

MS-293: 91st Observation Squadron, American Expeditionary Force, Photographs

Collection Number: MS-293

Title: 91st Observation Squadron, American Expeditionary Force, Photographs

Dates: 1918-1919

Creator: United States. Army. Division, 91st

Summary/Abstract:

The collection includes photographs of the 91st Squadron, hangars and airfields, aerial views of German and French cities and fields, and the banner image of the 91st Squadron. This collection depicts the airmen and operations of the Squadron during the end of World War I and the months following.

Quantity/Physical Description: 0.25 linear feet (39 photographs)

Language(s): English, German

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:

[Item Number], MS-293, the 91st Observation Squadron, American Expeditionary Force, Photographs, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio.

Acquisition: The photographs of the 91st Observation Squadron of the American Expeditionary Force were purchased from Zita Books in New York, New York, by Wright State University Special Collections and Archives on March 14, 2000.

Alterative Form Available: Digital images of the entire collection (39 images) are available online in Wright State University's Campus Online Repository (CORE Scholar) at: http://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/special_ms293_photographs/.

Processed by: Processed by Rachel DeHart, March 2007. Finding aid updated to EAD by Lisa Rickey, May 2014.

Arrangement:

The photographs are individually numbered, according to the order in which they appeared in their original album.

Historical Note:

During World War I, the 91st Observation Squadron of the American Expeditionary Force operated reconnaissance missions 15 to 25 miles beyond enemy lines. They informed A.E.F. Headquarters of movements on roads and airdromes and in railroad yards, which they observed from above 15,000 feet; they also reported on supply and ammunition dumps.

The 91st Squadron arrived in Liverpool, England with the 90th and 88th Squadrons in November 1917 and traveled to Hill 402 to construct an airfield next to the American Expeditionary Force Headquarters in Chaumont, France. The squadron then traveled to Amanty, France where a school for pilots was operated. However, flight training was delayed by the lack of adequate airplanes; well into 1918, only worn-out Dorand, Sopwith and SPAD aircraft were available for use. Sixteen Salmson airplanes arrived by May of 1918, enabling the Squadron, with mediocre gunnery training, to begin operations.

The Squadron's first mission into enemy territory occurred on June 3rd from their base of operations at Gondreville, France near Amanty. The two-person crews of pilot and observer were subject to enemy aircraft attacks and anti-aircraft guns. There was a high rate of death, disappearance and injury, particularly for observers in the last months of the war. By the end of World War I, six pilots and three observers in the 91st Observation Squadron had become prisoners of war and three pilots and eight observers had been killed. Twenty-one enemy aircraft had been eliminated.

From February 14 to September 15, 1918, Major John N. Reynolds led the Squadron. In September 1918 Major Reynolds became Commanding Officer of the newly-created Army Observation Group, which consisted of the 91st, 24th and 9th Observation Squadrons. Leadership of the 91st Squadron transferred to Lieutenant Everett R. Cook, who served as Commanding Officer until the Armistice.

On June 28, 1919 the 91st Observation Squadron was demobilized from active duty in Europe; it was remobilized on June 30 for duty in the United States.

Scope and Content:

The 91st Observation Squadron photographs document the history and operations of the American Expeditionary Forces in Europe at the end of World War I and the following months. Through these photographs, researchers may gain insight into the geography and aircraft of World War I as well as the men who served in the 91st Squadron.

The collection includes 39 photographs dating between April 1918 and March 1919. About half of the photographs are undated, but are from the same period. The photographs depict airplanes

and airfields, the men who served in the squadron, the squadron's banner design, and aerial observation views of French and German cities and sites including Coblenz, Trier, Dierdorf, Bendorf, Sinzig, Blagny, and Carignan.

Photocopies of excerpts from the book *Wings of Honor: American Airmen in World War I* by James J. Sloan, Jr., are included in the box. These include a brief history of the 91st Observation Squadron and a listing of Commanding and Operations Officers and Combat Airmen.

Subject Terms

Creators

United States. Army. Division, 91st

Subjects (General)

Aeronautics, Military -- United States

United States. Army. Air Service

World War, 1914-1918 -- Aerial operations

World War, 1914-1918 -- France --Pictorial works

World War, 1914-1918 -- Germany --Pictorial works

Material Types

Photographs

Collection Inventory

Digital images of the entire collection (39 images) are available online in Wright State University's Campus Online Repository (CORE Scholar) at:

http://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/special_ms293_photographs/.

To search for a specific image from this collection in CORE Scholar, search for the item using the following format: MS293_01_XX, where "XX" is the two-digit Item number listed in the finding aid. If the Item number is less than 2 digits, include a leading zero. For example, to locate the first photograph listed, search for MS293_01_01. Capitalization is not important.

Box	Item	Item	Date
1	1	91 st Squadron with banner	Undated
1	2	Winning photograph of the Third Corps Horse Show in Neuwied, Germany by the 91 st Squadron for the Meuse-Argonne Cup Photographic Contest	1919 March 7
1	3	91 st Squadron in front of airplane	Undated
1	4	91 st Aero Service Squadron, 1 st Army Observation Group, American Expeditionary Force	1918
1	5	Banner image of knight and devil	Undated
1	6	Men with engines and propellers	Undated
1	7	91 st Squadron	Undated

Box	Item	Item	Date
1	8	Men in line on field	1919 January 6
1	9	Aerial shot of hangars and airplanes	Undated
1	10	91 st Squadron	1919 January 10
1	11	Airplanes burning	Undated
1	12	Airplanes burning	Undated
1	13	Airplanes in pile on field	Undated
1	14	Airplanes in pile on field	Undated
1	15	Dismantled aircraft in field	1918 November 20
1	16	Dismantled aircraft in field	1918 November 20
1	17	Sgt. Kelly and Sgt. Scott in front of airplane	Undated
1	18	Men and women in mess hall with Christmas tree	1918 December 25
1	19	Airplane, left side	1918 June 14
1	20	Aerial view of field	Undated
1	21	Aerial view of Airdrome, Karthouse, Coblenz looking NE	1919 January 10
1	22	Aero Squadron Headquarters	1918 November 15
1	23	Zeppelin Hanger at Trier, Germany	1918 December 15
1	24	Aerial shot	1918 November 2
1	25	Aerial view of city and right wing	Undated
1	26	Aerial view of city	Undated
1	27	Aerial view of Blagny, France	1918 November 4
1	28	Aerial view of river and roads	Undated
1	29	Aerial view of Carignan	1918 November 4
1	30	Aerial shot	Undated
1	31	Aerial view of neighborhood and bridges	Undated
1	32	Aerial view of fields SW of Dierdorf, Germany	1919 February 14
1	33	Aerial view of Sinzig Castle looking North	1919 February 13
1	34	Aerial view, SW of Bendorf, Germany	1919 January 7
1	35	Sectional panorama of Coblenz from water tower, Airdrome	1919 January 16
1	36	Aerial view of ruins	Undated
1	37	Dismantled airplanes in field	Undated
1	38	Aerial view of city bridges	Undated
1	39	“Gefangene Amerikaner,” American captives	1918 April 20