

MS-166: William H. Chisam World War I Photographs

Collection Number: MS-166

Title: William H. Chisam World War I Photographs

Dates: 1915-1918

Creator: Chisam, Harry, 1894-1972

Summary/Abstract: The collection consists of seventy-five photographs from William H. Chisam's time learning to fly at the Wright School of Aviation in Dayton, Ohio, and Augusta, Georgia, and his service during World War I as a member of the No. 3 Squadron of the Royal Naval Air Service. Chisam flew missions in France during World War I. These photographs are of Chisam and his friends in flying school, military aircraft in France, flying squadrons, and war damaged buildings.

Quantity/Physical Description: 0.5 linear feet (75 photographs)

Language(s): English

Repository:

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

Restrictions on Access:

There are no restrictions on accessing material in this collection.

Restrictions on Use:

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Preferred Citation:

[Description of item, Date, Box #, Folder #], MS-166, William H. Chisam World War I Photographs, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio.

Acquisition: This collection was donated by William Chisam's daughter, Margaret Chisam Partington.

Existence and Location of Originals: The collection contains photographic copies of original photographs that remained in the possession of William H. Chisam's daughter, Margaret Chisam Partington. Margaret Chisam Partington published some of the photographs in her 2009 book titled *First World War flying ace : 20-year adventure of Harry Chisam, 1912-1932*.

Other Finding Aid:

The finding aid is available on the Special Collections & Archives, Wright State University Libraries web site at <https://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/collectionguides/files/ms166.pdf>. It is also available in the OhioLINK Finding Aid Repository at <http://ead.ohiolink.edu/xtf-ead/>.

Related Material:

- MS-355 Charles Wald Collection (<https://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/collectionguides/files/ms355.pdf>)
- MS-1 Wright Brothers Collection (<https://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/wrightbrothers/>)
- MS-311 Curtiss Day Photo Collection (<https://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/collectionguides/files/ms311.pdf>)
- MS-502 Raoul Lufbery (<https://libraries.wright.edu/special/collectionguides/files/ms502.pdf>)

Publications:

Harry Chisam's daughter, Margaret Chisam Partington, wrote the following book about her father in 2009, which features photographs in the collection:

Milne, Andy and Partington, Margaret Chisam, 1936- *First World War flying ace : 20-year adventure of Harry Chisam, 1912-1932*. Margaret Partington, Datchet, 2009. [UG626.2.C45 M55 2008](#)

Processed by: Ritchie Thomas, April 1992.

Revisions: Finding aid revised according to DACS standards by Alyssa Stark and Toni Vanden Bos, February, 2019.

Arrangement: The images are numbered and arranged according to the order in which they were received.

Biographical/Historical Note:

Before becoming a pilot flying missions over France during WWI, Harry Chisam, born William Hargrove Chisam in 1894, emigrated from his native Cumberland to Canada at the age of 18 in 1912. He tried various jobs, becoming a farmer, then a fireman, and eventually a clerk to the magistrates in the Courts of Winnipeg and later in Edmonton, Alberta. But soon after the start of World War I, Chisam took a different path, and moved to America to learn to fly at the Wright School of Aviation in Dayton, Ohio and in Augusta, Georgia. After completing the requirements, Chisam joined the Royal Naval Air Service, and flew missions in France with the No. 3 Squadron. He downed seven aircraft while flying Sopwith Camels during his service with Naval 3. After the war, Chisam successfully worked in the oil industry, spending time in Mexico and Guatemala before moving back to the United Kingdom.

Scope and Content Note:

The William H. Chisam Photograph Collection depicts Chisam's education at the Wright School of Aviation where he flew in both Dayton, Ohio and Augusta, Georgia. The photographs show Chisam flying various types of biplanes including the Wright Flyer Model B. There are multiple photos of Chisam in the air and in cockpits. There are also a few group shots and a couple photographs of a downtown scene, possibly in Dayton, Ohio.

Over half of the photographs document Chisam's time in the No. 3 Royal Naval Air Squadron. These photographs picture different types of aircraft lined up and in the air. The most prevalent type of aircraft appearing in this collection were manufactured by Sopwith, which produced aeroplanes mainly for the British Royal Naval Air Service and the Royal Flying Corps during World War I. The popular Sopwith Camel is shown along with the Sopwith Pup, the Dolphin, and the 1 ½ Strutter.

A few group photographs of No. 3 Squadron are included in the collection. One photograph, number 43, lists the names of the individuals pictured in the group photo. Other photos mainly identify William Chisam and Ally Shaw. Near the end of the collection are photographs of pilots in the hospital and Chisam standing with support of a cane. There are also photographs of war damaged buildings in France.

Subject Terms

Persons/Families

Chisam, Harry, 1894-1972 – Photographs

Organizations/Corporate Names

Wright Flying School – Alumni and alumnae

Great Britain. Royal Flying Corps. 3 (Naval) Squadron

Places

Dayton (Ohio) – History – 20th century

Augusta (Georgia)

Subjects (General)

World War, 1914-1918 – Aerial operations, British

World War, 1914-1918 -- France

Air pilots, Military – Great Britain

Material Types

Photographs

Collection Inventory

Box	File	Description	Date
1	1	William H. Chisam seated in a Graham-White Box kite Aircraft	Circa 1915-1918
1	2	William H. Chisam in the uniform of the Royal Navy	Circa 1915-1918
1	3	William H. Chisam in the uniform of the Royal Navy	Circa 1915-1918
1	4	William H. Chisam seated in a Royal Aircraft Factory R.E. 5	Circa 1915-1918
1	5	William H. Chisam in the uniform of the Royal Navy	Circa 1915-1918
1	6	William H. Chisam in tent	Circa 1915-1918
1	7	Wreckage of an aircraft	Circa 1915-1918
1	8	Unidentified Royal Navy Officer	Circa 1915-1918
1	9	Avro 504C, Three Quarter Left Side View	Circa 1915-1918
1	10	Curtiss JN-4, Three Quarter Left Side View	Circa 1915-1918
1	11	Bristol Bullet, Three Quarter Left Side View	Circa 1915-1918
1	12	Royal Aircraft Factory B.E. 2D, Left Side View	Circa 1915-1918
1	13	Louis	Circa 1915-1918
1	14	William H. Chisam Standing, Holding a Propeller	Circa 1915-1918
1	15	Officer of No. 3 Squadron, Royal Naval Air Service, Bray Dunes, France, Inscribed, "Titch"	1917 Sept
1	16	Unidentified Officer, No. 3 Squadron, R.N.A.S., Bray Dunes, France	1917 Sept
1	17	William H. Chisam standing next to Sopwith Camel "Aline"	Circa 1915-1918
1	18	No. 3 Squadron, R.N.A.S., William H. Chisam "fifth from left"	Circa 1915-1918
1	19	Sopwith F.1 Camels of No. 3 Squadron, R.N.A.S. on Flight Line, Dunkirk	1918 Feb
1	20	Unidentified Officer, No. 3 Squadron, R.N.A.S., Bray Dunes, France	1917 Sept
1	21	William H. Chisam and Ally Shaw with Sopwith Camel	Circa 1915-1918
1	22	Sopwith Pup "Aileen" Taking off, Augusta, Georgia	Circa 1915-1918
1	23	Sopwith Pups on Flight Line	Circa 1915-1918
1	24	William H. Chisam and friends in horse drawn wagon	Circa 1915
1	25	3 photographs. Assembling Wright Flyers Model B, Augusta, Georgia; Hanger tents, Augusta, Georgia; Wright Flyer Model B in Field	Circa 1915
1	26	Caudron G. III, Right Side View	Circa 1915-1918
1	27	William H. Chisam in Aircraft Cockpit	Circa 1915-1918
1	28	William H. Chisam on his first cross country flight	Circa 1915
1	29	Main Street, Dayton, Ohio	Circa 1915
1	30	William H. Chisam and Ally Shaw with friends, Dayton, Ohio	Circa 1915

Box	File	Description	Date
1	31	3 rd and Ludlow Streets, Dayton, Ohio	Circa 1915
1	32	William H. Chisam and Ally Shaw seated in front of Wright Flyer Model B	Circa 1915
1	33	Wright Flyer Model B in Flight	Circa 1915
1	34	Wright Flyer Model B in Flight	Circa 1915
1	35	Unidentified Bridge, Dayton, Ohio	Circa 1915
1	36	William H. Chisam	Circa 1915-1918
1	37	Squadron Flying in Formation	Circa 1915-1918
1	38	William H. Chisam, Ally Shaw and other Candidates for the Royal Naval Air Service	Circa 1915
1	39	William H. Chisam seated at controls of Wright Flyer Model B	Circa 1915
1	39A	William H. Chisam seated at controls of Wright Flyer Model B	Circa 1915
1	39B	Wright Flyer Model B taking off	Circa 1915
1	40	William H. Chisam and Canadian Students of Wright School of Aviation, Augusta, Georgia	1915 Dec
1	41	Two Wright Flyer Model B Aircraft of the Wright School of Aviation, Augusta, Georgia	1915 Dec
1	42	Wright Flyer Model B Landing, Wright School of Aviation, Augusta Georgia	1915 Dec
1	43	Officers of No. 3 Squadron, Royal Naval Air Service	Circa 1918
1	44	Sopwith F.1 Camels of No. 3 Squadron, R.N.A.S. on Flight Line, Dunkirk	1918 Feb
1	45	Royal Aircraft Factory S.E.5's on Flight Line	Circa 1918
1	46	Royal Aircraft Factory S.E.5's in Flight, Patrol Formation	Circa 1918
1	47	Two Unidentified Men seated in Wright Flyer Model B, Engine running	Circa 1915
1	48	Two Unidentified Officers, No. 3 Squadron, R.N.A.S. Arras, France	1918 Mar
1	49	Three Unidentified Officers, No. 3 Squadron, R.N.A.S. Arras, France	1918 Mar
1	50	Unidentified Members and Sopwith Camels of No. 3 Squadron, R.N.A.S., on flight line, Arras, France	1918 Mar
1	51	Unidentified Members of No. 3 Squadron, R.N.A.S. and Sopwith Camels, Arras, France	1918 Mar
1	52	Sopwith Camel of No. 3 Squadron, R.N.A.S. Landing/Take off, Arras, France	1918 Mar
1	53	Aerial View, Looking Aft in Sopwith 1 ½ Strutter	Circa 1915-1918
1	54	William H. Chisam, far left, and other officers of No. 3 Squadron, R.N.A.S.	Circa 1918
1	55	William H. Chisam in uniform, seated on a camp chair	Circa 1915-1918
1	56	Unidentified Officers of No. 3 Squadron, R.N.A.S.	Circa 1918

Box	File	Description	Date
1	57	Unidentified Wreck of an Aircraft	Circa 1918
1	58	Sopwith Dolphin, No. 3 Squadron, R.N.A.S., Arras, France	1918 Mar
1	59	Sopwith Camel's of No. 3 Squadron, R.N.A.S. on Flight Line, Arras, France	1918 Mar
1	60	Sopwith Dolphin, No. 3 Squadron, R.N.A.S., Arras, France	1918 Mar
1	61	Sopwith 1 ½ Strutter on Flight Line	Circa 1918
1	62	Sopwith 1 ½ Strutters on Flight Line	Circa 1918
1	63	Damaged buildings	Circa 1918
1	64	Damaged buildings	Circa 1918
1	65	William H. Chisam in hospital bed after being wounded	Circa 1918
1	66	William H. Chisam	Circa 1918
1	67	Village in Scotland	Circa 1918
1	68	Damaged Buildings, Ham, France	Circa 1918
1	69	Damaged Buildings, Noyon, France	Circa 1918
1	70	Damaged Buildings, Chateau Thierry, France	Circa 1918
1	71	Damaged Buildings, Chateau Thierry, France	Circa 1918
1	72	Ruins of Chateau Thierry, France	Circa 1918
1	73	Ruins of Cambrai, France	Circa 1918