

24 AIRSHIP SERVICE COMPANY

MISSION

LINEAGE¹

24 Airship Service Company

STATIONS

Scott Field, IL

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Airships, semirigid and nonrigid, were the center of activity at Scott Field during the 1920's. During those years, the 8th, 9th, and 12th Airship Companies, each with as many as six airships; the 21st Balloon Group Headquarters, the 24th Airship Service Company, and a balloon and airship school carried out extensive training programs, making the field one of the busiest

¹ *US Army Order of Battle 1919-1941*. Steven E. Clay. Combat Studies Institute Press. US Army Combined Arms Center. Fort Leavenworth, KS. Nd.

airship ports in the country. During the early 1930's, the Air Corps gave less attention to airships than to airplanes; consequently, the once proud fleet of blimps dwindled in number year by year. In May, 1937, when the War Department ordered the Air Corps to abandon airships, only three TC-type craft remained in operation, and two of those the TC-11 and T-14 were stationed at Scott Field. The three airships were transferred to the Navy and later became the nucleus around which the antisubmarine patrols were organized in 1941. After the loss of the only airships on the base, activities at Scott Field centered around observation balloons. Only the 21st Balloon Group Headquarters and the 15th Observation Squadron, in addition to base squadrons and special detachments from ordnance, Signal Corps, finance, medical, and quartermaster departments remained on the field.