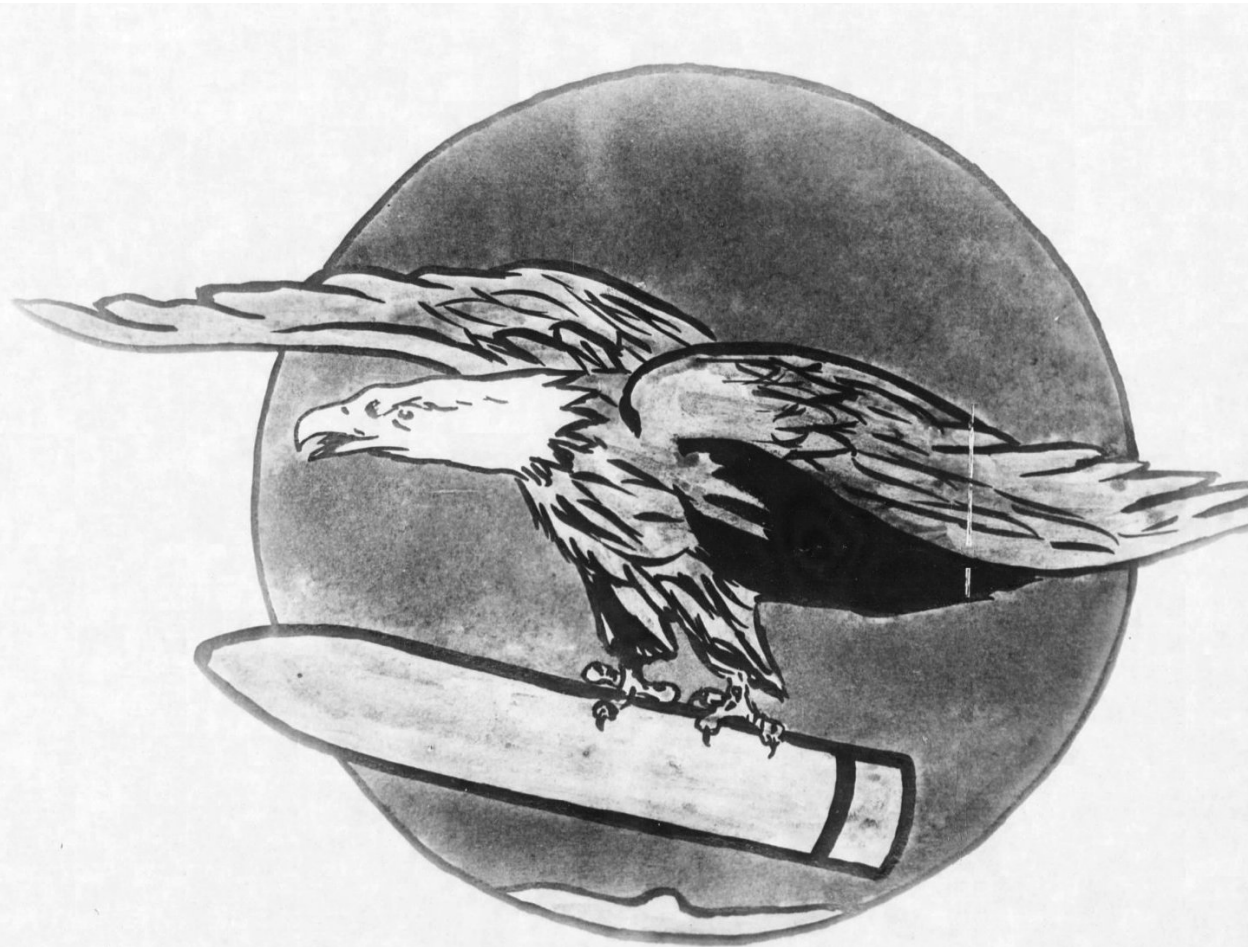


12th Aero Squadron Biographies

WORLD WAR ONE

2 June 1918 – 22 June 1919



12TH AERO SQUADRON

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FORWARD

The 12th Aero Squadron, now known as the 12th Reconnaissance Squadron, is one of the oldest squadrons in the United States Air Force. Since its inception, it has always served in one form or another as an operational reconnaissance squadron. The following pages contain biographical information about the original members of the 12th during World War I. These men lived. They often made great personal sacrifices as pioneers of aviation and especially wartime aviation reconnaissance. After the war, many returned to their civilian lives, a few remained in the service and several continued to make significant contributions to aviation as civilian or military citizens. At least three answered the nation's call a second time serving in WWII ultimately becoming Generals. One member helped found the national airway system while another chose the site for an airfield known today as LaGuardia International Airport. They were a dedicated, close and vibrant bunch who together formed a squadron known as the "best squadron of its kind in the American Air Service" according to General "Billy" Mitchell.

Unfortunately, records from this period of time are scarce. Enlisted records have been nearly impossible to find thus far. Currently, I've only been able to obtain information about the 12th's officers and two enlisted members. Even information on the officers is typically thin. This publication represents an ongoing project to identify these individuals and tell their story. It is an attempt to honor these men lest they be forgotten forever. It is my hope you enjoy getting to know the courageous members of the 12th Aero Squadron as much as I have.

Daniel S. Pool, Captain, USAF
12th Reconnaissance Squadron Historian

THE DEAD

"I Feared the lonely dead, so old were they, -
Decrepit, tired beings, ghastly white,
With withered breasts and eyes devoid of sight,
Forever mute beneath the sodden clay;
I feared the lonely dead, and turned away
From thoughts of somber death and endless night;
Thus, through the dismal hours I longed for light
To drive my utter hopelessness away.

But now my nights are filled with flowered dreams
Of singing warriors, beautiful and young;
Strong men and boys within whose eyes there gleams
The triumph song of worlds unknown, unsung;
Grim death has vanished, leaving in its stead
The shining glory of the living dead."

1Lt Sigourney Thayer, 12th Aero Squadron

CAMPAIGNS



Lorraine



Ile-de-France



Champagne-Marne



Aisne-Marne



Champagne



St. Mihiel



Meuse-Argonne

ASSIGNED AIRFIELDS

San Antonio, TX	2 Jun 1917
Wilbur Wright Field, OH	8 Jul 1917
Garden City, NY	2 Nov-3 Dec 1917
St Maixent, France	1 Jan 1918
Chaumont, France	16 Jan 1918
Amanty, France	2 Feb 1918
Ourches, France	3 May 1918
Flin, France	13 Jun 1918
Saints, France	29 Jun 1918
Francheville, France	c. 6 Jul 1918
Moras Ferme France	22 Jul 1918
May-en-Multien, France	3 Aug 1918
Coincy, France	10 Aug 1918
Chailly- en-Brie, France	12 Aug 1918
Toul, France	22 Aug 1918
Remicourt, France	20 Sep 1918
Julvecourt, France	3 Nov 1918
Mercy-le-Haut, France	21 Nov 1918
Trier, Germany	6 Dec 1918
Coblenz, Germany	30 Dec 1918
Colombey-les-Belles, France	16 Apr 1919
Le Mans France	5 May 1919
Brest, France	20 May 1919
Mitchel Field, NY	17 Jun 1919

AERIAL VICTORIES

Total Confirmed Victories by Individual

1Lt Dogan Arthur	1.5	(Three half credits)
1Lt Howard Fleeson	1.5	(Three half credits)
1Lt John C. Miller	1.0	(Two half credits)
1Lt Stephen W. Thompson	1.0	(Two half credits)
<i>Capt Elmer Haslett (Unconfirmed)</i>	0.5	
<i>1Lt Kenneth Holden (Unconfirmed)</i>	0.5	

By Date

1Lt John C. Miller	.5	28 July 1918
1Lt John C. Miller	.5	28 July 1918
1Lt Stephen W. Thompson	.5	28 July 1918
1Lt Stephen W. Thompson	.5	28 July 1918
1Lt Dogan Arthur	.5	12 September 1918
1Lt Howard Fleeson	.5	12 September 1918
<i>Capt Elmer Haslett (Attached/Unconfirmed)</i>	.5	28 September 1918
1Lt Dogan Arthur	.5	30 October 1918
1Lt Dogan Arthur	.5	30 October 1918
1Lt Howard Fleeson	.5	30 October 1918
1Lt Howard Fleeson	.5	30 October 1918
<i>1Lt Kenneth Holden (Unconfirmed)</i>	.5	1 November 1918

(Hall of Valor, 2016)

(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)

LOSSES

Killed in Action by Date

2 nd Lt. Cyril M. Angel		14 May 1918
2 nd Lt. William Key Bond Emerson		14 May 1918
Captain E. P. Hinds	Accident	24 June 1918
1 st Lt. A. J. Bradford		25 July 1918
1 st Lt. Alfred N. Joerg		25 July 1918
2 nd Lt. John Cooper Lumsden		28 July 1918
1 st Lt. John C. Miller		28 July 1918
1 st Lt. Alvin C. Goodale	Accident	14 September 1918
1 st Lt. Edwin Orr	Accident	14 September 1918
1 st Lt. Wistar Morris		29 September 1918
1 st Lt. Sidney W. Beauclerk		29 October 1918

Prisoners of War

2 nd Lt. Alfred B. Baker	28 July 1918
1 st Lt. Cassius H. Styles	29 September 1918
1 st Lt. Robert A. Patterson	29 October 1918
2 nd Lt. John F. Foy	30 October 1918
1 st Lt. Harold D. Muller	30 October 1918

Wounded in Action

1 st Lt. Armin F. Herold	24 June 1918
2 nd Lt. Samuel A. Bowman	4 October 1918
1 st Lt. Ralph C. Keely	7 October 1918
2 nd Lt. Herbert Souder Bean	19 October 1918

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSSES: 16 SILVER STARS: 15

Distinguished Service Cross

Captain William Harrison Saunders	25 May 1918
1 st Lt. Benjamin P. Harwood	5 July 1918
1 st Lt. Edward Orr (Posthumous)	28 August 1918
1 st Lt. Phil A. Henderson	28 August 1918
Captain Dogan H. Arthur	12 September 1918
2 nd Lt. Howard T. Fleeson	12 September 1918
1 st Lt. Robert C. Paradise	26 September 1918
1 st Lt. Burdette S. Wright	26 September 1918
Captain Elmer R. Haslett	28 September 1918
2 nd Lt. Samuel Bowman	4 October 1918
1 st Lt. Justin P. Follette	15 October 1918
Captain Stephen H. Noyes	15 October 1918
Captain Dogan H. Arthur	18 & 30 October 1918
2 nd Lt. Howard T. Fleeson	30 October 1918
2 nd Lt. Clinton S. Breese	2 November 1918
1 st Lt. Kenneth H. Holden	2 November 1918

Silver Star

Captain William Harrison Saunders	25 May 1918
1 st Lt. Eugene E. Stuck	23 July 1918
2 nd Lt. Clinton S. Breese	1918
1 st Lt. Sigourney Thayer	13 September 1918
1 st Lt. Leslie McClurg	13 September 1918
1 st Lt. Cassius H. Styles	16 September 1918
1 st Lt. Robert C. Paradise	24 September 1918
1 st Lt. Burdette S. Wright	26 September 1918
1 st Lt. Robert L. Davidson	17 October 1918
1 st Lt. Leslie McClurg	18 October 1918
1 st Lt. Robert L. Davisdson	18 October 1918
1 st Lt. Clifford E. Gregory	23 Oct & 4 Nov 1918
2 nd Lt. Frank Over Jr.	1 November 1918
2 nd Lt. Maurice C. Owen	1 November 1918
1 st Lt. William C. Thomas	1 November 1918

(Aerospace Studies Institute Historical Research Division, 1969)

COMMANDERS

Major L. G. Heffernan		2 June 1917
1 st Lt George F. Hughes		18 Oct 1917 – 23 Jan 1918
Major Harry M. Brown		28 Jan 1918
Major Lewis H. Brereton		29 Mar 1918
Captain Stephen N. Noyes		1 July 1918
1 st Lt Robert C. Paradise		25 Oct 1918
Captain Dogan H. Arthur		25 Feb 1919?
Major John C. Kennedy		No date
Major William Harrison Saunders	(Unconfirmed)	No date

(AFHRA, 2015)

S. F. ALLEN

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Observer

Second Lieutenant Allen served with the 12th Aero Squadron from 26 April to 8 June 1918.

(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)

CYRIL M. ANGELL

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Killed in Action

Pilot

Second Lieutenant Angell served with the 12th Aero Squadron from 29 April to 14 May 1918. The son of Thomas H. and Charlotte Angell of Attleboro, Massachusetts, Angell was born in Fall River, Massachusetts on 9 April 1895. He attended the Newport High School, and graduated from Fall River High School and later M.I.T.

He enlisted at Champaign, Illinois on August, 1917 and trained at the University of Illinois School of Military Aeronautics. He was then attached to the Royal Flying Corps, Squadron 83, for additional training at Camp Mohawk, Deseronto, Canada and later the R.F.C. School of Aerial Gunnery in Hicks, Texas. On August of 1917 he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant.



NEW ENGLAND AVIATORS 1914-1918

Lt Angell was stationed in France, with the 147th Aero Squadron. He joined the 12th Aero Squadron on 29 April 1918. On 14 May 1918, Lt Angell was flying with his observer, Lt. William Key Bond Emerson Jr., over the German lines, near Vignot, France. Witnesses on the ground lost sight of them until they were seen falling from the sky over the American lines, presumably shot down by the enemy. Both Lt Angell and Lt Emerson were killed. Lt Angell was buried in the cemetery of the 104th Infantry, U.S.A., at Vignot, France, north of Toul.

(New England Aviators 1914-1918 , 1919)

(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)

DOGAN “COTTON” HUMPHRIES ARTHUR

CAPTAIN

Pilot

Air Victories: 3

Distinguished Service Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster

Captain Dogan Humphries Arthur was born in Union, South Carolina on 29 Feb 1892. He attended Clemson University and A&M University of South Carolina. Capt Arthur enlisted in the Army on 21 July 1917 in Chicago, Illinois; attended Aviation Ground School at the University of Illinois and pilot training at Selfridge and Gerstner Fields. On 28 Feb 1918 he was shipped overseas. He attended Aerial Gunnery School near Rome, Italy in May 1918 and worked as a ferry pilot transferring aircraft



from Paris to the front during June and July. On 21 July, he joined the 12th Aero Squadron at Chateau-Thierry. Here Lts Fleeson and Arthur began flying as a crew in their aircraft the “Old Carolina.” Known to his squadron as “Cotton” and sometimes as “Hump,” he quickly distinguished himself during the Champagne-Marne, Aisne-Marne, St. Mihiel and Argonne Meuse Campaigns. He was awarded two Distinguished Service Crosses, wounded in action, shot down four times, tangled with Richtoven’s Flying Circus and credited with three 1/2 aerial victories making him and Lt Fleeson the squadron leaders for most aerial victories (three total). He is pictured above next to his fourth aircraft the “Old Carolina IV.” On 6 Nov 1918 he was promoted to First Lieutenant. He rejoined the 12th Aero Squadron during the Occupation. On 18 February 1919, “Cotton” was promoted to Captain. While serving during the occupation, Capt Arthur married Ms. Mary Eileen Farrell of Columbia, SC in Coblenz, Germany. Capt Arthur served overseas until 16 June 1919. On 18 August 1919, Lt Dogan assumed command of the 13th Bomb Squadron, known as the “Reaper” squadron which is still active flying the B-2 Spirit.

On 24 April 1923, Capt Arthur perished when his Sperry Messenger aircraft crashed shortly after takeoff. He is buried at the Forest Lawn Cemetery in Union, South Carolina.

(Wingnut Wings Media), (Clemson University Alumni Association, 2016), (Richardson, 1931), (AFHRA, 2011)

Distinguished Service Cross
Action Date: September 12, 1918

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to Captain (Air Service) Dogan H. Arthur, United States Army Air Service, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving with 12th Aero Squadron, U.S. Army Air Service, A.E.F., in the St. Mihiel salient 12 September 1918. Lieutenant Arthur, pilot, and Second Lieutenant Howard T. Fleeson, observer, executed a difficult mission of infantry contact patrol, without protection of accompanying battle planes, on the first day of the St. Mihiel offensive. After being driven back twice by a patrol of nine enemy planes, they courageously made a third attempt in the face of a third attack by the same planes, found the American lines, and after being shot down, but falling uninjured in friendly territory, communicated their valuable information to headquarters.



Distinguished Service Cross
Action Date: October 18 & 30, 1918

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting a Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of a Second Award of the Distinguished Service Cross to Captain (Air Service) Dogan H. Arthur, United States Army Air Service, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving with 12th Aero Squadron, U.S. Army Air Service, A.E.F., on October 18 and 30, 1918, while on artillery reglage. Lieutenant Arthur and his observer were attacked by four enemy planes. His observer's guns were jammed, but Lieutenant Arthur, with splendid courage and coolness, outmaneuvered the hostile aircraft and escaped, although they followed his plane to within 25 meters of the ground, badly damaging it by machine-gun fire. On 30 October 1918, Lieutenant Arthur was one of a formation of nine planes which were to take photographs in German territory. Before the lines were reached six planes dropped out, but the remaining three entered the German lines, although they observed several large formations of enemy planes in the near vicinity. When they were 12 kilometers within the German lines they were attacked by 18 enemy Fokkers. Regardless of his own safety, Lieutenant Arthur engaged these planes in order to allow his companions to escape, and turning toward his own lines only when he saw them shot down. Then he fought his way home, and in the fight which ensued his observer shot down two enemy planes.

ALFRED B. BAKER

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Prisoner of War

Pilot

Criox de Guerre with Palm

First Lieutenant Baker was born 30 May 1891 to John and Amia L. Baker. He attended McKinley High School in Washington D.C. and practiced Title Law until 1917. Lt Baker joined the 12th Aero Squadron on 29 April 1918. On 28 July 1918, near Chateau Thierry, while providing escort to Capt Miller and Lt Thompson, Lt Baker was shot down behind enemy lines. He was wounded during the dogfight. After crash landing, Lt Baker was taken prisoner. He spent ten days recovering in a German hospital before eventually being taken to Landshut then Villingen. Lt Baker lost thirty pounds during his POW experience. After the War, he became Commander of the 10th Observation Squadron.

(Who's Who in Aeronautics, 1922)

(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Section M Vol 10 POW Reports)

WALLACE R. BAMBER

UNKNOWN RANK

Position: Unknown

Mr. Bamber served with the 12th for an unknown period of time. After the war, he met with his old squadron mate Captain Phil A. Henderson and worked as a commercial salesman in the Seattle area.

LEO B. BARON

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Observer

First Lieutenant Baron joined the 12th Aero Squadron on 9 October 1918. After the war he returned to Elkhart, Indiana and became a salesman.

(Historical Society of Pennsylvania)

(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)

HERBERT SOUDER BEAN

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Wounded in Action

Observer

Second Lieutenant Bean entered the Second Reserve Officer's Training Camp at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in November 1917. He was assigned to the 336th Field Artillery in September 1917. In July 1918, Lt. Bean became an aerial observer and was sent to the 12th Aero Squadron on 9 October 1918. Ten days later on 19 October, Lt Bean was wounded in the arm by shrapnel near Grand Pre in the Argonne Forest. He returned home after the war and spent time at Walter Reed Hospital recovering from his wounds. He also married Marguaritte Dieffenbach.



ALUMNI ASSOC. OF THE PENN STATE
COLLEGE

(The Alumni Association of The Pennsylvania State College, 1921)
(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)
(Historical Society of Pennsylvania)

SIDNEY “DOC” WENTWORTH BEAUCLERK

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Killed in Action

Pilot

“First Lieutenant Beauclerk, son of William Preston and Jennie M. Hayward Beauclerk, was born in Irasburg, Vermont on 10 October 1895. He entered Syracuse University, class of 1919 before attending Officer’s Training Camp in Plattsburg on 11 May 1917. On 18 July 1917, he entered U.S. Aviation Ground School in Ithaca, New York. Upon completion of training he was sent to Foggia, Italy on 25 Sept 1917. In Italy, he received his pilot’s license and was commissioned a first lieutenant on 22 March 1918. He received additional training at Tours and Issoudun, France. On 7 Sept 1918, Sidney joined the 12th Aero Squadron participating in the St Mihiel drive and later the Argonne sector. Lt Beauclerk quickly proved himself one of the best men in the Squadron during St Mihiel and received high praise from his commanding officers during the Argonne offensive.

On 29 October, Lt Beauclerk was assigned to a formation of six aircraft tasked to photograph a sector for an infantry offensive the following morning. Attacked by overwhelming numbers Lt Beauclerk, sacrificed his own plane to save that containing the pictures necessary for the guidance of the infantry. He took the bullets intended for the photographic plane, doubtless saving many lives in the advance. He fought to the last, and when he came down behind the German lines, mortally wounded, landed his aircraft in such a way as to save his observer’s life.”



(Miller, 2015) (New York Times, 1947)
(New England Aviators 1914-1918, 1919)
(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)

BARTLETT BEAMAN

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Pilot

First Lieutenant Beaman was born to Harry Clayton and Jennie Bartlett Beaman in Princeton, Massachusetts on 20 July 1890. He attended Phillips Andover Academy and graduated Harvard College in 1913. He attended Officer's Training School at Plattsburg on 10 May, 1917. In July he transferred to Ground School at M.I.T. graduating in October 1917. He was sent overseas where he received additional training in Tours at the 2nd Aviation Instruction Centre and at Issoudun, 3d A.I.C. On 16 May 1918 he was commissioned a 1st Lieutenant and served as a ferry pilot delivering aircraft to the front. He joined the 12th Aero Squadron on 4 November 1918 near the end of the Argonne offensive and continued to serve with the 12th through the end of World War I and as part of the Army of Occupation at Treves and Coblenz. He was later assigned to the 4th Corps at Zinzig. On 15 July 1919, he was honorably discharged.



During WWII, again answered his nation's call returning to the Army in 1941 as a Major. He was later promoted to Brigadier General by General Doolittle. He earned the Distinguished Service Medal, Flying Cross, Legion of Merit and was one of twenty-two Americans to receive the French Legion of Honor for outstanding contribution to the liberation of France."

(General Bartlett Beaman Dies in Hospital, 1947)

(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)

(New York Times, 1947)

(Findagrave.com, n.d.)

J. C. BELCHER

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Radio Officer

Second Lieutenant Belcher served with the 12th from 6 June to 3 November 1918 before being reassigned to the 1st Aero Squadron.

DAN M. BELL

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Supply Officer

First Lieutenant Bell served with the 12th from 23 November to 19 September 1918 when he was relieved due to illness.

GEORGE A. BENTON JR.

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Pilot

Second Lieutenant Benton joined the 12th on 13 November after the Armistice and departed the 12th in Coblenz, Germany to attend the University of Cambridge in the spring of 1919. Afterwards, he returned to Cornell University to continue his studies.

C. H. BEYMER

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Radio Officer

Second Lieutenant Beymer joined the 12th on 4 November 1918.

SAMUEL A. BOWMAN

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Wounded in Action

Distinguished Service Cross

Observer

Second Lieutenant Bowman served with the 12th from 16 May to 4 October 1918. On 4 October he was wounded in the leg from an M.G. bullet. He subsequently spent several months in hospitals and was able to visit the 12th at Coblenz, Germany in March 1919. Afterwards, he served for the next three months as a courier for the Peace Commission before returning to the U.S. to begin studying law that same year.

Distinguished Service Cross

Action Date: October 4, 1918

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to Second Lieutenant (Field Artillery) Samuel A. Bowman, United States Army Air Service, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving with 12th Aero Squadron (Attached), U.S. Army Air Service, A.E.F., in the Aire Valley, near Fleville, France, 4 October 1918. Lieutenant Bowman displayed remarkable bravery and devotion to duty while on an Infantry contact patrol mission. Heavy machine-gun fire was encountered from the enemy position in Fleville. The plane was pierced many times and Lieutenant Bowman was severely wounded, but in spite of this fact he continued on his mission until the front line was located, after which he wrote and dropped clear and accurate messages to division and corps command posts, giving valuable and timely information.



(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)
(Historical Society of Pennsylvania)
(Hall of Valor, 2016)

ALFORD. J. BRADFORD

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Killed in Action

Observer

Second Lieutenant Bradford was born on 12 May 1892 in Michigan. He moved to Seattle, WA where he enrolled in the University of Washington and studied engineering from 1913-1914. He was commissioned a 1st Lieutenant in the army in engineering on 15 August 1917. He transferred to field artillery and accepted the rank of 2nd Lieutenant on 26 October 1917. He trained with the French as an Observer from 5 to 27 June when he was transferred to the 12th Aero Squadron. Lt. Bradford remained with the 12th until he was killed in action with his pilot 1st Lt Alfred N. Joerg during a mission on 25 July 1918. He was 26 years old. His remains were reinterred in the Arlington National Cemetery in the early 1920s.



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)
(Aviation, 1922)
(University of Washington Yearbook 1913-1914, 1914)

CLINTON S. BREESE

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Observer

Decorations: Distinguished Service Cross and Silver Star

Born in Waukesha, Wisconsin, Second Lieutenant Breese joined the 12th in 19 October 1918 where he earned the Distinguished Service Cross and the Silver Star. After the war, he became secretary and sales manager of I. B. Rowell Co.



USAFA SPECIAL COLLECTIONS / DWIGHT

Distinguished Service Cross

Action Date: November 2, 1918

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to Second Lieutenant (Air Service) Clinton S. Breese, United States Army Air Service, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving with 12th Aero Squadron, U.S. Army Air Service, A.E.F., near Argonne, France, 2 November 1918. While on an infantry contact mission, Lieutenant Breese and his pilot were attacked by four enemy planes and driven back, but realizing the importance of their mission, deliberately returned and attacked the four planes, sending one to the earth and driving the others away. Unmindful of the damaged condition of their plane and of their own danger, they then flew for an hour within 100 meters of the ground through a continuous heavy machine-gun fire until they had accurately located our front line positions.



Silver Star Citation

By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved July 9, 1918 (Bul. No. 43, W.D., 1918), Second Lieutenant (Air Service) Clinton S. Breese, United States Army, is cited by the Commanding General, American Expeditionary Forces, for gallantry in action and a silver star may be placed upon the ribbon of the Victory Medals awarded him. Second Lieutenant Breese distinguished himself by gallantry in action while serving with 12th Aero Squadron, American Expeditionary Forces, in action near Buzancy, France, while on a photographic mission during World War I.



*(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)
(Historical Society of Pennsylvania)
(Hall of Valor, 2016)*

LEWIS HYDE BRERETON

MAJOR

Commander / Pilot

Decorations

WWI

Distinguished Service Cross, Purple Heart
Croix de Guerre with two palms
Officer of the Legion of Honor (French)
Commander, First Class, Order of Danilo I (Montenogrin Government), Chevalier, Order of Albert (Belgium); Victor Medal with six stars, Army of Occupation.

World War II

Distinguished Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal & Bronze Star, Order of Orange and Nassau Commander Cross (Netherlands Government), Order of Companion of the Bath (British Government); Legion of Honor, Rank of Commander, and Croix de Guerre with Palm (French government); Order of Polonia Restituta Commander Cross with Star (Polish Government).



“Lewis Hyde Brereton was born in Pittsburgh, Pa., in 1890. He attended St. John's College, Annapolis, Md.; entered the U.S. Naval Academy in 1907, and graduated in June 1911. He resigned as an ensign, and was appointed second lieutenant in the Coast Artillery Corps of the Regular Army on Aug. 17, 1911.

He served a year in the Coast Artillery Corps, before being sent in September 1912 to the Aviation Section, Signal Corps. He received flying training at the Signal Corps Aviation School in San Diego, Calif. After qualifying as a pilot on March 27, 1913, he served in the Philippines from Jul 1916 to Oct 1917 with the Second Field Artillery and the 2nd Aero Squadron.

He went overseas in October 1917, and commanded the 12th Aero Squadron from 29 March to 1 July 1918. While Commander of the 12th, he carried out extensive operations in the Toul and Luneville sectors and took part in the attack at Vaux in July 1918.

Afterwards, he became chief of aviation, First Army Corps, commanded the Corps Observation Wing immediately preceding the St. Mihiel operations, and in October 1918, became operations officer on the staff of the chief of Air Service of the American Expeditionary Forces

until the Armistice. Afterwards, he was appointed chief of staff, Headquarters Air Service of the Third Army. Between World Wars, he served in a variety of positions and commands.

During WWII, he served as a Lieutenant General, commanded the Far East Air Force in the Philippines Islands, was the air commander-in-chief of Allied Air Forces on the staff of General Wavell, and was commander of the Fifth Air Force. He organized and commanded the Tenth Air Force India, was commander of the Middle East Air Force, later designated the Ninth Air Force, commanded the U.S. Army Forces in the Middle East, the Ninth Air Force in the European theater of operations and was the First Allied Airborne Army Commander until the capitulation of Germany in May 1945. After the war, he served until retirement in 1948.”

(United States Air Force, 2016)

(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)

FRANK M. BREWER

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Observer

Second Lieutenant Brewer served with the 12th from 26 August to 9 October 1918.

WILBUR F. BROOKS

CAPTAIN

Observer

Captain Brooks was born on 13 October 1888 in Baltimore, Maryland. He joined the 12th on 10 November 1918.

(Maryland in the World War, 1917-1919; Military and Naval Service Records. Vol I-II, 1933)
(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)

HARRY M. BROWN

MAJOR

Commander / Pilot

Major Brown served with the 12th from 28 January to 29 March 1918.

MAHLON PHILIP BRYAN

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Pilot

“Born to Mahlon R. and Bertha L. Schrack Bryan on 9 August 1895 in Camden, New Jersey, Mahlon entered Harvard Class of 1919. From 1916-1917 he served in the American Ambulance Field Service, Section VIII. After returning to America, he enlisted at M.I.T. on 23 July 1917, trained with the Royal Flying Corps in Toronto, Canada and was attached to the 27th Aero Squadron in Fort Worth, Texas. On 5 February 1918 he commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and headed for Issoudun, France with the 27th to receive advanced training. He was transferred to the 12th in Amanty, France on 29 April. He remained with the 12th until 1 August 1918 when he transferred to the 1st Aero Squadron as supply officer. After the war, he served in Germany as part of the Army of Occupation. On 3 March 1919, he returned to America and was honorably discharged.”



NEW ENGLAND AVIATORS 1914-1918

(New England Aviators 1914-1918, 1919)

(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)

P. V. BURWELL

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Pilot

First Lieutenant Burwell served with the 12th from 22 June to 15 September 1918.

ROLAND A. BUSH

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Pilot

First Lieutenant Bush served with the 12th from 29 April to 18 August 1918. After the war, he returned to Springfield, Massachusetts and became a paper salesman in New England area.

W.M. CARNER

UNKNOWN

Position Unknown

Lieutenant Carner was identified in the Signal Corps master photograph index # 40183 as a member of the 12th Aero Squadron. No additional information available.

P. L. CHRICHTON

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Pilot

First Lieutenant Chrichton joined the 12th on 6 November 1918. After separating from the Army he returned to Montana and became a farmer.

GEORGE W. CHURCH

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Pilot

First Lieutenant Church served with the 12th from 14 September 1917 to 30 October 1917.

WILLIAM. B. COLLETT JR.

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Pilot

Second Lieutenant Collet served with the 12th from 29 April to 1 August 1918. Lt Collett spent time in Tours, Orly, Ourches and Somme, became commander of Landing Field and later the officer in charge of inspections. After separation from the military, he returned to Bronso, Kansas, bought Citizens State Bank and married Miss Vera F. Griff.

ROBERT W. CONE

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Pilot

First Lieutenant Cone joined the 12th on 4 November 1918.

J. W. CORCORAN

CAPTAIN

Engineering Officer

Captain Corcoran served with the 12th from 18 February to March 1918. He transferred to the 1st Air Depot on 1 March 1918.

HERBERT WARNER CREDE

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Pilot

First Lieutenant Crede enlisted in the Air Service in August, 1917 sent overseas in November and promoted to First Lieutenant in May 1918. He served with the 12th Aero Squadron before being transferred to the 1st Aero Squadron. He was discharged in July 1919 after serving in the Army of Occupation.



ALUMNI ASSOC. OF THE PENN STATE COLLEGE

(The Alumni Association of The Pennsylvania State College, 1921)

FRANK T. DAILEY

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Observer

Second Lieutenant Dailey served with the 12th from 25 April to 27 May 1918.

JOHN W. DRENNING

SERGEANT

Sergeant Drenning was born in Wrightsville, Philadelphia. He enlisted in the Army on 1 May 1917 and served with the 3rd Aero Squadron until 22 June 1917 when he was assigned to the 12th Aero Squadron. He was one of the few members of the 12th to be part of the 12th from its formation until it returned home from overseas in June 1919. He was honorably discharged on 28 June 1919.

ROBERT “CHEERIO” L. DAVIDSON

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Observer

Silver Star x2

Lt. Davidson joined the 12th on 4 May 1918. After the war, he returned home and temporarily sold cars and tried his hand in the oil business before returning to his former profession as a high school instructor in Sedalia, Missouri. He also married Miss Nancy H. Manker.

Silver Star

Action Date: October 17, 1918



By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved July 9, 1918 (Bul. No. 43, W.D., 1918), First Lieutenant (Air Service) Robert L. Davidson, United States Army Air Service, is cited by the Commanding General, American Expeditionary Forces, for gallantry in action and a silver star may be placed upon the ribbon of the Victory Medals awarded him. First Lieutenant Davidson distinguished himself by gallantry in action while serving as a Pilot with the 12th Aero Squadron, American Expeditionary Forces, in action near Buzancy, France, 17 October 1918, while on a photographic mission.



Silver Star

By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved July 9, 1918 (Bul. No. 43, W.D., 1918), First Lieutenant (Air Service) Robert L. Davidson, United States Army Air Service, is cited by the Commanding General, American Expeditionary Forces, for gallantry in action and a silver star may be placed upon the ribbon of the Victory Medals awarded him. First Lieutenant Davidson distinguished himself by gallantry in action while serving as a Pilot with the 12th Aero Squadron, American Expeditionary Forces, in action near Buzancy, in protecting a photographic mission, on 18 October 1918.



(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)
(Historical Society of Pennsylvania)
(Hall of Valor, 2016)

CLAUDE E. DUNCAN

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Pilot

First Lieutenant Duncan joined the 12th on 6 November 1918. After serving with the 12th Lt Duncan was stationed in Sinzig, Germany with the 4th Corps. He was assigned to the 88th Squadron then to the 1st during the occupation. Upon returning to the States, he was assigned to General "Billy" Mitchell. In the early 1920's he was stationed at Luke Field, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. He became a career officer serving as an instructor at the advance flying school at Kelly Field, Texas, attending several schools and moving between various units until assuming command of the First Bomb Squadron in 1936. He served in World War II as a Colonel and later a Brigadier General. During the war he served in several posts and commands including special observer with the Eighth Air Force in England, chief of staff of the Eighth Bomber Command, Commander of the First Provisional Wing of the 8th Bomber Command, Commander of the XII Bomber Command in England and North Africa. He was also served in the plans section of the Second Air Force, named chief of the supply section of the 58th Bomb Wing, served successively as assistant executive and assistant chief of staff of the XX Bomber Command in India and China, commanded the air base at Pyote, Texas, and served as chief of staff of the Second Air Force. After WWII, he command the air base at Camp Pinedale, Calif and later the air base at Long Beach, Calif. In August 1950 he was appointed deputy for operations of the Fourth Air Force at Hamilton Air Force Base, Calif. He became chief of staff of the Fourth Air Force and in December 1950 was named vice commander of that organization.



(United States Air Force, 2017)
(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)
(Historical Society of Pennsylvania)

HERBERT “MICKEY” I. DUNN

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Observer

Lt Dunn joined the 12th Aero Squadron on 26 August 1918.



USFA SPECIAL COLLECTIONS / DWIGHT

HENRY WILLIAMS DWIGHT

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Pilot

Born to Henry and Caroline Dwight in Brookline, Massachusetts on 12 January 1896. He attended Williams College. On 23 Aug 1917, he completed Aviation Ground School at M.I.T., was attached to R.F.C., Canada and received additional training at Fort Worth Field, Texas. He became a Second Lieutenant on 7 March 1918 and was assigned to the 184th Aero Squadron. On 4 May 1918, he joined the 12th Aero Squadron. He served with the 12th through the end of the war and during the occupation. Afterwards, he returned home and was honorably discharged on 5 May 1919. He married Miss Margaret Cooper and settled in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1919.



NEW ENGLAND AVIATORS 1914-1918

(New England Aviators 1914-1918, 1919)

(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)
(Historical Society of Pennsylvania)

DOUGLAS S. ELLIOTT

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Observer

Lt Elliott joined the 12th on 14 October 1918. He returned to the States, completed law school at the University of Michigan in June 1920 and became a lawyer in Soux Falls, South Dakota. He was also engaged to Miss Gladys P. Daum.



(U.S. School Yearbooks, 1880-2012 [database on-line], n.d.)
(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)
(Historical Society of Pennsylvania)

WILLIAM KEY BOND EMERSON JR.

FIRST LIEUTENANT.

Killed in Action

Observer

Croix de Guerre

William Key Bond Emerson Jr was born April 9, 1894, in New York City to W. K. B. and Maria Furman Emerson.

"There are few men, dying at twenty-four, who leave behind them such a clear-cut record for service and character as did Lieutenant William Key Bond Emerson. Of what he stood for even as a lad, one of his masters at Middlesex has written: "'Bill' Emerson was one of those delightful, big-hearted, child-like fellows who made friends with everyone he met. At school he stood for the best in both sport and work. He was a keen competitor, but too high strung to make the ideal athlete, though he rowed on the school crew. At his books he showed marked application rather than brilliancy, but was of the intellectual type whose tastes were always refined and high." And another says: "To have known 'Bill' is a privilege I shall never lose. I recall how he looked when laughing, when serious, or when puzzled, but I cannot recall ever having seen him angry or vexed. I feel this is quite remarkable in a boy and I think it sums up 'Bill's' character pretty well."



His association with the American Field Service began in the summer of 1915. Long interested in France and the struggle she was making against the invader, he left college at the end of his junior year to serve for six months in the Vosges with Section Three. In January, 1916, he returned to Harvard and received his degree with his class in June. But twenty-one years old at the time of his first enlistment, it is interesting to note from a letter of the Section's leader the impression he made on the men with whom he worked: "He was so straightforward and so true, and such a gentleman through and through. He had a great sense of duty and loyalty and

was morally as well as physically courageous. He was always so eager to do more than his share that he was an inspiration to those about him; and ever cheerful, kind, and thoughtful, he won the very deep affection and respect of everyone."

After a summer and fall spent at Columbia and Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the study of Aeronautical engineering, "Bill" began to chafe at the hesitation of his country in joining the allies and in January, 1917, he decided to re-enlist in the Ambulance Service. He was this time sent out with Section Thirteen, attached to a French division engaged in the Champagne offensive, but was soon afterward transferred to his old section then serving in the Balkans. Here he spent several months with the Army of the Orient in the Albanian mountains and won for himself a citation for the Croix de Guerre. By this time America had at last entered the war and "Bill" went back to France, received a commission in the American Army, and was sent to the French Officers' Training School at Valdahon, where he trained as an observer and graduated at the head of his class. Then followed a winter of further training and experience with the 15th Field Artillery and the 228th French Escadrille, and early on 26 April, 1918, he joined the 12th Aero Squadron of the American Army in the Toul sector. It was on one of his first trips over the lines, on May 14, 1918, that he and his pilot were shot down. One of his comrades, Lieutenant K. P. Culbert, wrote on May 21st, the day before he himself met death: "We do not know whether the 'antis' got him or whether it was a Boche plane. He went out on a *réglage* and was shot down in our lines. He was an honor to Harvard, a gentleman and a soldier, and the first of our little group to gain the one glorious epitaph."

HOWARD T. FLEESON

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Observer

Distinguished Service Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster

Aerial Victories: 3

First Lieutenant Fleeson was born in Sterling, Kansas and joined the 12th on 16 July 1918. Lt Fleeson and his pilot Lt Dogan "Cotton" Arthur teamed up flying many missions together. They became known for their dedication and bravery while serving with the 12th.

Together they tangled with Baron von Richtoven's Flying Circus shooting down two of the enemy during the engagement, are credited with three total confirmed aerial victories and

were themselves shot down four times surviving each encounter. After the war, Lt. Fleeson returned to the States and studied law at Kansas University and Yale University.



(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)

(Wingnut Wings Media)

(Historical Society of Pennsylvania)

Distinguished Service Cross

Action Date: September 12, 1918

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to Second Lieutenant (Air Service) Howard T. Fleeson, United States Army Air Service, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving with 12th Aero Squadron, U.S. Army Air Service, A.E.F., in the St. Mihiel salient, France, 12 September 1918. Second Lieutenant Fleeson and Second Lieutenant Dogan H. Arthur, pilot, executed a difficult mission of infantry contact patrol, without protection of accompanying battle planes, on the first day of the St. Mihiel offensive. After being driven back twice by a patrol of 9 enemy planes, they courageously made a third attempt in the face of a third attack by the same planes, found the American lines, and after being shot down, but falling uninjured in friendly territory, communicated their valuable information to headquarters.



Distinguished Service Cross Oak Leaf

Action Date: October 18, 1918

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting a Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of a Second Award of the Distinguished Service Cross to First Lieutenant (Air Service) Howard T. Fleeson, United States Army Air Service, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving with 12th Aero Squadron, U.S. Army Air Service, A.E.F., near Buzancy, France, 30 October 1918. Lieutenant Fleeson accompanied a formation of nine planes on a photographic mission in German territory; six planes turned back before reaching the enemy line, and the remaining three were attacked by 18 Fokker type planes when they had penetrated 12 kilometers into the enemy country. After his two companions, whom he tried to assist, were shot down, Lieutenant Fleeson fought his way back to his own lines, destroying two enemy planes in the combat.



JUSTIN. F. FOLLETTE

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Distinguished Service Cross

Observer

Lt Follette was born in Libertyville, Illinois. He joined the 12th on 29 August 1918. While serving with the 12th, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

Distinguished Service Cross

Action Date: October 15, 1918

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to First Lieutenant (Air Service) Justin P. Follette, United States Army Air Service, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving with 12th Aero Squadron, U.S. Army Air Service, A.E.F., near Chatel-Chehery, France, 15 October 1918. First Lieutenant Follette volunteered under the most adverse weather conditions to stake the advance of the 82d Division. Disregarding the fact that darkness would set in before he and his pilot could complete their mission, he made observation at the extremely low altitude of 150 feet, amid a most terrific anti-aircraft and ground machine-gun fire until the necessary information was secured. On the return, due to darkness, his pilot was forced to land on a shell-torn field, whence he proceeded on foot to headquarters with valuable information.



*(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)
(Hall of Valor, 2016)*

JOHN F. FOY

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Prisoner of War

Radio Officer

Lt Foy served with the 12th from 7 May to 30 August 1918. He is the only known American Radio Officer shot down during the war. On 30 October, the 12th needed additional escorts for a photographic mission but were short of Observers. Lt Foy volunteered to fly in the observer position as escort for the lead ship. During the mission, the formation was attacked by eighteen enemy aircraft from Baron von Richthofen's Flying Circus. Lt. Foy and his pilot were shot down and captured by German forces. He never revealed to the enemy he was a radio officer and not an observer, preventing the enemy from learning about the 12th's manning shortages. He remained a Prisoners of War until the end of the war. After the war, he returned to Los Angeles, California and entered the garage business.

(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)
(Richardson, 1931)
(Historical Society of Pennsylvania)

R. C. FROST

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Observer

First Lieutenant Frost served with the 12th from 8 June to 3 October 1918.

W. W. GARNER

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Pilot

Lt Garner joined the 12th on 17 August 1918.

WILLIAM GATES JR.

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Observer

Second Lieutenant Gates served with the 12th from 14 May to 8 June 1918.

ALVIN C. GOODALE

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Killed in Accident

Croix de Guerre with Palm

Observer

First Lieutenant Goodale served with the 12th from 8 June to 14 September 1918. He was killed in an airplane accident over Mamey on 14 September 1918.



(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)
(WWI Collage, n.d.)

J. R. GOODWIN

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Observer

Second Lieutenant Goodwin joined the 12th on 29 August 1918.

BURDETTE S. GRAHAM

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Pilot

First Lieutenant Graham joined the 12th on 2 November 1918. After the war he married Miss Antoinette Reynolds and settled in Sherman, Texas.

CLIFFORD. E. GREGORY

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Pilot

Silver Star

First Lieutenant Gregory joined the 12th on 17 Aug 1918. He was later promoted to Captain and returned home after the war, married Miss Velma E. Bishop and settled in Detroit, Michigan as an electrician.

Silver Star

Action Date: October 23 & November 4, 1918

By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved July 9, 1918 (Bul. No. 43, W.D., 1918), First Lieutenant (Air Service) Clifford E. Gregory, United States Army Air Service, is cited by the Commanding General, American Expeditionary Forces, for gallantry in action and a silver star may be placed upon the ribbon of the Victory Medals awarded him. First Lieutenant Gregory distinguished himself by gallantry in action while serving as a Pilot with the 12th Aero Squadron, American Expeditionary Forces, in action on 23 October 1918, in protecting a photographic mission in the vicinity of Buzancy, France; also for great courage near Stenay, France, 4 November 1918.



(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)
(Historical Society of Pennsylvania)
(Hall of Valor, 2016)

HENRY M. HAGER

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Observer

Second Lieutenant Hager joined the 12th on 15 November 1918. After the war, he settled in Dallas, Texas and ran a drug store across from Camp Dick.

CHAS. W. HALL

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Pilot

First Lieutenant Hall served with the 12th from 14 Aug to 28 June 1918. Afterwards he was assigned to Orley Field on 14 August 1918.

MELVILLE C. HALL

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Arms Officer

Second Lieutenant Hall joined the 12th on 1 May 1918. After the war he returned to the States settling in Elizabeth, New Jersey with his wife Miss Margaret M. Mould. He became a Chief Draftsman for the Watson-Stillman Company in Rosalie, N.J.

WILLIAM “WHITEY” DAVIS HARWELL JR.

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Observer

Wounded in Action

Second Lieutenant Harwell joined the 12th on 1 October 1918. While serving with the 12th he was wounded by enemy fire three times in the same week. While providing escort for an aircraft performing infantry contact patrol, he was shot through the leg by enemy ground fire. A couple of days later on 30 October 1918, he volunteered to take Observer Lt McClurg's photography mission since McClurg was sick. This was the same fateful flight in which all three aircraft launched on this mission would not return. Attacked by 18 enemy Fokkers, Lt Muller and Lt Foy's aircraft went down first followed by Harwell's. He crashed in No-Man's-Land and narrowly escaped an artillery barrage on their position. His pilot was wounded in the leg and Harwell suffered a fractured arm. Later that day they were able to return through friendly lines to their airfield. Unable to fly with a broken arm, Harwell

requested to be sent to Division Headquarters as an Air Liaison Officer. Harwell's third wound occurred while walking along a road with another staff member from HQ. A shell exploded nearby killing his companion and wounding Harwell in the side. This was his second day working at Division Headquarters. Harwell was taken to a hospital and that same night a German attack bombed the neighboring ward killing two and wounding thirteen. Lt Harwell survived the war.

After the war, he became the c/o of Norris Candy Company in Atlanta, Georgia.



USAFA SPECIAL COLLECTIONS / DWIGHT

(Wright, 1919)
(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)
(Historical Society of Pennsylvania)
(Dwight, n.d.)

BENJAMIN PORTER HARWOOD

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Wounded in Action

Observer

Distinguished Service Cross & Croix de Guerre

Author: Observation Air Service Tactical History & Manual G.H.Q

Lt. Harwood was born in Helena, Montana on 21 July 1891 to Edgar N. and Fannie Porter Harwood. He graduated Yale College in 1913 and Harvard Law School in 1917. From April to September 1917 he served in the 102nd Field Artillery. Harwood then attended French Aviation School for Observation and Gunnery in France and flew with the French Esquadrille over the Verdun Sector from April to May 1918. On 28 May, Harwood joined the 12th Aero Squadron where he served until 9 July. He continued to serve until after the war as part of the Army of Occupation until 1 Jan 1919. He was eventually promoted to Major and worked in Foreign Commerce in Paris, France. By the early 1920s he was married to Miss Nina Dietz and had a daughter, Nina Joan Harwood.



Distinguished Service Cross

Action Date: July 5, 1918

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to First Lieutenant (Air Service) Benjamin P. Harwood, United States Army Air Service, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving with 12th Aero Squadron, U.S. Army Air Service, A.E.F., near Chateau-Thierry, France, 5 July 1918. Lieutenant Harwood volunteered with another plane to protect a photograph plane. In the course of their mission they were attacked by seven planes (Fokker type). Lieutenant Harwood accepted the combat and kept the enemy engaged while the photographic plane completed its mission. His guns jammed and he himself was seriously wounded. After skillfully clearing his guns, with his plane badly damaged, he fought off the hostile planes and enabled the photographic plane to return to our lines with valuable information.



(Photograph of 1st Lieut. Benjamin P. Harwood, 102nd F. A., n.d.)
(*The New York Times*, 1964)
(*New Mexico Military Institute*, 2016)
(*Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories*)
(*Historical Society of Pennsylvania*)

ELMER R. HASLETT

MAJOR

Prisoner of War

Observer

Distinguished Service Cross & Croix de Guerre

Book: "Luck on the Wing"

Major Haslett was born in Cartersville. "He graduated the New Mexico Military Institute, University of California and Georgetown University earning a Master's Degree in Law and was later admitted to practice law before the United States Supreme Court.



He joined the Army and volunteered to become an aerial observer as a way to get to the war before fully realizing the meaning of the position. He was sent to France to learn Observation from the French. He flew a handful of missions over the front before joining the 12th Aero Squadron. Maj Haslett served with the 12th from 3 May to 1 July 1918 as an Observer and as the squadron's Operations Officer. He was transferred to Mitchell's Air Staff during the war where he served with Maj Brereton. While serving on Mitchell's staff he was shot down and captured behind enemy lines serving out the remainder of the war as a Prisoner of War. He wrote a book about his experiences titled "Luck on the Wing."

After the war, he earned his pilot wings and worked with General Mitchell and Fiorello H. La Guardia to establish a separate air force. He left the Army on 30 September 1920. He completed law school and was admitted to the bar on 5 October 1920. He later became director of city airports and selected the site for New York International Airport now known as John F. Kennedy Airport. He then headed Aviation Distributors, a rubber and synthetics manufacturing company. He died on January 29th, 1964 at 69 years of age.

Distinguished Service Cross

Action Date: September 28, 1918

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to Captain (Air Service) Elmer R. Haslett, United States Army Air Service, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving with 12th Aero Squadron, U.S. Army Air Service, A.E.F., near Montfaucon, France, 28 September 1918. While on an artillery surveillance mission Captain Haslett engaged four enemy planes which were about to attack the American balloon line. He succeeded in diverting them from the balloons, but in the combat his machine-guns became jammed. Driving off his nearest adversary by firing a Vickers pistol at him he succeeded in clearing the jam and, returning to the fight, he destroyed one hostile plane and dispersed the remainder of the group.



(Who's Who in Aeronautics, 1922)
(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)
(Historical Society of Pennsylvania)
(Hall of Valor, 2016)

HARRY HAWKES

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Pilot

First Lieutenant Hawkes joined the 12th on 7 September 1918.

* (LEO G. HEFFERNAN 1911)*

MAJOR

Commander

Pilot

Maj Heffernan is the first commander of the 12th. He organized the squadron and commanded it from 28 June to 18 October 1917. The following is his obituary from West Point.

“On April 12, 1889, in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, came into the world Leo Gerald Heffernan, the ninth of ten children born to Andrew Humphrey and Mary Connole Heffernan... Leo and his younger brother joined the military, the latter being a Captain in World War I. From the beginning of his career at the Military Academy in 1907, the Irish wit and exuberance that persisted throughout Leo’s life ameliorated the serious aspects of cadet life and endeared him to a host of friends; but, despite various “excursions and alarms” during his West Point days, he was graduated on June 13, 1911, and assigned to the cavalry, to begin years of faithful service to his Country.



His first military service was with the Fifth Cavalry in Hawaii, followed by duty in Arizona... He later transferred to the Signal Corps, and in 1916, became the 14th officer in its Aviation Section to be awarded military wings. He knew and went through those early rough years of aviation work; and he counted among his friends such giants of that early air age as Jimmie Doolittle, William Mitchell, Clare Chennault and others. During the memorable Punitive Expedition, in 1916, into Mexico in pursuit of the notorious Francisco Villa, Leo was a pilot with the 1st Aero Squadron and served as an aide to the Expedition commander, General Pershing.

Later, he organized the ground personnel for various aviation squadrons for World War I, and, after duty at various new air stations, including command at Kelly Field in Texas, went to

France. There, among other assignments, he served as Corps Air Service Commander for the 9th Corps at St Mihiel, and with Air Service Headquarters, 2d Army.

After returning from France, he commanded the 1920 patrol on the Mexican Border and in 1922 organized the Third Attack Group at Kelly Field. From 1922 to 1925, he was Air Officer of the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Bliss, Texas. Then, in 1926, when the Air Service became the Air Corps, he was ordered to and was graduated from the new Air Corps Tactical School, and the Army Command and General Staff School. From 1927 to 1933, he held various posts, including the command of Chanute Field in Illinois and France Field in the Canal Zone, the duty as Air Officer of the Panama Canal Department, and as executive officer at Langley Field in Virginia. In Las Cruces, New Mexico, on February 11, 1921, he was married to Jane Hamilton Davis. Their one child, Elizabeth Jane, is the wife of Colonel James W. King of the Air Force and had given her proud father four granddaughters.

Leo Heffernan's career in aviation covered the early days of fragile wood and canvas airplanes, capable of speeds of 35 miles per hour, to the advanced types of aircraft being produced in the early nineteen thirties. Yet, he was noted as a flight commander who never lost a plane or a man; as the first Army aviator to take a flight of airplanes over water, from Langley Field to the Panama Canal, non-stop; and as the first to attain a speed of 250 miles per hour. That record was made in 1923, when Major Heffernan was piloting a DH-4B between Nogales, New Mexico, and Fort Bliss.

Unfortunately, his active and strenuous life resulted in his retirement because of physical disability in September 1933, at the comparatively early age of 44. During his years of retirement, living in Los Angeles, he acted in an advisory capacity with several aircraft companies, and engaged in other activities, until his great heart gave out on February 9, 1956. Then, after 67 eventful years, our brave Classmate was returned to his Pennsylvania homeland, to rest in St. Mary's, in Hanover Township.

Our Heffie was beloved as a gallant, loyal and happy-natured man, who truly lived the words of his Alma Mater "Let Duty be well performed, Honor be e'er untarn'd"

PHIL A. HENDERSON

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Observer

Distinguished Service Cross

Lt Henderson served with the 12th from 3 May to 9 October 1918. He earned the Distinguished Service Cross while flying with the 12th. On 9 October he was assigned as Operations Officer of the 1st Army Corps Observation Group eventually making the grade of Captain. He was discharged from the Army in October of 1919 and later returned to Oroville, Washington working as a civil engineer.



(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)
(usmilitaria forum, 2016)
(Historical Society of Pennsylvania)

Distinguished Service Cross
Action Date: August 28, 1918

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to First Lieutenant (Infantry) Phil A. Henderson, United States Army Air Service, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving with 106th Aero Squadron (Attached), U.S. Army Air Service, A.E.F., in the Toul sector, France, 28 August 1918. While on an unprotected reconnaissance mission with Lieutenant Edward Orr, pilot, Lieutenant Henderson encountered a patrol of eight enemy pursuit planes near the American balloon lines. When Lieutenant Orr attacked the planes, which had dived at the American balloon, Lieutenant Henderson engaged the other eight enemy machines, which were attacking from the rear. In the violent battle which followed all nine of the enemy were driven off.



Note: Citation lists Lt Henderson as flying with the 106th. He is on the squadron roster with the 12th during the action date for this citation. His pilot also served with the 12th on this date.
(*Hall of Valor*, 2016)

ARMIN F. HEROLD

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Wounded in Action

Observer

Lt Herold served with the 12th from 3 May to 24 June 1918. He was wounded in action on 24 June 1918 when he took a M.G. bullet to the arm. After the war, he married Dorthy E. Davis. He became a flight commander at March Field, California on 4 December 1919. He was later ordered discharged due to wounds received while serving with the 12th.

ELLIOT “POP” PRINDLE HINDS

CAPTAIN

Killed in Accident

Pilot

Captain Hinds earned a Mechanical Engineering degree from Cornell University in 1896. He was a fine tennis player having won the Niagara Falls city championship. He also was president of the Hinds Paper Box Company. On 20 July 1917 he was called to active duty. He was promoted to Captain on 29 October and sent overseas on 4 December of the same year. He served in the 12th from 30 March to 24 June 1918. He and his observer, Lt. Lumsden held the distinction of being the oldest aircrew in France. “Pop” as he was known to the 12th was 45 years old. His Observer, Lt. Lumsden, was 42 years old. He is reputed to have several unconfirmed kills. Capt “Pop” Hinds perished in an airplane accident at Colombey Les Belles, France on 24 June 1918. He was survived by his son and daughter.



GORRELL'S HISTORY OF THE A.E.F.

(Cornell University)

(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)

KENNETH H. HOLDEN

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Pilot

Distinguished Service Cross

Born in Three Oaks, Michigan, First Lieutenant Holden joined the 12th on 7 September 1918. After the war he settled in Three Oaks, Michigan working in agriculture. He states the following regarding adjustment to civilian life. "The first few months after my discharge from the service were, to say the least, very amusing; but since the birth of prohibition, I have nothing to say. In the never ending pursuit of happiness, I am at present engaged in the distillation of peppermint oil, in hopes that, through the process of experimentation and perseverance, I may at some future date be able to entertain the members of the 12th on a manner which is fitting and becoming to their peculiar taste."



*(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)
(Historical Society of Pennsylvania)**

Distinguished Service Cross

Action Date: November 2, 1918

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to First Lieutenant (Air Service) Kenneth H. Holden, United States Army Air Service, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving with 12th Aero Squadron, U.S. Army Air Service, A.E.F., near the Argonne, France, 2 November 1918. While on an Infantry contact mission Lieutenant Holden and his observer were attacked by four enemy planes and driven back, but, realizing the importance of their mission, deliberately returned and attacked the four planes, sending one to the earth and driving the others away. Unmindful of the damaged condition of their plane and of their own danger, they then flew for an hour within 100 meters of the ground, through a continuous heavy machine-gun fire, until they had accurately located our front-line position.



(Hall of Valor, 2016)

AMOS LAWRENCE HOPKINS

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Wounded in Action

Croix de Guerre

Observer

First Lieutenant Hopkins was commissioned on 5 Sept 1917. He trained at Ft Sill, OK, and sailed for France on 19 December. He was assigned to the 1st Corps Observation School for Aerial Observers in Amanty. He served with the 12th from 3 May to 18 October 1918 participating in the Saint-Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne offensives. He was wounded in June 1918 and returned to the States on 17 February 1919 where he was discharged on 20 February 1919.

(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)
(Harvard's Military Record in the World War, 1921)

R. S. HOUSTON

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Pilot

Lt Houston served with the 12th from 3 May 1918 to 18 October 1918.

GEORGE FORBES HUGHES

CAPTAIN

Commander

Pilot

Son of William G. and Lucy Hughes, Captain Hughes was born on 8 Sept 1892 in Milton, Massachusetts. He attended Harvard Class of 1918 and left college to join the Air Service. He earned his wings, was commissioned a 1st Lieutenant and assigned to Wright Airfield, where he became an Instructor pilot. He became the second Commander of the 12th Aero Squadron on 18 October 1917. As Commander, Lt. Hughes was responsible for transporting the 12th to France. He commanded the 12th until 23 July 1918. After serving with the 12th, he became Commander of the 183rd Squadron. He also had a brother who served as a pilot under his command. On 1 August 1918, he was promoted to Captain. On 5 Feb 1919, Captain Hughes returned home and was honorably discharged. He settled in Garden City, New York and entered the garage business with his brother.



NEW ENGLAND AVIATORS 1914-1918

(New England Aviators 1914-1918 , 1919)
(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)
(Historical Society of Pennsylvania)

J. F. HYMAN

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Observer

First Lieutenant Hyman joined the 12th on 16 July 1918.



USAF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS / DWIGHT

(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)
(World War Service Record Rochester and Monroe County, NY vol II, 1928)

ROBERT “DOC” SCOTT IDESON

FIRST LIEUTENANT



USAF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS / DWIGHT

Medical Officer

First Lieutenant Ideson entered the Medical Reserves in Ann Arbor, Michigan at age 26. On 15 August 1917, he was called to active duty and served with the 12th from 1 December to 1 April 1918. He was discharged from service on 23 June 1919. He settled in Rochester New York as a physician.

(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)
(Historical Society of Pennsylvania)

FRANK ISABELL

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Pilot

First Lieutenant Isabell served with the 12th from 22 June 1917 to 14 September 1917.

ALFRED N. JOERG

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Killed in Action

Pilot

First Lieutenant Alfred N. Joerg, from Brooklyn, New York, served with the 12th from 11 July to 25 July 1918. He was killed in action on 25 July 1918.



CORNELL ALUMNI NEWS, 1919

(Cornell Alumni News, 1919)

(Casualties, 1918)

(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)

R. C. KEELY

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Wounded in Action

Observer

First Lieutenant Keely served with the 12th from 16 July to 7 October 1918. On 7 October he was wounded from ground fire.

JOHN C. KENNEDY

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Pilot

First Lieutenant Kennedy joined the Army Signal Corps as a Private in 1916. On 15 August, 1917 Kennedy along with three hundred other college educated men known as the “Toronto Group” became aviation cadets. He attended aviation training near Toronto and in Texas. He completed training on 11 January 1918. He then served with the 12th from 29 April to 2 August 1918 as a 1st Lieutenant and was later promoted to Captain. After serving with the 12th, he was appointed as Commander of the 186th.



(Buck, 2010)

(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)

WILBUR D. KENNEDY

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Pilot

First Lieutenant Wilbur Kennedy joined the 12th on 1 December 1917 and served with the 12th until the end of World War I. After the war, he married Miss Carmelite W. Miller. He later settled in Cedar Rapids, Wisconsin working for the Killian Company as a buyer and manager.

LEROY C. LANE

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Pilot

First Lieutenant Lane joined the 12th on 17 August 1918 and served with the squadron until the Armistice. He returned to Brooklyn, New York, married Ruth I. Lawton and worked as an export manager.

W. LAWSON LOCKHART

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Awards: Croix de Guerre

Observer

Born in Cambridge, Massachusetts on 12 Oct 1896 to Joseph and Eva Lockhart, W. Lawson Lockhart attended M.I.T. He enlisted in June 1917, transferred to the Air Service and attended eight weeks of ground school before joining Squadron 84 at Camp Mohawk Ontario, Canada. He continued training at Camp Hicks in Fort Worth, Texas where he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant on 16 January 1918 and shipped to France. He then served with the 12th from 29 April to 9 September 1918 before being hospitalized for an appendicitis. He recovered in July and was assigned to the 168th Squadron. He was promoted to First Lieutenant on 10 Oct 1918 and Honorably discharged in February 1919.



(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)
(New England Aviators 1914-1918, 1919)

J. FREDERICK LUHR

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Pilot

First Lieutenant Luhr flew with the 12th from 1 December 1917 to 3 August 1918. On 2 August 1918, Lt Luhr became Commander of the 28th Aero Squadron.

JOHN COOPER STEDMAN LUMSDEN

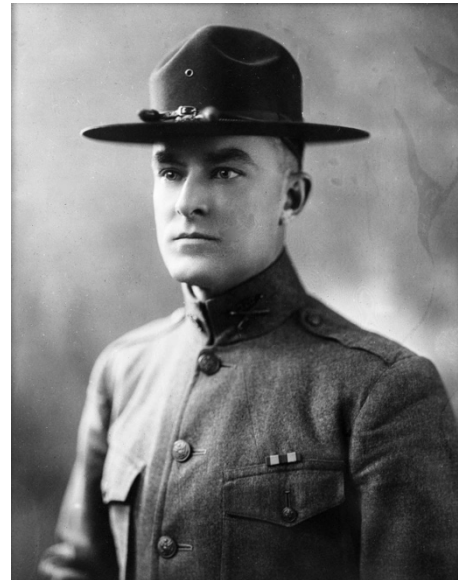
SECOND LIEUTENANT

Killed in Action 28 July 1918

Observer

Decorations: Croix de Gruerre

Born on 23 November 1877 in Raleigh, North Carolina to Charles and Martha Lumsden, Lt. Lumsden attended North Carolina State University in 1894. He volunteered in the North Carolina Infantry during the Spanish American war and spent time in Cuba as part of the occupation. Sometime after the war he again enlisted and was sent to France in December of 1917 as an observer. On 26 April 1918, Lumsden was assigned to the 12th Aero Squadron. He and Capt "Pop" Hinds, both members of the 12th and had the unique distinction of being the oldest U.S. Air Corps air crew in France. Lumsden was 42 and Hinds was 45 years old. On 28 July 1918, Lt. Lumsden made the supreme sacrifice while protecting his wingman on a photographic mission behind enemy lines. He intentionally drew fire upon himself in an effort to save his wingman. While thus engaged, Lt Lumsden was killed when he was struck by an enemy round to the head.



He is buried in the Oise-Aisne American Cemetery in Thiaucourt, France and is one of thirty-four men honored by the NCSU Memorial Bell Tower.

*(John Cooper Steadman Lumsden, n.d.)
(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories),
(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Section M Vol 10 POW Reports)*

THOMAS H. MARSHALL

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Pilot

First Lieutenant Marshall flew with the 12th from 25 June to 19 September 1918. He spent the remainder of his time recovering from rheumatism until discharged from the Army. After a short stint in the air passenger service, he returned to Illinois to study law.

LESLIE JAMES McCLURG

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Observer

Decorations: Silver Star x2

Lt McClure was assigned to the 12th on 8 June 1918. After the war he settled in Lyon, New York and became a radiologist and professor of radiology at Marguette Dental University and charge of X-Ray department at Trinity Hospital in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Silver Star Citation

Action Date: September 13, 1918



By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved July 9, 1918 (Bul. No. 43, W.D., 1918), First Lieutenant (Air Service) Leslie J. McClurg, United States Army Air Service, is cited by the Commanding General, American Expeditionary Forces, for gallantry in action and a silver star may be placed upon the ribbon of the Victory Medals awarded him. First Lieutenant McClurg distinguished himself by gallantry in action while serving as an Observer with the 12th Aero Squadron, American Expeditionary Forces, in action during the St. Mihiel Offensive, France, 13 September 1918, while on a reconnaissance flight.



Silver Star Citation

Action Date: October 18, 1918

By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved July 9, 1918 (Bul. No. 43, W.D., 1918), First Lieutenant (Air Service) Leslie J. McClurg, United States Army Air Service, is cited by the Commanding General, American Expeditionary Forces, for gallantry in action and a silver star may be placed upon the ribbon of the Victory Medals awarded him. First Lieutenant McClurg distinguished himself by gallantry in action while serving with 12th Aero Squadron, American Expeditionary Forces, in action near Buzancy, France, 18 October 1918, in protecting a photographic mission.

(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)
(Historical Society of Pennsylvania)
(Hall of Valor, 2016)

D. W. McCoy

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Observer

First Lieutenant McCoy was assigned to the 12th on 30 October 1918.

GEORGE R. MILBURN

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Pilot

Second Lieutenant Milburn was assigned to the 12th on 2 November 1918. After discharge from the Army, he entered the cattle business in Craig, Montana.

JOHN C. MILLER

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Killed in Action

Pilot

First Lieutenant Miller flew with the 12th from 29 April to 28 July 1918. Lt. Miller received an explosive round to the stomach while on a photographic mission behind enemy lines on 28 July 1918. Mortally wounded, Lt Miller evaded the attacking enemy and crash landed behind friendly lines ensuring the survival of his crewmate, Lt. Thompson. Lt. Miller died in a hospital the same day.



(Leier, 1968)

(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)

DONALD HUGH MONTGOMERY

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Pilot

Decorations: Unknown

Second Lieutenant Montgomery served with the 12th from 3 May to 2 August 1918. Afterwards, Lt Montgomery was assigned to the 183rd Squadron. He later married Frances Irene Gridley and settled in Springfield, Massachusetts working in sales for the National Acme Company.

EDWARD M. MORRIS

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Pilot

Second Lieutenant Morris served with the 12th Aero Squadron from 29 April to 28 June 1918. He was discharged from the Army on 6 May 1919. He held a variety of jobs until recommissioning on 17 September 1920. After recommissioning, he was stationed at March Field.

WISTAR MORRIS

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Killed in Action

Pilot

First Lieutenant Morris served with the 12th from 17 August to 29 September. He was killed in action on 29 September.

HAROLD D. MILLER

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Prisoner of War

Pilot

First Lieutenant Miller served with the 12th from 17 August to 30 October 1918. Lt Muller was shot down and captured with Lt Foy, his back seat gunner on 30 October 1918. He remained a prisoner of war until the end of the Armistice. Afterwards, he married Desire Irish and settled in East Orange, New Jersey.

(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)
(Historical Society of Pennsylvania)
(Newport Mercury and Weekly News, 1932)

STEPHEN HENLEY NOYES

MAJOR

Commander

Pilot

Distinguished Service Cross & Croix de Guerre

The grandson of Rear Admiral Stephen B. Luce, son of Lieutenant Boutelle Noyes, U.S.N., and Charlotte Noyes, Captain Noyes was born in Newport, R.I. on 26 November 1881. He graduated Harvard with honors and was the 1905 varsity team quarterback. Prior to enlistment, he took a preparatory course in private flying at Essington, Pa. From 5 Feb to 14 April 1917 he trained at the Curtiss Flying School. While awaiting overseas orders, he was assigned to the 1st Aero Squadron at Columbus, N.M. On 10 May, he was commissioned a 1st Lieutenant and sent overseas with the 1st Aero Squadron where he served as a Flight Commander. He took command of the 12th Aero Squadron on 1 July 1918 until 25 October. During his tenure as Commander of the 12th, he was awarded the Croix de Guerre, the Distinguished Service Cross and promoted to Captain. After commanding the 12th, he became Commander of the 5th Army Corps Observation Group and the 1st Army Corps Observation Group respectively. On 27 May 1919, Major Stephen H. Noyes was honorably discharged from the service. After the war he worked as a bridge engineer for the Pennsylvania Railroad. He passed away during a surgery for an appendicitis in 1932 at 51 years of age.



NEW ENGLAND AVIATORS 1914-1918

(Newport Mercury and Weekly News, 1932)

(New England Aviators 1914-1918 , 1919)

(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)

Distinguished Service Cross
Action Date: October 15, 1918

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to Captain (Air Service) Stephen H. Noyes, United States Army Air Service, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving with 12th Aero Squadron, U.S. Army Air Service, A.E.F., near Chatel-Chehery, France, 15 October 1918. Captain Noyes volunteered under the most adverse weather conditions to stake the advance lines of the 82d Division. Disregarding the fact that darkness would set in before he and his observer could complete their mission, and at the extremely low altitude of 150 feet, he proceeded amid heavy anti-aircraft and ground machine-gun fire until the necessary information was secured. On the return, due to darkness, he was forced to land on a shell-torn field and proceeded on foot to headquarters with valuable information.



(Hall of Valor, 2016)

EDWARD ORR

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Killed in Accident

Pilot

Distinguished Service Cross & Croix de Guerre

First Lieutenant Orr was born in Chicago, Illinois on 27 November 1893. He graduated from the University of Chicago in 1917 and worked in the insurance business. He then attended Officer's Training Camp at Fort Sheridan, 15th Company for two months before being transferred to the Aviation Section. He was sent to Champaign, Ill to attend flight training. After completing the course, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant and sent overseas in January of 1918. He continued training in France and was sent to the Front where he joined the 12th Aero Squadron on 21 July 1918. On 14 September, Lt. Orr and his observer, Lt, Allan C. Goodale's aircraft collided with a balloon cable and fell to the earth. Both were killed instantly.



THE FT SHERIDAN ASSOCIATION

(Girton, 1920)

(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)

Distinguished Service Cross
Action Date: August 28, 1918

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918, takes pride in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) to First Lieutenant (Air Service) Edward Orr, United States Army Air Service, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving with 12th Aero Squadron, U.S. Army Air Service, A.E.F., in the Toul sector, France, 28 August 1918. Lieutenant Orr, flying with Lieutenant Phil A. Henderson, infantry, observer, on an unprotected reconnaissance mission, encountered a patrol of eight enemy pursuit planes near the American balloon line. The patrol was sighted just as one of them dived on the balloon with the intention of destroying it. Without hesitation, Lieutenant Orr attacked this plane and followed it to within 50 meters, firing his single front gun against the double guns with which the German plane was equipped. In the meantime, Lieutenant Henderson engaged the other eight planes, which attacked from the rear. After a violent combat, all of the enemy planes were driven off. On 14 September 1918, Lieutenant Orr was accidentally killed.



FRANK OVER JR

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Observer

Silver Star

Second Lieutenant Over was assigned to the 12th on 9 May 1918. After the war he became a steel construction inspector.



"OWEN & OVER" USAFA SPECIAL COLLECTIONS / DWIGHT

Silver Star Citation

Action Date: November 1, 1918

By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved July 9, 1918 (Bul. No. 43, W.D., 1918), Second Lieutenant (Air Service) Frank Over, Jr., United States Army Air Service, is cited by the Commanding General, American Expeditionary Forces, for gallantry in action and a silver star may be placed upon the ribbon of the Victory Medals awarded him. Second Lieutenant Over distinguished himself by gallantry in action while serving as an Observer with the 12th Aero Squadron, American Expeditionary Forces, in action on 1 November 1918, near Imme court, Argonne Offensive, France, in securing valuable information under heavy enemy fire.



*(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)
(Historical Society of Pennsylvania)*

MAURICE CLAYTON OWEN

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Pilot

Silver Star

When he was 24, Lt Owen enlisted in the Army as a Private on 13 August 1917. He was assigned to the U.S. Army School of Military Aeronautics in Ithaca, New York. On 7 December 1917, he attended training at Love Field, Dallas, TX. He was assigned to the 12th on 17 August 1918 and served overseas until 7 March 1919.



"OWEN & OVER" USAFA SPECIAL COLLECTIONS / DWIGHT

Silver Star Citation

Action Date: November 1, 1918

By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved July 9, 1918 (Bul. No. 43, W.D., 1918), Second Lieutenant (Air Service) Maurice C. Owen, United States Army Air Service, is cited by the Commanding General, American Expeditionary Forces, for gallantry in action and a silver star may be placed upon the ribbon of the Victory Medals awarded him. Second Lieutenant Owen distinguished himself by gallantry in action while serving as a Pilot with the 12th Aero Squadron, American Expeditionary Forces, in action near Immecourt, Argonne Sector, France, 1 November 1918, in securing valuable information under heavy enemy fire.



(World War Service Record Rochester and Monroe County, NY vol II, 1928)
(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)
(Hall of Valor, 2016)

ROBERT C. PARADISE

CAPTAIN

Commander

Pilot

Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star & Order of Leopold (Belguim)

Born in New Orleans, Louisiana, Captain Paradise was assigned to the 12th on 25 June 1918. He and Lt. Burdette S. Wright, Observer teamed up as a crew and flew several missions together. Capt Paradise assumed command of the 12th on 25 October 1918. After the war, he returned to Springfield, Massachusetts and worked in manufacturing for Goodyear Rubber. He was also best man at Burdette Wright's wedding.



(Wright, 1919; Wright, 1919)

(Yale Weekly Alumni, 1919)

(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)

(Wingnut Wings Media)

(Harvard's Military Record in the World War, 1921)

Distinguished Service Cross
Action Date: September 26, 1918

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to First Lieutenant (Air Service) Robert C. Paradise, United States Army Air Service, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving with 12th Aero Squadron, U.S. Army Air Service, A.E.F., in the vicinity of Boureuilles, France, 26 September 1918. As pilot, 12th Squadron, Lieutenant Paradise was assigned the duty of locating the American front lines during the first two hours of the Argonne offensive. Unable to locate the line at the usual altitude maintained at such a time, he flew down to the dangerous altitude of 50 meters, secured the important information sought and discovered our lines held up by a strongly held nest of enemy machine guns. Noting the exact location of the nest upon his map he flew back to division headquarters and reported the exact location of our lines, as well as that of the enemy machine-gun nest. With his plane riddled by enemy bullets, one control shot away, he returned to the lines, discovered the enemy nests had not been destroyed and that they were inflicting heavy casualties upon our troops. In the face of concentrated enemy fire and attacked by four enemy planes, he went down, his plane barely skimming the tree tops, and deliberately fired over 400 rounds into the enemy nests, thus causing the enemy gunners to abandon their guns and positions and enabling the troops of his division to resume their advance. Again gaining altitude he discovered and destroyed by his fire an enemy signal station, signaling unmolested, 2 kilometers north of the lines. This act was performed at an altitude of 50 meters amid a storm of protection fire from enemy anti-aircraft guns.



Silver Star Citation
Action Date: September 24, 1918

By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved July 9, 1918 (Bul. No. 43, W.D., 1918), First Lieutenant (Air Service) Robert C. Paradise, United States Army Air Service, is cited by the Commanding General, American Expeditionary Forces, for gallantry in action and a silver star may be placed upon the ribbon of the Victory Medals awarded him. First Lieutenant Paradise distinguished himself by gallantry in action while serving as a Pilot with the 12th Aero Squadron, American Expeditionary Forces, in action in the Argonne Forest, France, 24 September 1918, while on a special mission.



ROBERT A. PATTERSON

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Prisoner of War

Observer

First Lieutenant Patterson was assigned to the 12th Aero Squadron on 27 September 1918. He was shot down and captured when his pilot, Lt Beauclerk was killed during a dogfight. He spent the duration of the war as a prisoner of war. After the war he returned to Havre, Montana. With \$50 in his pocket, he began running merchandise stores. In six months he grew his business to five stores.

THOMAS. J. QUINLAN

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Pilot

First Lieutenant Quinlan served with the 12th from 9 November 1917 to 9 May 1918.



1LT. THOMAS J. QUINLAN

Photo from Lt. Wilbur D. Kennedy
Collection

Museum of Flight

<http://mof.omeka.net/items/show/156>

95

(Museum of Flight, n.d.)

(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)

EARLE W. RADCLIFF

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Observer

First Lieutenant Radcliff was assigned to the 12th on 16 July 1918. He later married Miss Paule Bourda and returned to France doing contract work for the U.S. Government.

BERTWALD C. READ

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Observer

Second Lieutenant Read served with the 12th from 27 June to 4 November 1918. After the war, he returned to Bloomfield, New Jersey and became a stock broker.

LEE HUGH ROGERS

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Pilot

Second Lieutenant Rogers served with the 12th from 17 August to 25 October 1918. After being discharged in May 1919, Lt Rogers returned home to Texline, Texas and entered the cattle business with his uncle after some temporary work in Wichita Falls, Tx.

WILLIAM “DEAC” HARRISON SAUNDERS

MAJOR

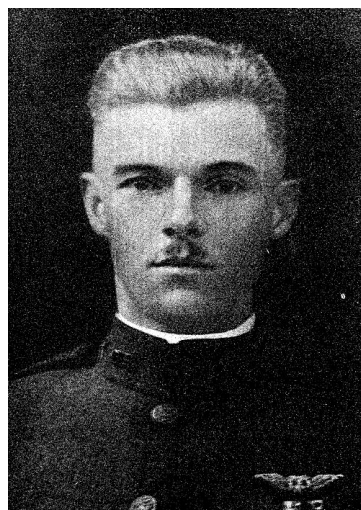
Commander (Unconfirmed)

Observer

Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star

Maj Saunders served with the 12th from 25 April to 2 August 1918. On 25 May during an artillery adjustment mission his plane was disabled by enemy ground fire and forced to return. Saunders flew in another plane only to be forced back again due to damage received from the enemy. Saunders completed his mission on his third attempt with as many aircraft and pilots.

The following is an excerpt from the unpublished **“Wings Without Glory: Two South Carolina Aviators in the Great War”** by Joe Long, Curator of Education, SC Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum



“...Major William Harrison Saunders of Sumter, South Carolina, was one of the U.S. Army’s most effective artillery spotters in the First World War. His short and heroic career advanced the effectiveness of US airpower and illustrates the nature of such missions on the Western Front in the final campaigns of the war.

Saunders, a nephew of Confederate General “Fighting Dick” Anderson, grew up in the 18th century family home in Sumter. As a teenager, he secured an appointment to the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis. However, during his second year, was expelled for an incident which occurred on a summer training cruise; the young midshipman, heavily intoxicated, had caused embarrassment at a diplomatic function. Restored to the Academy, perhaps through political connections, he continued another year before a second expulsion for a hazing incident. Family lore asserts that this case went all of the way to Commander-in-Chief Woodrow Wilson, who did not return Saunders to the Naval Academy.

He did, however, send the young man to West Point, and at the Army’s college a chastened Saunders excelled. Popular with his classmates, athletic and adventurous, Saunders graduated in 1917 and was posted immediately to France as a field artillery officer. When the opportunity arose for artillery officers to volunteer for flying duties, Saunders transferred.

His initial assignments were with French squadrons, learning the procedures the Allies had

developed during the preceding years. United States military aviation was woefully inadequate at the time of American entry into the war, and the Army realized that we had to learn quickly from our Allies' experience of modern warfare. Saunders was a fluent French speaker and an apt pupil at the school for gunner-observers; his French commander referred to him as a very good marksman and a charming comrade.

Apparently his commander was not the only one charmed; Saunders boasted in a letter home to a bachelor companion that "thanks to the women of France, I haven't taken a cold shower in six months". He kept photos from squadron parties, and a photo of a VIP visitor's famous airplane. French flying ace Charles Nungesser was master of aerial combat and legendary womanizer whose non-aerial conquests included the notorious Mata Hari, later shot as a German spy. His airplane, a Nieuport fighter, was painted with a variety of traditional bad-luck symbols, in defiance of pilot superstitions.

Saunders' own combat missions, both with the French and with the new American squadrons, would be flown in the second seat of two-seater aircraft of French manufacture. Because the United States had not prepared for aerial warfare or kept up with the rapidly developing technology of military aviation, second-hand Allied aircraft were employed; American aviators referred to the "Avion Renault", known as the "A.R.", as "Antique Rattletraps." Later the Americans would use the slightly more modern Salmson...

...The gunner/observer was generally the officer in command of the airplane, responsible for navigation and the completion of the mission while the pilot concentrated on flying. Saunders' proficiency in French as well as his overall high performance led to an assignment to translate the materials of the French gunner/observer school for the use of the Americans. Soon he was promoted to Major and tasked with training the newly-arrived American 12th Aero Squadron. Saunders served first as Chief Observer and then as squadron commander of the 12th for the remainder of his time in France.

...Saunders operated aggressively, sometimes raking enemy troops with his machineguns in addition to his artillery-spotting and reconnaissance duties. On one particularly memorable occasion, he crash-landed once, suffered severe battle damage on a second foray, and completed his mission in yet a third aircraft.

In the summer of 1918, after a string of perilous missions, William Harrison Saunders was "grounded". His knowledge, his superiors explained, was too valuable for continued risk in combat. After all, he had not only translated and administered the French gunner/observer school curriculum, but was himself one of the most experienced artillery observers in the American Expeditionary Force. His next assignment, Saunders learned to his chagrin, would be as an instructor at the Army's artillery school at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

Saunders' posting, while keeping him out of the last great campaign of the war, did not long extend his career. In the autumn of 1919, Lt. Colonel Brereton, a comrade of his from France and a pilot with whom he had flown numerous combat missions, met him at the Fort Sill

officer's club. He offered Saunders a flight, which ended in a fiery crash on the airfield. Brereton struggled to pull Saunders from the wreckage, but his burns proved fatal.

Memorialized by West Point classmates and by Western Front comrades, Saunders' most poignant tribute perhaps came from the local United Confederate Veterans' camp of Sumter, SC. The elderly veterans called upon Saunders' mother to offer comfort for her loss; they had ironically outlived Confederate Surgeon William Anderson's son, and Confederate General "Fighting Dick" Anderson's nephew. His UDC "Cross of Military Service" entry read:

Saunders, Wm. H. Regular Army, West Point (1913). Major, Air Service Observer...trained and commanded 12th Aero Squadron; Chief Observer on Toul Sector; first Observer with the American Army to make mission over German lines. Injured in shattered plane at battle front; killed, executing orders Nov. 5, 1919.

Distinguished Service Cross
Action Date: May 25, 1918

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918, takes pride in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) to Captain (Air Service) William Harrison Saunders, United States Army Air Service, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving with 12th Aero Squadron, U.S. Army Air Service, A.E.F., in the Toul sector, France, 25 May 1918. The artillery of the 26th Division desiring its batteries to be adjusted upon objectives in front of the division, Captain Saunders volunteered to make the attempt, although the weather was most unfavorable to flying. After flying two hours amid heavy anti-aircraft fire and having adjusted the fire of three batteries his plane was hit and disabled. Returning to his airdrome he secured another plane and returned to the enemy line to complete his mission. After another hour in the air he was again forced on account of motor trouble to return to the airdrome. Obtaining a third plane he again returned to the lines, the weather conditions forcing him to proceed for a considerable distance behind enemy lines and at low altitude. Flying thus for an hour his plane was hit by anti-aircraft fire and badly damaged. With one control shot away, and his propeller likewise injured, he still continued to adjust, always at low altitude and under constant enemy fire, until his mission was successfully accomplished. The heroic conduct of Captain Saunders served as a splendid example of soldierly devotion to duty to the men of his squadron.



Silver Star Citation
Action Date: May 25, 1918

By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved July 9, 1918 (Bul. No. 43, W.D., 1918), Captain (Air Service) William Harrison Saunders, United States Army Air Service, is cited by the Commanding General, American Expeditionary Forces, for gallantry in action and a silver star may be placed upon the ribbon of the Victory Medals awarded him. Captain (Air Service) Saunders distinguished himself by gallantry in action while serving as an Observer with the 12th Aero Squadron, American Expeditionary Forces, in action near Richécourt, France, 25 May 1918, while on a mission to adjust a box barrage. [A Distinguished Service Cross was subsequently awarded for the actions on this date.]



PHILIP B. SCHNUR

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Pilot

Second Lieutenant Schnur was assigned to the 12th on 24 April 1918. After being discharged from Walter Reed hospital, he returned to Detroit, Michigan and married Miss Willah Jane Hoffman.

R. E. SMITH

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Medical Officer

First Lieutenant Smith served with the 12th from 10 June to 16 August 1918. He was then assigned to the 1st Observation Group as a medical officer.

CLARENCE M. SMITH

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Pilot

First Lieutenant Smith served with the 12th from 17 August to 5 November 1918. Afterwards, he was assigned to the 186th Aero Squadron.

THOMAS A. STAENEK

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Pilot

First Lieutenant Stanek was assigned to the 12th on 27 September 1918. After the war he settled in Stillwater, Minnesota and became an officer in the Minnesota State Prison.

EVERETT H. STEVENS

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Observer

Second Lieutenant Stevens was assigned to the 12th on 7 November 1918. After the war he married Miss Zoe Conner and became a salesman for Crary Hardware Company in Boone, Iowa.

M. E. STEWART

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Observer

First Lieutenant Stewart served with the 12th from 6 May to 8 June 1918.

PAUL R. STOCKTON

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Pilot

First Lieutenant Stockton was assigned to the 12th on 27 June 1918. After the war he married Miss Marie Hayward on 1 May 1919. He settled in Los Angeles, California working as a corporate salesman.



USAF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS / DWIGHT

(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)
(Historical Society of Pennsylvania)

EUGENE. E. STUCK

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Observer

Silver Star

Second Lieutenant Stuck was assigned to the 12th on 8 May 1918. After the war he was discharged on 12 July 1919. He resumed practicing dentistry in Newbury, South Carolina.

Silver Star Citation

Action Date: July 23, 1918

By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved July 9, 1918 (Bul. No. 43, W.D., 1918), First Lieutenant (Air Service) Eugene E. Stuck, United States Army Air Service, is cited by the Commanding General, American Expeditionary Forces, for gallantry in action and a silver star may be placed upon the ribbon of the Victory Medals awarded him. First Lieutenant Stuck distinguished himself by gallantry in action while serving as an Observer with the 12th Aero Squadron, American Expeditionary Forces, in action near Chateau-Thierry, France, 23 July 1918, in voluntarily going on an infantry contact mission.



(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)
(Historical Society of Pennsylvania)
(Hall of Valor, 2016)

CASSIUS H. STYLES

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Prisoner of War

Observer

Silver Star

First Lieutenant Styles served with the 12th from 17 August to 29 September 1918. On 29 September, he and his pilot, Lt Wistar Morris, were shot down by ground fire while strafing the enemy. Lt Morris perished shortly after the crash. Lt Styles was held captive until the Armistice and officially classified as “escaped” when he arrived in Switzerland on 6 December 1918 because he was never “officially released.” He simply walked out of his POW camp after the war. He rejoined the 12th during the occupation and remained in the service until 1922. After returning to civilian life, he became a well-known archer hunter in the United States and even had a bow he made on display in the Smithsonian.

Silver Star Citation

Action Date: September 16, 1918

By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved July 9, 1918 (Bul. No. 43, W.D., 1918), First Lieutenant (Air Service) Cassius H. Styles, United States Army Air Service, is cited by the Commanding General, American Expeditionary Forces, for gallantry in action and a silver star may be placed upon the ribbon of the Victory Medals awarded him. First Lieutenant Styles distinguished himself by gallantry in action while serving as an Observer with the 12th Aero Squadron, American Expeditionary Forces, in action near Thiaucourt, France, 16 September 1918, while on a photographic mission.



(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Section M Vol 10 POW Reports)
(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)
(Historical Society of Pennsylvania)
(Hall of Valor, 2016)

JOHN R. TAYLOR

UNKNOWN

Position: Pilot (Unconfirmed)

No further information available



(Taylor, n.d.)

W. K. B. TEMPLE

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Intelligence Officer

First Lieutenant Temple served with the 12th from 17 June to 28 June 1918.

SIGOURNEY THAYER

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Pilot

Decorations: Unknown

The son of Rev. William G. Thayer and Violet Otis Thayer, Lt Thayer was born on 24 March 1896 in Southboro, Massachusetts. He attended Amherst College from 1914-1917 and became captain of the track team.

He enlisted in 1916 spending time on the Mexican border before being transferred to the aviation service after his return. He attended training at M.I.T Ground School and Mt. Clemens, Michigan Aviation Camp from April to October 1917. Lt Thayer wrote poetry for the Atlantic Monthly. His most acclaimed piece is "The Dead." He was first assigned to the 99th Aero Squadron then transferred to the 12th on 7 June where he served as a Flight Commander from late August to early October before being transferred to the 95th pursuit squadron. After the armistice he served in Aviation Headquarters in Paris as a courier to England before returning to the States in April 1919. In the 1920's and 1930's Thayer produced five theatrical productions; *Last Night of Don Juan: The Pilgrimage* in 1925, *Beau-Strings* in 1926, *Damn the Tears* in 1927, *Bridal Wise* in 1932 and *Keeper of the Keys* in 1933. He also was an executive for Vultee Aircraft Company. Lt Thayer perished in a vehicle accident on 2 November 1944. He was 48 years old.



(Thayer S. , 1917)

(New England Aviators 1914-1918 , 1919)

(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories; Stephen H. Noyes Papers, 2016)

Silver Star Citation

Action Date: September 13, 1918

By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved July 9, 1918 (Bul. No. 43, W.D., 1918), First Lieutenant (Air Service) Sigourney Thayer, United States Army Air Service, is cited by the Commanding General, American Expeditionary Forces, for gallantry in action and a silver star may be placed upon the ribbon of the Victory Medals awarded him. First Lieutenant Thayer distinguished himself by gallantry in action while serving as a Pilot with the 12th Aero Squadron, American Expeditionary Forces, in action near St. Mihiel, France, 13 September 1918, while on a reconnaissance.



The Dead

"I Feared the lonely dead, so old were they, -
Decrepit, tired beings, ghastly white,
With withered breasts and eyes devoid of sight,
Forever mute beneath the sodden clay;
I feared the lonely dead, and turned away
From thoughts of somber death and endless night;
Thus, through the dismal hours I longed for light
To drive my utter hopelessness away.

But now my nights are filled with flowered dreams
Of singing warriors, beautiful and young;
Strong men and boys within whose eyes there gleams
The triumph song of worlds unknown, unsung;
Grim death has vanished, leaving in its stead
The shining glory of the living dead."

- 1Lt Sigourney Thayer, 12th Aero Squadron

W. W. THOMAS

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Observer

First Lieutenant Thomas served with 12th from 26 April to 13 August 1918. After the war he was stationed at Romange-Sous-Montfaucon where he helped rebury fallen Americans and made the grade of Captain before separating on 4 June 1920.

WILLIAM C. THOMAS

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Pilot

Silver Star

Lt William Thomas was assigned to the 12th on 7 September 1918.

Silver Star Citation

Action Date: November 1, 1918

By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved July 9, 1918 (Bul. No. 43, W.D., 1918), First Lieutenant (Air Service) William C. Thomas, United States Army Air Service, is cited by the Commanding General, American Expeditionary Forces, for gallantry in action and a silver star may be placed upon the ribbon of the Victory Medals awarded him. First Lieutenant Thomas distinguished himself by gallantry in action while serving as a Pilot with the 12th Aero Squadron, American Expeditionary Forces, in action during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, France, 1 November 1918, while on a voluntary infantry contact mission.



(Sengupta, 2013)

(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)

(Hall of Valor, 2016)

STEPHEN W. THOMPSON

FIRST LIEUTENANT

First U.S. Serviceman to shoot down an enemy aircraft.

Observer

Croix de Guerre & Purple Heart

First Lieutenant Thompson was from Missouri and studied electrical engineering at the University of Missouri. He served in the Army and after an airplane ride in July 1917, he volunteered for duty in the air service. Thompson arrived in France with the 1st Aero Squadron. While awaiting the 1st to begin combat operations, Lt Thompson and a friend visited a French squadron to see what was happening. While there, both were invited to go on a bombing mission. After receiving verbal permission from Thompson's Commander, they both accepted the invitation. It was on this flight, Lt Thompson earned his first aerial victory obtaining the distinction of becoming the first American in uniform to shoot down an enemy aircraft. He was transferred to the 12th on 25 May 1918. At the 12th, Lt. Thompson scored two additional aerial victories and served with the 12th until 8 October 1918 when he was sent home as an instructor. After the war, he worked as an engineer at McCook Field and later became a well-loved high school mathematics teacher. He taught preflight and meteorology during WWII and received a U.S. Patent in 1940 for a tailless flying wing. He died at age 83 in Dayton, Ohio.



(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)
(Sengupta, 2013)

D. R. THOMPSON

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Observer

First Lieutenant Thompson was assigned to the 12th on 9 November 2018.

OTTO G. TRUNK

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Observer

First Lieutenant Trunk was assigned to the 12th on 30 October 1918.

G. S. UNDERWOOD

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Observer

Decorations: Unknown

Second Lieutenant Underwood was assigned to the 12th on 7 November 1918. He settled in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma after the war and became a clothing store manager for Federal Clothing Stores.

ERWIN GEORGE VONNEGUT

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Observer

Second Lieutenant Vonnegut was born on April 2nd 1890 in Indianapolis, Marion County Indiana.

The following biography and photo is from the Indiana Historical Society.

“Served with the 12th from 14 May to 10 September 1918. Photographed by Charles Bretzman in 1929, Erwin Vonnegut was vice president of Vonnegut Hardware in Indianapolis. The Vonnegut Hardware was located at 120 East Washington Street in Indianapolis. The store was started by Clemens Vonnegut during the 19th century and many Vonnegut descendants were active in the business throughout the years. In its heyday it was the largest and most prominent hardware store in Indianapolis. The city directory listed Erwin's home at 3317 North Guilford Avenue.”



INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(Selective Service Registration Cards World War II retrieved from Fold3.com)
(Indiana Historical Society)
(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)

CHARLES W. WADE

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Adjutant

First Lieutenant Wade served with the 12th from 27 November 1917 to 5 August 1918. After the war, he married Miss Julia Rasmussen in December 1919. He became a farmer in January of 1920.

RAY B. WALTER

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Observer

First Lieutenant Walter served with the 12th from 14 May to 11 September 1918. After the 12th he was assigned to the 50th Aero Squadron.

ROBY W. WATT

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Pilot

First Lieutenant Watt was assigned to the 12th on 13 October 1918.



USAFA SPECIAL COLLECTIONS / DWIGHT

P. E. WEST

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Pilot

First Lieutenant West served with the 12th from 29 April to 13 August 1918. Afterwards, he was assigned to duty at Headquarters Det. 1st Army.

RAYMOND WILSON

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Pilot

Second Lieutenant Wilson was assigned to the 12th on 13 October 1918. He returned home to a three-month old daughter, Helen Rae Wilson, and became a security salesman residing at Quiney, Illinois.

VANCE V. WILSON

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Observer

First Lieutenant Wilson was assigned to the 12th on 9 November 1918.

H. A. WINNSTEIN

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Supply Officer

Lt Winnstein served with the 12th from 14 September to 30 October 1917.

(burdette-s-wright-diary-1917-1923, n.d.)

(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)

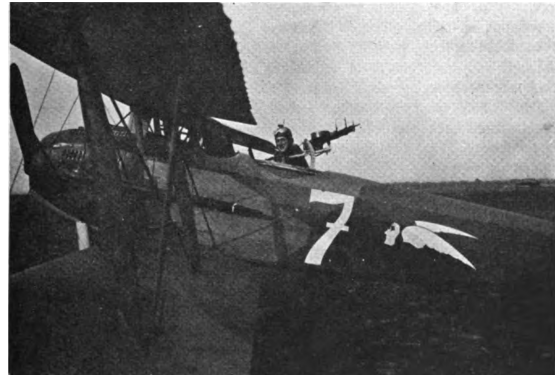
BURDETTE SHIELDS WRIGHT

MAJOR

Observer

Distinguished Service Cross & Silver Star

Major Burdette S. Wright was born in New Albany, Indiana, and received a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Purdue University in 1915. He later attended George Washington University and obtained a law degree, and in 1925 received his Master's degree from Purdue. His aviation career began during World War I as an observer in France for the Army Air Corps. He served in the 12th from 13 July to 4 November before being transferred to the 5th Observation Squadron. Following the war, Wright became General William (Billy) Mitchell's aide until 1922. When Mitchell was court-martialed in 1925, Wright testified in his defense. Wright set up the first system of air routes in the United States, and introduced various new features for safety and navigation. In 1928, Wright left the army and after two years of practicing law, accepted a position with the Curtiss Aeroplane and Motor Company, of which he became president in 1933. Following the merger of the Curtiss Aeroplane and Motor Company with Wright Aircraft Company, Wright became vice president of manufacturing. Wright retired in 1950 and died in 1961 at the age of 67.



U.S. AIR SERVICE JOURNAL

(burdette-s-wright-diary-1917-1923, n.d.)

(Wright, 1919)

(Gorrell, Gorrell's History of the A.E.F. Air Service Section E. Vol 3. Squadron Histories)

Distinguished Service Cross
Action Date: September 26, 1918

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to First Lieutenant (Air Service) Burdette S. Wright, United States Army Air Service, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving with 12th Aero Squadron, U.S. Army Air Service, A.E.F., in the vicinity of Boureuilles, France, 26 September 1918. Lieutenant Wright and First Lieutenant Robert C. Paradise, pilot, were assigned the duty of locating the American front lines during the first two hours of the Argonne offensive. Unable to locate the line at the usual altitude maintained at such a time, he flew down to the dangerous altitude of 50 meters, secured the important information sought and discovered our lines held up by a strongly held nest of enemy machine guns. Noting the exact location of the nest upon his map he flew back to division headquarters and reported the exact location of our lines, as well as that of the enemy machine-gun nest. With his plane riddled by enemy bullets, one control shot away, he returned to the lines, discovered the enemy nests had not been destroyed and that they were inflicting heavy casualties upon our troops. In the face of concentrated enemy fire and attacked by four enemy planes, he went down, his plane barely skimming the tree tops, and deliberately fired over 400 rounds into the enemy nests, thus causing the enemy gunners to abandon their guns and positions and enabling the troops of his division to resume their advance. Again gaining altitude he discovered and destroyed by his fire an enemy signal station, signaling unmolested, 2 kilometers north of the lines. This act was performed at an altitude of 50 meters amid a storm of protection fire from enemy anti-aircraft guns.



Silver Star Citation
Action Date: September 26, 1918

By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved July 9, 1918 (Bul. No. 43, W.D., 1918), First Lieutenant (Air Service) Burdette S. Wright, United States Army Air Service, is cited by the Commanding General, American Expeditionary Forces, for gallantry in action and a silver star may be placed upon the ribbon of the Victory Medals awarded him. First Lieutenant Wright distinguished himself by gallantry in action while serving with 12th Aero Squadron, American Expeditionary Forces, in action during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, France, 26 September 1918, while on an infantry contact mission. [A Distinguished Service Cross was subsequently awarded for the actions on this date.]



A. M. WRIGHT

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Supply Officer

First Lieutenant Wright was assigned to the 12th on 21 September 1918.

NOTES:

All images and information are cited and credited. Citations included were earned while members served with the 12th. This document is for historical reference only and may not be sold for profit without first obtaining permission from the owners of the information and images cited in this text.

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CHANGE LOG

21 February 2018

- Added photo of Lt Harwood retrieved from the Massachusetts State Library.
- Added source and updated bibliography.

8 May 2018

- Added Thomas to Lt Quinlan's name.
- Added photo of Quinlan from Museum of Flight Wilbur D> Kennedy Collection.