

T.E. Bennett Aviation  
Collection

MS-318

Paul Laurence Dunbar Library  
Special Collections and Archives  
Wright State University

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The T. E. (Thomas Edmund) Bennett Aviation Collection was accessioned into the Dunbar Library's Special Collections and Archives on May 17, 2002. The collection was donated by Mr. Ron Bennett, son of T. E. Bennett, and spans the period 1917 to 1923. The collection is contained in one Hollinger box and fills approximately .4 linear feet. The collection is organized into two series as follows:

Series I: Dayton Aero Club

Series II: U.S. Army Publications/Records

There are no restrictions on the use of this collection.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Thomas E. Bennett was born October 29, 1987 in Inchon, Korea to Walter George Bennett, a member of the English Consular Service, and Hana Glover Bennett. Thomas completed his elementary school education at Nagasaki, Japan and his secondary education at St. Joseph Academy, Yokohama, Japan.

In 1912, at the age of 15, he came to the United States and enrolled at St. Mary's College (later became the University of Dayton), Dayton, Ohio. He attended St. Mary's College until 1913. After the Dayton Flood of 1913, he transferred to the University of Wisconsin where he studied engineering until he graduated in 1917. He then returned to Dayton, Ohio.

In June 1917 he entered the U.S. Army and was assigned to Battery A., 322<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery, 83<sup>rd</sup> Division, Chillicothe, Ohio. On October 9, 1917 he was transferred to the Aviation Section of the Signal Corps and assigned to the Signal Cops Aviation School, Wilbur Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio. He then attended the United States School of Military Aeronautics at the University of Illinois. He graduated on March 16, 1918 and received his pilot wings. He was then promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant and assigned to Kelly Field, San Antonio, Texas for duty as an Instructor Pilot. Later, on October 23, 1918, he was reassigned to Payne Field, West Point, Mississippi. He was discharged from the U.S. Army on January 7, 1919 with the classification of "Pursuit Pilot" with 172.27 flying hours.

After being discharged from the U.S. Army, Mr. Bennett was assigned to the 83<sup>rd</sup> Division, Organized Reserves, McCook Field, Dayton, Ohio. He was a member of the Officer Reserve Corps until May 27, 1936.

Mr. Bennett married Annis Quayle in May 1923. Family histories indicate that from the time of his discharge from the U.S. Army in 1919 until he married Ms. Quayle, he did some barnstorming with Chenoweth Aviation of Richmond, Indiana. However, his primary employer, except for a short stint with an electrical contractor, from 1919 until his retirement in 1963 was the Dayton Power and Light Company (DP&L). While employed with DP&L, he was involved with the design of high tension lines and supervised line crews in Xenia, Ohio. Finally, he was assigned to the Power Distribution and Sales Department where he worked until his retirement in 1963.

Mr. Bennett was active in The Aero Club of Dayton, the Wilbur Wright Post of the American Legion (later Post 5), and was instrumental in starting the Electric Club of Dayton. The Electric Club was a group of men and women associated with both the residential and commercial use of electrical services.

Mr. Bennett moved to Florida in 1965 and remained there until his death in 1983.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The T. E. Bennett Aviation Collection is a small collection of World War I and Post-World War I related documents collected by Mr. Bennett. The collection is divided into two major series.

Mr. Bennett was Secretary of the Aero Club of Dayton during the early 1920s. Series I, Dayton Aero Club contains primarily newspaper clippings collected by Mr. Bennett. One file contains clippings documenting activities of the Aero Club of Dayton. A second file contains clippings of World War I events. Of particular interest are clippings reporting the death of Germany's "Red Baron." The third file contains clippings reporting aviation-related events after World War I. Of particular interest are clipping discussing the need to establish a separate Air Force, independent of the U.S. Army and several clippings reporting the altitude record established by Major R. W. Schroeder, Chief Test Pilot at McCook Field, Dayton, Ohio.

Mr. Bennett was a pilot during World War I. Series II, U.S. Army Publications/Records contains U.S. Army publications he received during and shortly after World War I. Of particular interest to aviation enthusiasts are instructions given to pilots and student pilots at the Kelly Field U.S. Aviation School including, "General Instructions," "Notes and Rules for Pilots," "Instructions for Spirals," and "Aerial Navigation Instructions." The series also contains some blank publications/forms including, "Morning Report," "Efficiency Report," and "Service Record."

## **BOX AND FOLDER LISTING**

### **SERIES I: DAYTON AERO CLUB**

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	1	Correspondence – Aero Club	1920, 1923
	2	Aero Club stationary (Blank)	n.d.
	3	Newspaper clippings – Dayton Aero Club	1920
	4	Newspaper clippings – World War I	1917-1918
	5	Newspaper clippings – Post-World War I	1918-1923
	6	Group photograph – Aero Club of Ohio, Columbus, Ohio	May 1920
	7	Directory – “The Engineers’ Club of Dayton”	1929

### **SERIES II: U.S. ARMY PUBLICATIONS/RECORDS**

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	8	U.S. Aviation Schools – General Instructions	c.a.1917
	9	U.S. Aviation Schools – Notes and Rules for Pilots	c.a.1917
	10	U.S. Aviation Schools – Instructions for Spirals	c.a.1917
	11	U.S. Aviation Schools – Aerial Navigation Instructions	c.a.1917
	12	U.S. Aviation Schools – Second Solo Stage, Eights Sect	c.a.1917
	13	U.S. Aviation Schools – Translation in French of Different Parts of Aeroplane	c.a.1917
	14	Publication – Announcement of Army Correspondence Courses, 1923-1924	1923
	15	Index to Current Magazines – Number 38 (Published by Manufacturers Aircraft Association, Inc.)	Mar 11, 1921
	16	Index to Current Magazines – Number 39 (Published by Manufacturers Aircraft Association, Inc.)	Mar 16, 1921
	17	Publication – U.S. Army Form #332, Morning Report (Blank)	Jan 1917
	18	Publication – U.S. Army Form #429, Efficiency Report (Blank)	Apr 1917
	19	Publication – U.S. Army Form #29, Service Record (Blank)	Mar 1917