

MS-152: Dayton-Wright Airplane Company Photographs

Collection Number: MS-152

Title: Dayton-Wright Airplane Company Photographs

Dates: 1918-1922 (bulk 1918)

Creator: Dayton-Wright Airplane Company

Summary/Abstract:

The collection contains 156 large format glass plate negatives and 63 nitrate negatives depicting factory workers, interior and exterior plant views, airplane assembly, and completed airplanes from a Dayton manufacturer of World War I aircraft.

Quantity/Physical Description: 3.0 linear feet (219 images)

Language(s): English

Repository:

Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435-0001, (937) 775-2092

Restrictions on Access:

Users are requested to use the digital versions to view images for reference. These are available on CORE Scholar, Wright State University's campus online repository, at:

http://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/special_ms152_photographs/.

Restrictions on Use:

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Preferred Citation:

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Existence and Location of Copies:

Reference prints of the negatives are available in the collection, and digital versions are available online in CORE Scholar, Wright State University's campus online repository, at:

http://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/special_ms152_photographs/.

Related Material:

SC-150, Dayton Wright Company Record of Employees

Processed by: Processed by Archives Staff; finding aid updated to DACS, May 2014.

Arrangement:

The collection is comprised of 156 large format glass plate negatives and 63 nitrate negatives taken between 1918 and 1922. The images are arranged according to their numerical order.

Historical Note:

In April 1917, the newly-established Dayton Airplane Company was reorganized into the Dayton Wright Company. Its founders were Edward A. Deeds, Charles F. Kettering, Harold E. Talbott, and Harold E. Talbott, Jr. Orville Wright lent his name to the operation and served as a consulting engineer. Dayton Wright operated out of plants in three locations: Moraine, Miamisburg, and the two former buildings of The Wright Company off West Third Street in Dayton.

Upon American entry into WWI, also in April 1917, Edward Deeds was commissioned a colonel and given the responsibility to procure aircraft for the Aircraft Production Board. He left the Dayton Wright Company, and then granted it two government contracts for 4,400 aircraft. The contracts specified 4,000 De Havilland 4s, British bombers to be redesigned for the American Liberty engine, and 400 J-I trainers designed by the American company Standard Aircraft.

The first Dayton Wright DH-4 was completed in September 1917. By October 1918 the company was at the height of its production, employing more than 8,000 workers and sending 400 airplanes to France each month. In total, the company delivered 3,506 airplanes to the warfront. In addition to these piloted aircraft, Charles Kettering and Orville Wright began in the fall of 1917 to develop a self-guided flying bomb with a carrying capacity of 200 pounds of explosives over a distance of 200 miles. The Bug was still in development when the war ended, but the program was cancelled in the 1920s. However, it was a significant contribution to early guided missile engineering.

Following WWI the national defense budget was cut dramatically, and Dayton Wright was forced to find new markets for its inventory of hundreds of partially completed planes. The air forces of Central American countries like Nicaragua, the U.S. Air Mail Service, and commercial buyers became its primary customers. The company continued to manufacture new designs, including the K.T. Cabin Cruiser, R.B. Racer, and XPS-I, the first airplane with retractable landing gear to be used by the U.S. Army.

The company was acquired by General Motors in 1919 and dissolved in 1923 when GM withdrew from airplane manufacturing and converted the plants for use in its Inland Division. Dayton Wright design rights were purchased by the Consolidated Aircraft Corporation.

The photographs in this collection were taken by industrial photographers like William Preston Mayfield and staff photographers for the Dayton Electrical Laboratories (Delco), founded by Deeds and Kettering in 1912.

Scope and Content:

The Dayton Wright Company collection contains 156 large format glass plate negatives and 63 nitrate negatives taken between 1918 and 1922.

The photographs depict airplanes in various stages of production both inside and outside the three Dayton Wright factories: plant 1, located next to South Field, on Springboro Road, Moraine, Ohio; plant 2, located in Miamisburg, Ohio; and plant 3, the former The Wright Company factories built between 1910 and 1911, located in Dayton, Ohio.

As most of the photographs were taken during wartime production in 1918, the majority of aircraft featured are the WWI fighter, De Havilland-4 (DH-4). Other models photographed include the Kettering Bug, T-4 Messenger, “Bullhead”, DW Racer (RB-1), DW Honeymoon Express (DH-4B-5), and DW Chummy (T-3,-5). Motors by Nordyke Marmon, Cadillac, Buick and Ford are also featured.

Researchers can learn about the organization of the Dayton Wright Company facilities and the stages of early mass manufacture of airplanes from images of the following departments: Mill, Dry Kiln, Star, Wire, Motor Test, Wing, Engine, Final Wing, Landing Gear, Propeller Stock, and Balancing. As the collection contains no written documents, it is best used as a supplement to research on World War I mass manufacture of aircraft.

Subject Terms

Organizations/Corporate Names

Dayton-Wright Airplane Company

Subjects (General)

Aeronautics, Military

DH 4 (Bomber)

Airplane factories

Material Types

Photographs

Negatives

Collection Inventory

All of the photographs in the Dayton-Wright Airplane Company Photographs collection can be viewed online in Wright State University's Campus Online Repository, CORE Scholar, at: http://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/special_ms152_photographs/.

To search for a specific image in CORE Scholar, search for the item using the following format: ms152_XXX, where "XXX" represents the three-digit DW# listed in the finding aid. If the DW # is less than 3 digits, include leading zeroes. For example, to locate DW #1, search for ms152_001.

DW#	NEG	DESCRIPTION	DATE
1		Women working, staining wooden parts for aircraft production, in Dayton-Wright Airplane Company factory	circa 1918
2		Interior view of factory	circa 1918
3		Women sewing in plant 1	1918 February 23
4		Men and women working in Mill Dept., plant 1	1918 July 10
5	D28	Horizontal stabilizer construction for De Havilland DH-4	circa 1918
6		Women sewing wings	circa 1918
7		Interior view of factory showing construction of left side fuselage panel of De Havilland DH-4	circa 1918
8		Exterior view of plant 1	1918 June 3
9		Dry Kiln Dept., plant 1	1918 April 18
10	10	Men working in Landing Gear Dept., plant 2	1918 July 17
11		Fuselage score board	1918 November 4
12	12	De Havilland DH-4 fuselage in factory	circa 1918
13		De Havilland DH-4 Fuselage, right view	circa 1918
14		Crate containing Liberty engine and front fuselage of De Havilland DH-4 in shipping crate	circa 1918
15		Exterior view of plant 3	1918 April 3

DW#	NEG	DESCRIPTION	DATE
16	16	Nordyke Marmon Motor	1918 July 16
17	17	Men working, fuselage assembly, plant 1	1918 April 11
18		Men working in factory making parts for production of Kettering Bug	circa 1918
19	19	De Havilland DH-4 with Liberty 12 cylinder engine and fuselage on wheels	circa 1918
20		Women working in Star Dept.	1918 July 8
21		Exterior view of factory, plant 1	circa 1918
22		Women staining the wooden skeletons of wings for De Havilland DH-4	circa 1918
23		Wings for Kettering Bug stacked in factory	circa 1918
24		Full size and model De Havilland DH-4 Airplane at South Field Experimental Plant	1918 April 27
25		Army Air Corps, group shot	circa 1918
26		Fuselages in crates marked D4	circa 1918
27		De Havilland DH-4 fuselage right tail view, on base of packing crate	circa 1918
28	28	Women working in Wire Dept., plant 2	1918 April 3
29	29	Women working in rib assembly, plant 1	1918 July 1
30		Group shot of Motor Test Dept.	1918 July 25
31	31	Men working in Wing Dept., plant 1	1918 April 1
32	42	Interior view of factory showing De Havilland DH-4s	circa 1918
33		De Havilland DH-4 Airplane in factory, front view landing gear and fuselage	circa 1918

DW#	NEG	DESCRIPTION	DATE
34		Howard Rinehart in cockpit of De Havilland DH-4 Airplane with cine camera mounted, South Field	1918 May 14
35		De Havilland DH-4 Airplane with military markings, Exterior shot	circa 1918
36	D52	Fuselage department, plant 1 with De Havilland DH-4s in various stages of construction	1918 April 1
37		Group shot of administration of Dayton-Wright Airplane Company, including N. Clunet, James Jacobs, H. Taylor, Orville Wright, James Schoonmaker, F. Clements, Harold Talbott, Howard Rinehart, Bernard Whelan, L. Luneke, and R. Hutchinson, L. Mougey, Harvey Geyer, C. Nellis, Elwood Herbig, Milton Baumann, J. Butz, and W. Whittaker, along with several unidentified others.	circa 1918
38		De Havilland DH-4 airplane, exterior shot, front view	circa 1918
39	D70	Exterior view of factory, plant 2	circa 1918
40		Fuselages of De Havilland DH-4 lined up in factory	circa 1918
41		Tank on quick release system	circa 1918
42		Howard Rinehart piloting De Havilland DH-4 with military weapons and Bernard Whelan as gunner, at South Field	1918 May 14
43		Aerial view of factory, plant 1	circa 1918
44		Fuselage of De Havilland DH-4 with Liberty 12 cylinder engine, landing gear, and front cockpit trim	circa 1918
45		Exterior view of factory, plant 1	circa 1918
46		Interior view of factory, plant 1	1918 June 3
47		Flare dispenser and navigation lights attached to wing of De Havilland DH-4 airplane in South Field	1918 April 15
48	48	Wings packaged in crate	circa 1918

DW#	NEG	DESCRIPTION	DATE
49		Men working in Engine Dept. with Liberty Engines on pallets	circa 1918
50		De Havilland DH-4 Airplanes in field	circa 1918
51		Tail section of De Havilland DH-4 in crate, interior view of factory	circa 1918
52		Fire engine in front of factory	circa 1918
53	53	De Havilland DH-4 Airplanes in field	1918 August 24
54	61	1001th airplane produces, plant 1	1918 August 1
55	64	De Havilland DH-4 with military weapons and equipment, in field	circa 1918
56		Woman working in Plant 1, Mill Department, using drill press to manufacture parts for aircraft.	1918 July 1
57		1000 th airplane produced	1918 July 19
58	62	1000 th De Havilland DH-4 airplane produced, packaged and crated, ready to ship	1918 July 19
59		Organizational chart of Dayton -Wright administration	circa 1918
60		Employees working on Kettering Bug	circa 1918
61		De Havilland DH-4 fuselages, exterior shot	circa 1918
62		De Havilland DH-4 fuselages, exterior shot	1918 July 24
63	52	Orville Wright and Howard Rinehart stand by a De Havilland DH-4, at South Field, with Standard J-1 training aircraft in background (broken negative)	1918 May 14
64	55	Wide angle view of De Havilland DH-4 with military weapons at South Field. Pilot is Howard Rinehart, gunner is Bernard Wheland, aircraft number 32098.	1918 May 14
65	D59	Engineering Dept., group shot, some identified	1918 April 24

DW#	NEG	DESCRIPTION	DATE
66	718	Plant 1 Motor Test Dept. with 1000 th De Havilland Dh-4 airplane, 1001 st in background.	1918 July 19
67		De Havilland DH-4 with Liberty Engine by Cadillac Motor, plant 1, piloted by Bernard Whelan.	1918 July 5
68		Fuselages of De Havilland DH-4 airplanes in circle	circa 1918
69	713	1000 th De Havilland DH-4 airplane produced, plant 1, operation 1	1918 July 23
70	712	1000 th De Havilland DH-4 airplane produced, plant 1, operation 2	1918 July 24
71	720	1000 th De Havilland DH-4 airplane produced, plant 1, operation 4	1918 July 25
72	46	Men packaging a De Havilland DH-4 for shipment	circa 1918
73		Production poster in factory "Christmas Greetings to Berlin"	circa 1918
74		Buick-made Liberty Engine in fuselage of De Havilland DH-4, plant 1	1918 July 1
75	719	1000 th De Havilland DH-4 airplane produced, plant 1, operation 3	1918 July 24
76		De Havilland DH-4 with military markings, weapons, and equipment, in open field	circa 1918
77		Four unidentified men standing beside a Dayton-Wright O.W.I Aerial Coupe (5x7 negative)	circa 1918
78		Men working in machine shop making parts for the production of the Kettering Bug	circa 1918
79	D53	Women working in cloth assembly	1918 April 1
80	D22	Final Wing Dept., plant 1	1918 April 1
81	9	Fuselage assembly of De Havilland DH-4 with tail section attached	circa 1918

DW#	NEG	DESCRIPTION	DATE
82		De Havilland DH-4 landing gear	circa 1918
83		Exterior view of factory during construction	circa 1918
84		De Havilland DH-4 rear cockpit control stick assembly	circa 1918
85	38	Fuselage section, interior, De Havilland DH-4, including electrical components	circa 1918
86	39	Fuselage section, De Havilland DH-4 on pallets	circa 1918
87	36	Left top elevator control arm and hinge, with wiring, on tail of De Havilland DH-4	circa 1918
88		Exterior view of factory under construction, plant 1	circa 1918
89	D52	Tail skid of De Havilland DH-4	circa 1918
90	104	Fuselage section, interior, De Havilland DH-4	circa 1918
91	703	Men working in Landing Gear Dept., plant 2	1918 July 17
92	D56	Skeleton of the tail section of the fuselage for a De Havilland DH-4	1918 July 17
93	14	Cadillac-made Liberty Engine in fuselage of De Havilland DH-4, plant 1	1918 July 1
94		Exterior of plant 2, with railroad cars	circa 1918
95	D30	Men working at fuselage assembly, plant 1	1918 February 23
96		Two production charts on wall	circa 1918
97		De Havilland DH-4 with fuselage parts waiting to be packaged for shipping	circa 1918
98		De Havilland DH-4 in packaging crate, rear of fuselage	circa 1918
99		Factory under construction	circa 1918
100		Wings of De Havilland Dh-4 being packed in factory	circa 1918

DW#	NEG	DESCRIPTION	DATE
101	32	Women working, cloth assembly of wings, plant 1	circa 1918
102	61	Side-view of De Havilland DH4 airplane	circa 1918
103		Fuselage Department in factory, wide angle view, room filled with De Havilland DH-4 fuselages.	1918 August 21
104		Men working, assembly of fuselage for Kettering Bug	1918 August 21
105	40	Fuselages of Standard J-1 trainer, with engines, plant 1	1918 February 23
106	45	Men dismantling De Havilland DH-4 aircraft, fuselage on shipping pallet	circa 1918
107	33	Women working, cloth assembly	circa 1918
108	D57	Skeleton of elevator of De Havilland DH-4	circa 1918
109		De Havilland DH-4 with Liberty Engine made by Ford Motor Company, labeled "Ford Motor Test," plant 1	1918 July 3
110		Bernard Whelan stands beside Dayton-Wright O.W.I Aerial Coupe	circa 1919
111		Dayton-Wright KT Cabin Cruiser (Dayton-Wright Limousine)	circa 1919
112		Kettering Bug on launching track	circa 1918
113	34	Women employees apply the star to tail section of an aircraft.	1918 July 8
114	21	Complete fuselages of De Havilland DH-4	circa 1918
115	A20	Mark V release mechanism attached to wing of De Havilland DH-4 in South Field	1918 April 15
116	67	Dayton-Wright "Messenger" airplane	circa 1918
117		De Havilland DH-4 parked in front of hangers, South Field	circa 1918

DW#	NEG	DESCRIPTION	DATE
118	D31	Fuselage of Standard J-1 training aircraft in factory	1918 February 23
119		Dayton-Wright Honeymoon Express version of the De Havilland DH-4, with Howard Rinehart as pilot and unidentified passengers.	circa 1918
120	100	Twin Lewis guns mounted on De Havilland DH-4	circa 1918
121		Howard Rinehart stands beside the Dayton-Wright "The Messenger" with three unidentified employees, at South Field	1918 August 14
122	74	View of cockpit of the Honeymoon Express	circa 1918
123	36	De Havilland DH-4 airplane in factory	circa 1918
124	13	Women working on Liberty Engines for the De Havilland Dh-4 in Motor Dept., plant 1	1918 July 1
125		Women sewing cloth on wings	circa 1918
126	22	Men working shaping propellers from wood in Propeller Department	1918 July 17
127	702	De Havilland DH-4 with Liberty Engine built by Nordyke Marmon Company	1918 July 15
128		Crowd in railway yard watching packaged De Havilland DH-4s get loaded onto railroad cars	circa 1918
129	D75	Women working on elevator/tail section of Standard J-1 training aircraft, in Fabrication Dept.	circa 1918
130	65	"Messenger" airplane	circa 1918
131	66	"The Messenger" airplane, front view	circa 1918
132	42	De Havilland DH-4 in crate	circa 1918
133		View of cockpit, Honeymoon Express	circa 1918
134		Howard Rinehart standing between De Havilland DH-4 and the Dayton-Wright "The Messenger" at South Field	1918 August 14

DW#	NEG	DESCRIPTION	DATE
135		“Bull Head” biplane	circa 1918
136		Men working on Liberty Engine, De Havilland DH-4 airplane assembly	circa 1918
137	D49	Standard J-1 training aircraft	circa 1918
138		Kettering Bug	circa 1918
139		Kettering Bug	circa 1918
140	43	Men removing landing gear of De Havilland DH-4 to prepare for packing and shipping	circa 1918
141	41	De Havilland DH-4 over pallet being prepared for shipment	circa 1918
142		Two Kettering Bugs on launch track	circa 1918
143	25	Airplane assembly, De Havilland DH-4, plant 1	1918 June 28
144	C40	De Havilland DH-4 parked behind plant 1	circa 1918
145	76	Modified De Havilland DH-4, Dayton-Wright Honeymoon Express	circa 1918
146		Women working on Liberty Engine, Motor Department, plant 1	1918 July 1
147	A16	De Havilland DH-4 Airplane with twin Marlin guns, exterior shot	circa 1918
148	11	Fuselage assembly for De Havilland DH-4	circa 1918
149	A19	Set of five Mark III high explosive bombs attached to wing of De Havilland DH-4 at South Field	1918 April 15
150	D54	Fuselage of the Standard J-1 training aircraft in Fuselage Dept.	1918 January 15
151		Liberty Engine suspended by hoist	circa 1918

DW#	NEG	DESCRIPTION	DATE
152	23	Men working with propellers in Balancing Dept., plant 2	1918 July 18
153	24	Propeller Stock Dept., plant 2	1918 July 18
154	30	Women working, wing assembly, plant 1	1918 February 23
155		Construction at Dayton-Wright Airplane Company, employees working on fuselages of De Havilland DH-4s	circa 1918
156		Employees working on the Kettering Bug	circa 1918
157		Men working, wing assembly, plant 1	circa 1918
158		Men working on wooden parts, machine shop	circa 1918
159		Exterior view, plant 3	circa 1918
160		Men welding metal parts, machine shop, plant 3	circa 1918
161	132	Men working, plant 3	circa 1918
162		Men fabricating metal parts, plant 3	circa 1918
163		Men working on parts for aircraft	circa 1918
164		Stacks of wing skeletons, plant 1	circa 1918
165		Military personnel stationed at plant 1	circa 1918
166		Men assembling wings, plant 1	circa 1918
167		Men working, machine shop, plant 3	circa 1918
168		Men working, machine shop	circa 1918
169		Plant, exterior view, showing damaged airplane parts	circa 1918
170		Supply storage, plant 1	circa 1918
171		Plant 1, exterior view of construction	circa 1918
172	3	Exterior view, plant 2	circa 1918

DW#	NEG	DESCRIPTION	DATE
173		Men working, machine shop, plant 1	circa 1918
174		Women working, plant 2	circa 1918
175		Damaged De Havilland DH-4 parts in shipping crate	circa 1918
176		Man using torch to fabricate parts for aircraft production	1921 November 10
177		Men working, machine shop	circa 1918
178		Workers assembling wings	circa 1918
179		Landing gear assembly for Standard J-1, plant 2	circa 1918
180		Drafting class	circa 1918
181		Drafting class, experimental station	circa 1918
182		Drafting class, experimental station	circa 1918
183		Men working, machine shop	circa 1918
184	26	Wing assembly, plant 1	circa 1918
185		Men working on wings, experimental station	circa 1918
186		Men working, model development for Dayton-Wright FP-2, Dayton-Wright RB-1, Dayton-Wright OW-1 and two unidentified aircraft.	circa 1919
187		Men working, model development for Dayton-Wright FP-2, Dayton-Wright RB-1, Dayton-Wright OW-1 and two unidentified aircraft.	circa 1919
188		Men working shaping wood in machine shop, experimental station	circa 1918
189	88-HP	Plant, exterior view, with early automobiles parked in front.	circa 1918
190		Exterior plant, Dayton-Wright XB-1A fuselages loaded on trucks	1921 July 21

DW#	NEG	DESCRIPTION	DATE
191		Exterior plant, Dayton-Wright XB-1A fuselages loaded on trucks	1921 July 21
192		Men working, machine shop	circa 1918
193		Plant, exterior view	circa 1918
194		Man and lathe working on propeller production, plant 2	1921 December 8
195		Fuselage of Dayton-Wright XB-1A airplane, Dayton-Wright KT Cruiser model hangs from ceiling.	1921 December 8
196		Wing storage, plant 1	circa 1918
197		Men working on engines and fuselage for Dayton-Wright XB-1A, motor assembly	circa 1921
198		Men working, laminating wood	circa 1918
199		Wing structure storage, plant 1	circa 1918
200		Exterior view experimental station	circa 1918
201		Workers gathered around a Junkers-Larsen JL-6 airplane at McCook Field	circa 1922
202		Men working, fuselage assembly for Dayton-Wright XB-1A	circa 1918
203		Men working on fuselages of Dayton-Wright XB-1A	circa 1921
204		Workers gathered around Junkers-Larsen JL-6 airplane at McCook Field.	circa 1922
205		Men working on De Havilland DH-4, experimental station	circa 1918
206		Side view of fuselage of Dayton-Wright XB-1A	1921 December 8
207	212	RB-1, Dayton Wright Special Racer	circa 1920

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208	220	Bernard Whelan sitting in Dayton-Wright O.W.I Aerial Coupe	circa 1918
209	291	Dayton-Wright KT Cabin Cruiser, South Field (also known as the Dayton-Wright Limousine)	circa 1919
210	93	De Havilland DH-4 crash, wings broken with heavy front-end damage, A.S. 63432, identified as Springfield, Ohio	circa 1918
211	217	View of entrance door for Dayton-Wright KT Cabin Cruiser (Dayton-Wright Limousine)	circa 1919
212	133	De Havilland DH-4's in field	1918
213	293	Wings in crate for shipping	1918
214	61	Dayton-Wright Chummy, fuselage	1918
215	69	De Havilland DH-4, fuselage	1918
216	289	De Havilland DH-4 fuselages in crates	1918
217	229	Employees stand on wings of Dayton-Wright RB-1 (Dayton-Wright Racer) to demonstrate strength of aircraft. Men identified include: Howard Rhinehart, James Jacobs, J. Henry, Harvey Geyer, Bernhard Whelan, Wallace Whittaker, Thomas Midgley Jr., J. Hunt, Milton Clement Baumann, Harold Talbott, G. Williams, and Charles F. Kettering	circa 1920
218	131	Woman sewing wing fabric (This item not available in CORE Scholar)	circa 1918
219	136	Silhouette drawing of De Havilland DH-4	circa 1918