

1st AIR DEPOT

MISSION

LINEAGE¹

1st Air Depot

STATIONS

Colombey-les-Belles, France

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS²

The 1st Air Depot facilities at Colombey-les-Belles, lying 11 miles south of Toul, began on 1 Nov 1917, and 75 per cent of the original project was complete on 5 Apr 1918.

¹ Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.

Nearly all airplanes and supplies for squadrons operating on the front were received at Colombey-les-Belles, and a large amount of repair work on airplanes and engines of a nature which could not be done in squadrons, was done at this depot.

The Airplane Repair Department received more than 175 crashed airplanes in Aug 1918, and of these 52 were rebuilt and returned to service; in all, the 1st Air Depot rebuilt and returned to service 237 crashed airplanes.

During the month of Sep 1918, 2,595 requisitions were handled. These requisitions were from units in the Zone of Advance, and each one comprised from 40 to 50 items.

Between 1 Apr and 11 Nov 1918, the 1st Air Depot dispatched more than 206,000 gallons of transportation gasoline, nearly 280,000 gallons of aviation gasoline, more than 167,000 gallons of special fighting gasoline, more than 47,000 gallons of castor oil, and 27,000 gallons of mineral oil.

At the close of hostilities, 90 officers and 2,000 soldiers were engaged in carrying on the work of the depot-transportation, advance supply, quartermaster, machine shops, airplane repairs, and airplane acceptance and replacements.

At the time of the armistice, this air depot was supplying 23 headquarters groups, 18 observation squadrons, 7 bombardment squadrons, 20 pursuit squadrons, 12 park squadrons, 8 photographic sections, and 23 balloon companies.

It was only on the day that the armistice was signed that the Quartermaster Department took over the gasoline and oil business of the 1st Air Depot.

On the airplane acceptance and replacement field, many hundred airplanes were often in storage at one time.

Since the armistice, all squadrons demobilizing for return to the United States have turned in their airplanes and Air Service equipment to this air depot.