



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Albert and Willy Stupe World War I Photograph Album

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National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Albert and Willy Stupe World War I Photograph Album
Date:	1895-1919
Identifier:	NASM.1991.0037
Creator:	Stupe, Albert Stupe, Willy
Extent:	0.51 Cubic feet (1 flat box)
Language:	The photograph captions in this album are written in German.
Summary:	The Albert and Willy Stupe World War I Photograph Album (acc. 1991.0037) shows German soldiers in both formal and informal settings; living quarters and airfields; airplanes and the bombs they dropped; and the towns in which the military installments were situated. A variety of aircraft and high profile personalities also appear in this album.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Kevin B. Skinner, Gift, 1991, 1991.0037, NASM

Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Amanda Buel, 2018.

Preferred Citation

Albert and Willy Stupe World War I Photograph Album, Acc. 1991.0037, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

Material is subject to Smithsonian Terms of Use. Should you wish to use NASM material in any medium, please submit an Application for Permission to Reproduce NASM Material, available at [Permissions Requests](#) .

Biographical Note

Willy Stupe (1889-1951) and his younger brother Albert (1891-1917) were born in Coburg, Germany, where they also began their military service. The brothers both served in the 95th Infantry Regiment (6th Thuringian) at some point during their military careers. Leutnant Albert Stupe was a decorated officer, having received

two Iron Crosses and other combat medals. World War I German casualty lists for 1914-1919 show that Albert, who is said to have been a pilot, was killed in action on July 31, 1917.

Willy spent some of his military service as a paymaster and is said to have served in a motorcycle unit. He immigrated to the United States in 1921, declaring (as Willy *Stuppe*) his intentions be become an American citizen. Willy lived out the rest of his days with his wife, Cora Caesar, working as a merchant in the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, area until his death in 1951.

Scope and Contents

The Albert and Willy Stupe World War I Photograph Album contains photographs of soldiers of the 95th and 135th Infantry Regiments. The photographs record soldier life in both formal and informal settings, showing their living quarters and airfields; the airplanes they flew and the bombs they dropped; as well as the towns in which the airfields were situated. Several pages are dedicated to Kampfgeschwader 3, the *England-Geschwader*. It was this bomber squadron, under the command of Captain Ernst Brandenburg, that was responsible for the bombing of London by airplanes, an achievement which earned both Captain Brandenburg and his successor, Captain Rudolf Kleine, the *Pour le Mérite*.

A variety of aircraft also appear in this album, including: Gotha G.IV, Fokker E.II, LFG Roland, and LVG C.III. A number of images document the visits of high-profile German personalities to the units--Kaiser Wilhelm, General von Hindenberg, and Germany's most famous ace, Baron von Richthofen--while several photographs memorialize the funeral of flying ace Oswald Boelcke.

Arrangement

The Albert and Willy Stupe World War I Photograph Album is in its original order. A group of ten postcards in folder two (acc. 1991.0054) are in no particular order.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Aeronautics -- Germany
- Aeronautics, Military
- Fokker E.II (M 14)
- Gotha G.IV
- LFG Roland Family
- LVG C.III
- Soldiers -- World War, 1914-1918
- World War, 1914-1918
- World War, 1914-1918 -- Aerial operations
- World War, 1914-1918 -- Aircraft
- World War, 1914-1918 -- Germany

Types of Materials:

- Albums
- Photographs

Names:

Boelcke, Oswald, 1891-1916
Brandenburg, Ernst, 1883-1952
Hindenburg, Paul von, 1847-1934
Kaiser Wilhelm II
Richthofen, Manfred, Freiherr von, 1892-1918
Stupe, Albert
Stupe, Willy

Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1

[Albert and Willy Stupe World War I Photograph Album, 1908-1919](#)
1 Photographic album
435 Photographs

Box 1, Folder 2

[Loose Postcards from the Albert and Willy Stupe World War I Photograph Album, 1895-1919](#)

10 Postcards

Notes:

These ten photographic postcards were separated from the Stupe photo album. As a result, they were accessioned a few weeks after the album (acc. 1991.0054). With the exception of one military photograph, the images are mostly personal in nature.