



Smithsonian
National Air and Space Museum

Herbert Mercer Photography Collection

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2008

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Herbert Mercer Photography Collection
Identifier:	NASM.2008.0029
Date:	1916-1926
Extent:	0.05 Cubic feet (1 folder)
Creator:	Mercer, Herbert
Language:	English
Summary:	Herbert Mercer served with the United Kingdom's Royal Flying Corps (Royal Air Force) from 1916 until 1945, and was stationed in Baghdad, Iraq, in the early 1920s. While there, he photographed a variety of aircraft that were either stationed in Iraq or Egypt or landing there for refueling. This collection contains eleven photographs taken by Mercer in Iraq and Egypt.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Frank Long, Gift, 2008, NASM.2008.0029

Processing Information

Arranged and described (2008) and encoded (2020) by Jessamyn Lloyd.

Preferred Citation

Herbert Mercer Photography Collection, NASM.2008.0029, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Herbert Mercer served with the United Kingdom's Royal Flying Corps (Royal Air Force) from 1916 until 1945, and was stationed in Baghdad, Iraq, in the early 1920s. While there, he photographed a variety of aircraft that were either stationed in Iraq or Egypt or landing there for refueling. Upon Mercer's retirement from the Royal Air Force in 1945, he worked for the US Air Force at its base in Bushey Park, Hampton, UK until 1958. Herbert Mercer died in 1964.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of eleven black and white or sepia toned photographs taken by Herbert Mercer, ranging in size from approximately 3.5 x 2.25 inches to 8.25 x 6.25 inches, and all taken in Iraq or Egypt. The photographs depict the following aircraft: de Havilland D.H.50J (Sir Alan Cobham's Aircraft); Fokker F.VIII (two images); Royal Aircraft Factory R.E.8; de Havilland (Airco) D.H.6; Vickers Victoria; Douglas World Cruiser (DWC) "Chicago" (#2); de Havilland D.H.90 Dragonfly (crashed); Bristol Scout C; and Fairey III D Mk.III. There is also one aerial photograph of the Royal Air Force aerodrome at Hinaidi, Baghdad, Iraq.

Arrangement

Collection is in original order.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Aeronautics
Airplanes

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Names:

Great Britain. Royal Flying Corps

Geographic Names:

Egypt
Iraq

Container Listing

NASM-9A05562: Bristol Scout C, Circa 1916

[Image\(s\)](#)

One-quarter right rear view, from the ground, of a Bristol Scout C (A/C No. 5321) coming in for a landing at Suez, Egypt, circa 1916. Tents are visible on the ground and there are mountains in the background.

NASM-9A05563: Fairey IIID Seaplane, Circa 1925

[Image\(s\)](#)

Left side view of a Fairey IIID Seaplane (A/C No. S1106) in flight, circa 1925. The front tip of the plane's float is not visible in the picture.

NASM-9A05564: de Havilland D.H.90 Dragonfly, Circa early 1920s

[Image\(s\)](#)

View of a de Havilland D.H.90 Dragonfly, on the ground and on fire after it has crashed into another parked de Havilland D.H.90 Dragonfly, circa the early 1920s in either Iraq or Egypt. [A/C number S1106]

NASM-9A05565: Fokker F.VII, 1924

[Image\(s\)](#)

Close-up left side view of the tail of a Fokker F.VII (A/C No. H-NACC) on the ground in Iraq in 1924. Pilot Thomassen á Thuessink van der Hoop (in suit and cap) stands in the center, being greeted by an Royal Air Force Officer (leaning on a cane). In the background stands co-pilot Lieutenant Van Weerden Poelman (in a suit and hat) and a crowd of onlookers.

NASM-9A05566: Military, International, UK, Royal Air Force, Airfields; Miscellaneous, Photography, Types of Images, Aerial Photography, March 20, 1924

[Image\(s\)](#)

Oblique aerial view, from an altitude of 200 feet, of the Royal Air Force's aerodrome at Hinaidi, Iraq (near Baghdad), March 20, 1924.

NASM-9A05567: Douglas World Cruiser (DWC) "Chicago" (#2), 1924

[Image\(s\)](#)

One-half right front view of the Douglas World Cruiser (DWC) "Chicago" (#2) sitting on the ground during refueling in Baghdad, Iraq. A large crowd of onlookers is visible around the plane and in the background.

NASM-9A05568: Vickers (UK) Victoria Family, Circa 1920s

[Image\(s\)](#)

Left side view of a Vickers Victoria (A/C No. J7924) in flight over Iraq, circa 1920s.

NASM-9A05569: de Havilland (Airco) D.H.6, Circa 1917

[Image\(s\)](#)

Right side view of a de Havilland (Airco) D.H.6 in flight, probably shortly after take-off, over Moaskar Aerodrome, Ismailia, Egypt, circa 1917.

NASM-9A05570: Royal Aircraft Factory R.E.8, Circa 1920s

[Image\(s\)](#)

View, from above and slightly behind, of a Royal Aircraft Factory R.E.8 in flight over Northern Iraq, circa 1920s.

NASM-9A05571: Fokker F.VII, Circa October 1924

[Image\(s\)](#)

One-half right front view of a Fokker F.VII (A/C No. H-NACC) sitting on the ground at the Royal Air Force aerodrome at Hinaidi, Baghdad, Iraq, circa October 1924.

NASM-9A05572: de Havilland D.H.50J (Sir Alan Cobham's Aircraft); Cobham, Alan J. , 1926

[Image\(s\)](#)

One-quarter right front view of a de Havilland D.H.50J (A/C No. G-EBFO) sitting on the water in Baghdad, Iraq in 1926. The pilot, Alan J. Cobham, is visible in the cockpit and an unidentified man stands on the plane's float. A large crowd looks on from several boats.