

267th AERO SQUADRON

267 Aero Squadron

Type: Service (Observation)

Service Period: August 5 to November 1918

Locations: New Romney

Not divided into flights.

LINEAGE

Organized Jan 1918

Demobilized Dec 1918

STATIONS

Chanute Field, IL, Jan 1918-17 Jun 1918

Garden City, NY, Jun 1918

Babylon, NY, Jun 1918

Garden City, NY, Jul 1918

Port of Embarkation, Boston, MA, Jul 1918

AEF, Jul 1918

Garden City, NY

ASSIGNMENTS

WEAPON SYSTEMS

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT SERIAL NUMBERS

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT TAIL/BASE CODES

UNIT COLORS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The two squadrons finally left Rantoul on 10 February 1918, a full six weeks after having been ordered to be ready at a moment's notice. Two days later the 173rd and 174th squadrons also left for Garden City. Immediately after their departure, Chanute began recruitment for three new squadrons designated the 83rd, 267th, and the 268th Aero Squadrons. In mid-February 1918, 175 men came from Camp Custer, Michigan, and were divided between the 267th and the 268th. On 26 February, 150 men arrived from Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, Missouri, to augment the 83rd. On the same day the 831st and the 832nd Aero Squadrons arrived from Kelly Field bringing the total number of squadrons at Chanute to six. The new squadrons prompted a flurry of activity as the field prepared for a resumption of flying training. Nearly 1,500 men were crowded into barracks built to house 1,000 men. A new wing was built on the hospital, and Chanute's first five nurses arrived on 9 March 1918. "Daily sick call . . . increased noticeably." The nurses arrived just in time to help prepare the 83rd, the 831st, and the 832nd for departure. Those going to France were given a series of six shots and had their teeth examined. Any teeth thought possible of giving any trouble in France were pulled. The camp dentist in March was pulling 25 to 50 teeth per day. The 83rd Aero Squadron left on 23 March 1918 for Langley Field, Hampton, Virginia, and the 831st and 832nd left the following day for Hempstead and Garden City, New York, respectively. While these three squadrons prepared to leave, Chanute began to organize its fifth new squadron. Designated the 203rd, it was to be a school squadron composed largely of mechanics. On 19 March, it was augmented by 15 men from the Marmon Auto School in Indianapolis, Indiana. Three Rantoul ladies organized the mess for the new squadron.

While Chanute prepared to resume training in the spring of 1918, the long dreaded German offensive on the Western Front began. So dire was the peril that the Allies for the first time united under a Supreme Commander, the French General Ferdinand Foch. In July 1918, the massive German fourth drive was stopped, and after three days the Allies under Marshal Foch counterattacked so energetically that the whole aspect of the war shifted irrevocably in a two week period. After the Second Battle of the Marne, the Germans were slowly driven back. While these events were taking place in Europe, Chanute continued to receive and send out squadrons. On 21 May 1918, while the Allies reeled under the German attack, the 112th Aero Squadron arrived from Rich Field in Waco, Texas. A month later, when the United States was pouring soldiers into France, the 267th and the 26th squadrons were ordered overseas. Their place quickly was taken by the arrival on 27 June 1918 of the 287th and the 288th Aero Squadrons from Wilbur Wright Field at Dayton, Ohio. On 20 August, while the Germans fought a desperate rear guard action which cost them a half million men, Chanute sent off the men of the 288th to Selfridge Field, Mt. Clemens in Michigan.* It went from there to New York on its way to Europe.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources