



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Theodore E. Boyd World War I Collection

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National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Theodore E. Boyd World War I Collection
Date:	1916-1983
Identifier:	NASM.2013.0016
Creator:	Boyd, Theodore E. (Author)
Extent:	0.84 Cubic feet (1 legal document box; 1 flat box)
Language:	The majority of the materials are in English; however, some of the military orders and training materials are in French.
Summary:	The Theodore E. Boyd World War I collection consists of material documenting Theodore E. Boyd's World War I career. The bulk of the collection covers the World War I era, 1917 to 1919, but materials before and after those dates are also present. Materials include: correspondence, written both during the war to family and friends; photographs; military orders, mostly in English, a few in French; flight logs; identity card; Honorable Discharge and Distinguished Service Cross certificates; memoirs of his war experiences, both written for publication and to his family; and post war veterans rosters.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated by Pat Piper, gift, 2012.

Processing Note

Arranged and described by Elizabeth Borja, 2014. Encoded by Elizabeth Borja, 2015.

Preferred Citation

Theodore E. Boyd World War I Collection, Accession 2013-0016, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical Note

During World War I, Theodore E. Boyd served with the 88th Aero Squadron (Attached), 7th Field Artillery, Air Service, American Expeditionary Forces (A.E.F.). Second Lieutenant Boyd was an observer and served in France until he was injured on September 14, 1918, when during a flight near Conflans, France, he was wounded in both legs, his left foot, and right elbow by explosive bullets. For his bravery during this flight, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. Due to his injuries, his service ended and he was honorably discharged. After the war, Boyd went to medical school and taught physiology for 24 years at Loyola University in Chicago. In 1947, Boyd joined the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis where for twenty years he served as Assistant Director, and then Director, of the Research Department.

Timeline

Theodore E. Boyd Timeline

<i>1893 December 14</i>	Theodore Elliott Boyd born in Ashland City, Tennessee.
<i>1910</i>	Boyd forced to give up a West Point appointment because of varicose veins and a bad scar.
<i>1917 May</i>	Reported to Reserve Officers' Training Camp, Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.
<i>1917 August 15</i>	Honorably discharged from Ft. Oglethorpe to accept commission as Second Lieutenant Field Artillery Section Officers Reserve Corps.
<i>1917 August 22</i>	Ordered to report to General Superintendent, Army Transport Services, New York City, for assignment to first available transportation to France. Left Tennessee August 23.
<i>1917 September 9</i>	Left New York. Landed at Liverpool on September 23, Le Havre on September 25.
<i>1917 October 1</i>	Entered Artillery School at Saumur
<i>1918 January 14</i>	Report to Aviation School, Tours
<i>1918 February 19</i>	Transferred to First Corps School, Gondrecourt, for advanced instruction.
<i>1918 April 6</i>	Dispatched for duty with French 40th Observation Squadron in Champagne.
<i>1918 May 20</i>	Ordered from Chalons-sur-Marne to the AEF 88th Squadron in Amanty (Meuse).
<i>1918 June 6</i>	Ordered to Cazeux for course in machine gun instruction.
<i>1918 July 1</i>	Returned to the 88th Squadron at Ourches (Meuse).
<i>1918 August 9</i>	Protected a photographic mission between the Vesle and Aisne. Cited for gallantry in action and entitled to wear a silver star on the Victory medal.
<i>1918 September 9-12</i>	On leave in Paris.
<i>1918 September 14</i>	"[Lt. Theodore Boyd was charged with the] protection of an aerial photo mission over the city of Conflans, in which six machines were scheduled to fly in combat formation. This officer, three of the escorting planes having failed to join the formation, proceeded on his mission notwithstanding. At a point, roughly 3 km NW of Conflans, he engaged in combat with five enemy pursuit machines of the Pfalz type. He was wounded in both legs, the left foot, and right elbow by explosive bullets. In spite of his wounds, he succeeded, by a remarkable display of courage and tenacity,

	in keeping up the fire of his guns until the attacking planes were put to flight. During the return to the Allied lines, Lieut. Boyd, although faint with pain and loss of blood, assisted his pilot, whose machine was disabled and coming down under control, in choosing the shortest route to safety."- Captain Kenneth P. Littauer, recommendation for Distinguished Service Cross
1918 November 11	Ordered to proceed from Savenay to the port of Brest for transport to the United States (left Brest November 18).
1918 November 29	Landed at Newport News, Virginia.
1918 December 6	Arrived at Fort McPherson, Georgia, for convalescence.
1919 May 6	Lieutenant Theodore E. Boyd honorably discharged from the United States Army.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of material documenting Theodore E. Boyd's World War I career: correspondence, written both during the war to family and friends; photographs; military orders, mostly in English, a few in French; flight logs; identity card; Honorable Discharge and Distinguished Service Cross certificates; memoirs of his war experiences, both written for publication and to his family; and post war veterans rosters.

Arrangement

The collection has been arranged into three series: Series 1, World War I; Series 2, Memoirs; and Series 3, Post War Rosters.

The collection did not have any particular order when received by the NASM Archives. Archivists have organized the documents by topic then by date.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Aeronautics
United States. Army. American Expeditionary Forces
World War, 1914-1918 -- Aerial operations

Types of Materials:

Correspondence
Photographs

Container Listing

Series 1: World War I, 1916-1921

Arrangement: Materials are organized by type of material (military orders, photographs, correspondence, etc.) and then in chronological order.

Scope and Contents: This series contains materials from Theodore E. Boyd's service in World War I. Civil and military records include civil service exam results, materials from Reserve Officers' Training Camp, orders to various training schools in France, his flight logs (carnet de vols) and instructional materials from Aviation Military Escadrille 40 and Cazeaux, receipts from leave, the telegram sent to his family regarding his wounding in action, and his honorable discharge documents. Also included are photocopies of the recommendations and observation reports that detail his actions for which he received the Distinguished Service Cross, as well as the certificate. The series also contains Boyd's World War I correspondence with his mother and fellow airmen, particularly Kenneth Littauer, and a letter home published in what is presumed a local newspaper.

Box 1, Folder 1	Civil Service Exam Results, 1916
Box 1, Folder 2	Military Records and Orders, 1917
Box 1, Folder 3	Military Records and Orders, 1918
Box 1, Folder 4	Military Records and Orders, 1919
Box 1, Folder 5	American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) Identity Card, circa 1918
Box 1, Folder 6	Flight Logs (Carnets de Vols), 1918 April-June
Box 1, Folder 7	Instructional Materials, 1918
Box 1, Folder 8	Notes for an Artillery Adjustment, 1918 August
Box 1, Folder 9	Photographs, 1918-1919
Box 1, Folder 10	Receipts, 1918-1919
Box 1, Folder 11	Distinguished Service Cross Recommendations and Observer Notes (photocopies), 1918 May-October
Box 2, Folder 1	Distinguished Service Cross Citation, 1918 October 11
Box 2, Folder 2	Citation for Distinguished and Exceptional Gallantry, 1919 March 27
Box 1, Folder 12	AEF and War Department Publications, Awards and Citations, 1919
Box 1, Folder 13	88th Aero Squadron Letterhead, undated

Box 1, Folder 14	Correspondence, Friends and Family, 1917-1919
Box 1, Folder 15	Correspondence, Kenneth Littauer, 1918-1921
Box 1, Folder 16	Letter to Alfred Williams published in newspaper, 1918

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Series 2: Memoirs, 1918-1983 (bulk 1972-1983)

Scope and Contents: This series contains Theodore E. Boyd's memoirs of his World War I experiences. His diary was lost in France, so these were written at a later date. Materials include a timeline, the story of his officer training school at Fort Oglethorpe, a remembrance of the day he was shot down, and a newspaper article in which he remembers the war. From 1972 to 1983, Boyd wrote frequent letters to his children and grandchildren, describing his war experiences. One set of these letters is numbered, the other is not.

Arrangement: These materials are arranged chronologically when possible.

Box 1, Folder 17	Handwritten Memoirs and Rosters, 1919, undated
Box 1, Folder 18	"Aces and Deuces," Memoir of the Events of 1918 September 14, undated
Box 1, Folder 19	"Notes on an Extinct Species", undated
Box 1, Folder 20	Memoirs and Correspondence Sent to Family, numbered 1-31, 1973-1974
Box 1, Folder 21	Memoirs and Correspondence Sent to Family, unnumbered, 1972-1983
Box 1, Folder 22	Correspondence, Chesly Carter, 1982

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Series 3: Post War Rosters, 1918-1982

Scope and Contents: This series contains post war rosters for the 88th Aero Squadron and the World War I Overseas Flyers.

Arrangement: The series is arranged chronologically.

Box 1, Folder 23 [Roster, 88th Aero Squadron, undated](#)

Box 1, Folder 24 [World War I Overseas Flyers, Official Roster, 1982](#)

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