

Herbert C. Osborne Papers

MS – 264

Wright State University  
Department of Special Collections and Archives

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## Introduction

The papers of Herbert C. Osborne were accessioned into the Wright State University Department of Archives and Special Collections in July 1994. They were donated by Marjorie Osborne Nicol, the daughter of Herbert Osborne.

The papers in this collection date from 1918-1924 and fill 1 Hollinger box with 7 file folders. The collection is arranged into 3 record series as follows:

- Series I: Diaries
- Series II: Photographs
- Series III: Correspondences

There are no restrictions on the use of these records.

## Biographical Sketch

Herbert C. Osborne graduated from Dartmouth College in 1913, with a degree in civil engineering. In January of 1918, at the age of 27, he accepted an aero draftsman position at McCook Field in Dayton, Ohio with a salary of \$1800.

In November of 1918 Herbert took his first airplane ride, attaining an altitude of 16,400 ft. in a Bristol. In October of 1920, he took his second ride, photographs of which can be found within the collection.

On October 9, 1919 he met his future wife, Elsie Barker, at the field. They became engaged on November 20, 1919 and were married on June 6, 1920. Their daughter, Marjorie, was born January 25, 1923.

In April 1919, Osborne was transferred to the Power Plant as Assistant Chief of the Fuel Systems Branch. In April of 1920, he became chief of the Fuel Systems Branch at McCook Field. In this position he was in charge of testing aircraft fuel systems. His diaries from 1922 and 1923 offer some glimpses of the type of work this would have entailed. Osborne remained in this position until January of 1924, when he resigned citing higher pay as his reason for leaving.

In March of 1924 he moved to Baltimore, Maryland to begin his new job with Blackmer Rot. Pump Company as District Manager. In July he was promoted to Chief Engineer, Assistant Manager and moved to Petoskey, Michigan. In October of 1925, he moved again, this time to a new Blackmer Plant in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

## Scope and Content

Series I contains Herbert Osborne's diaries from 1922 and 1923. In them he recorded his daily actions, even including the day's weather. However, for the most part, this information is not very detailed concerning his work. Oftentimes he simply states that he worked on a particular project one day, or said if a particular project was giving the workers problems. The diaries can offer insight into the daily activities of a McCook field employee, as well as Dayton residents during this time period.

Series II contains 79 photographs taken, it is assumed, while Osborne was working at McCook Field. They include photographs of aircraft, dirigibles, and individuals. Of note are photographs of the Barling Bomber, including a photograph of its Fuel Pump Unit, Wright and Curtiss pursuit aircraft, Fokker T-2, and the U.S. Army dirigible "Roma". Also included are photographs of Mr. Barling, Lt. Kelly, Lt. MacCready, and the entire Power Plant Section.

Section III contains miscellaneous material including a chronological listing of events in Osborne's life between 1916 and 1927. Also included in this series are several pay raise slips and a description of his first aeronautical experience.

Container Listing

<b>Series I</b>			<b>Diaries</b>	
<b>Box</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	1	1	Personal Diary	1922
	2	2	Personal Diary	1923
<b>Series II</b>			<b>Photographs</b>	
<b>Box</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	3	1	Martin NBS-1	
		2	Loening PW-2	
		3	Power Plant section (group photo)	May 6, 1920
		4	Fokker T-2 (plane reads Army Air Service Non Stop Coast to Coast A.S. 64233)	
		5	Chicago of New York Planes	
		6	DH with 2 Hissos V-66-4	
		7	Meil Plane V-66-5	
		8	MB-2 #27 V-72-1	
		9	V-72-6	
		10	V-73-2	
		11	V-72-5	
		12	G.L. Martin Assem. Floor	
		13	MB-2 Fuselage V-68-7	
		14	Martin Transport V-68-8	
		15	Martin Transport V-69-1	
		16	Junker Nose V-73-6	
		17	Junker Tail V-68-5	
		18	July 1920 V-63-4	July 1920
		19	After Meeting Tel. Pole	
		20	Hispano 180 V-34	
		21	Liberty 12 V-71-4	
		22	Liberty 12 V-73-4	
		23	Handley Page and Jenny V-13-7	
		24	DH-4 -44	
		25	Thomas-Morse S4-C LeRhone V-4-4	
		26	SVA Ansaldo V-19-2	
		27	Across the Country (Blimp on the ground with U.S. Army C-2 on side)	
		28	JNGH V-4-7	
		29	A ruined young Jenny V-15-3	
		30	Jenny all bare V-76-1	
		31	Curtis Oriole	
		32	DWORACK Lt. MacCready Lt. Kelly REITZ	

<b>Box</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	3	33	Crew of the C-2 (group photo)	
		34	400# mail going East! Fog	
		35	Martin Mail Plane V-65-5	
		36	Junker Mail Plane V-61-6	
		37	Pulitzer 1920 Race V-70-1 MB-3 Thomas-Morse	
		38	ORONANCE V-69-5	
		39	FOKKER V-70-7	
		40	MB-3A	
		41	ILL-fated "Roma"	
	4	1	Just Before	
		2	Just After the D-9 landed with the pilot	
		3	Her maiden flight	
		4	The Left motor	
		5	The right unit	
		6	A J-L-6 in Transit	
		7	Stryker Copeland	
		8	Barling – Bomber	
		9	"Patsy" 1920	
		10	1200 ft. – 1200 R.P.M.	
		11	Oct. 1, 1920 Second Airplane Ride About 4,000 ft. – entering the clouds Vought P – 113 Tillinghast, Pilot	Oct. 1, 1920
		12	Oct. 1, 1920 Second Airplane Ride Above the Clouds	Oct. 1, 1920
		13	Morane – Saulnier	
		14	Oct. 1, 1920 Second Airplane Ride McCook Field at 3000 ft	Oct. 1, 1920
		15	Lt. Arnold – Cleveland – New York Trip, April 1923	April 1923
		16	Looking for a Smooth Meadow	
		17	New York Air Mail Terminal	
		18	Cleveland 12-12-20 Contract 277 Stryker, Morrisey Nose	
		19	Cleveland 12-20-20 Contract 277 MB-2 P-162 at Glenn L. Martin Plant	
		20	Wright Pursuit	
		21	Cabin of Remington-Bernelli	
		22	L.W.F. Mock-up XII	
		23	L.W.F. Mock-up XII	
		24	Oct 1, 1920 Second Airplane Ride Fields & things	Oct. 1, 1920
		25	Cleveland to Dayton Feb. 18, 1921	Feb. 18, 1921
		26	The First Hanger	
		27	Curtis Pursuit	
		28	Parachute Drop	
		29	Barling Bomber	
		30	Curtis Pursuit	

<b>Box</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	4	31	Wright Pursuit	
		32	(no description written)	
		33	Marian Oston	
		34	Wright Pursuit	
		35	Lt. Arnold Cleveland – New York Trip, April 1923	April 1923
		36	Barling Bomber Fuel Pump Unit	
		37	Parachute DH4	
		38	Lt. Harris, Pilot 5-21-21 SAE & ASME at McCook	
	<b>Series III</b>		<b>Correspondences</b>	
<b>Box</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	5	1-2	Photocopy of events in the life of Herbert C. Osborne	Sept. 1916 - July 1927
	6	1	Handwritten page describing first airplane ride Note: not all pages are there	n.d.
	7	1	Navy Department letter to Mr. Osborne	Feb. 18, 1918
		2	Airplane Engineering Department	Oct. 1, 1918
		3	Western Union Telegram	April 8, 1919
		4	War Department Memo to Mr. Osborne	Jan. 25, 1923
		5	War Department	Jan. 5, 1924