ever getting into active service, much to the disappointment of all concerned.

On Saturday, November 31st, 1918, the Company moved back to the Post into Barracks 7, where the Company is now permanently located. The Company organization at the present time is as follows: James S. Reber, Jr., 2nd Lieut. A.S.M.A., Commanding Officer; Sanford M. Warren, Jr., 2nd Lieut. A.S.M.A., Maneuvering Officer; Orvil A. Anderson, 2nd Lieut. A.S. (Aero), Supply Officer.

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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.