

1 AIR SERVICE BAND

MISSION

LINEAGE

1 Air Service Band

STATIONS

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Lt S. F. Stone

Lt J. I. Lawrence

Lt Carl E. Newman

Lt T. R. McCracken

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Capt. J. A. Benton of the Fourth Texas Infantry became acquainted with the fact that the Fourth Texas Infantry had no band and immediately began negotiations with the Adjutant General to furnish one. Eventually, seven men signed up and were sent to San Antonio for enlistment. After the usual difficulties encountered in a recruit camp they were equipped with the necessities of a soldier and sent to their regiment which was then stationed at Brownsville, Texas.

At Brownsville they found three musicians already in the regiment thus making a ten piece band. They had no music except half a dozen popular songs and as many marches. Colonel C. W. Nimon, the regimental commander, not being a musician, ordered the band to play for an officers' dance immediately after the instruments were issued. The dance progressed as well as could be

expected under the existing circumstances. About the time the repertoire was finished fate took a hand and the lights went out for the night.

They were stationed in Brownsville for one week and the first battalion was moved to San Benito, a city of about 5,000 population, 20 miles up the Rio Grande. Here the regimental duties were assumed in earnest, this same music being used for Reveille—march, Guard-mount, Parade. Dance, and Concert for fully a month before any other could be obtained. Finally when enlistments became heavy they were fortunate enough to recruit the band to something like fifteen men. They were handicapped because of the shortage of men in headquarters company and the band did all the K. P. and fatigue for the company which made it next to impossible to have any success with rehearsals.

After laboring under these difficulties and accomplishing practically nothing the band was ordered back to Brownsville during the latter part of August for a period of thirty days for duty with the second battalion. Here, the band had only musical duties to perform and could play and rehearse to their hearts' content.

The first of October found them back at San Benito with the same difficulties to contend with as before. This lasted until October 12, when the regiment entrained for Ft. Worth, Texas, to become a part of the division. In the organization of this division two of the old regiments were consolidated to make one of war strength. As the bands at that time were allowed only a small number men, and the regiment with which this one was consolidated had a full band, it fell to the lot of the Fourth Texas Band to be assigned to the depot brigade.

In the depot brigade, the mess conditions and quarters were not of the best and much could be written of the discomforts endured. On December 23, they received orders to report to the commanding officer of Kelly Field; arrived there about 4 A. M. Christmas day, and were assigned to the rookie lines as no one seemed to know what else to do with them. Finally they were assigned to the Flying Department.

The work in Kelly Field, taken as a whole, has been the most pleasant encountered in their very checkered career, and although each and every member of the band feels a keen disappointment in not having been allowed to go to France, they have a very great satisfaction in the knowledge that they are members of the first and only authorized band in the Air Service of the U. S. Army.

USAF UNIT HISTORIES
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Sources

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