

COLLECTION TITLE	Papers of Oswald Watt
COLLECTION IDENTIFIER	MSS 205
INCLUSIVE DATE(S)	1965 to 1971
EXTENT	1 box
CREATOR	Oswald Watt, 1878-1921
RELATED ENTITIES	Royal Military College (Duntroon, ACT) Oswald Watt, 1878-1921
RELATED COLLECTIONS	Papers of Oswald Watt
ACCESS POINTS	Air forces -- History Oswald Watt Essay Competition -- Archives Soldiers

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Wikipedia article: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oswald_Watt

Australian aviator and businessman, Walter Oswald 'Toby' Watt was born in England in 1878, moving as an infant with his father to Australia following the death of his mother. After finishing his education in Bristol and Cambridge, Watt returned to Sydney in 1900, taking up a position in the family firm, buying pastoral leases, and enlisted as a reserve in the Militia. On return to England he was the first Australian to gain a Royal Aero Club flying certificate (1911), for which he later earned the sobriquet, 'Father of Australian Aviation'.

Watt transferred to the Australia Flying Corps in 1916, rising to command its English Training Wing, before his untimely death in Sydney in 1921 aged 43. He is commemorated by several awards: the Oswald Watt Gold Medal (Aero Clubs of Australia) for outstanding achievement in Australian aviation, the Oswald Watt Fund (University of Sydney), and the Oswald Watt Essay Prize (Royal Military College, Duntroon)

References:

Susan Johnston, 'Watt, Walter Oswald (Toby) (1878–1921)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/watt-walter-oswald-toby-1010/text15865> , published first in hardcopy 1990, retrieved 25 November 2020

Oswald Watt: the leader that the RAAF never had, *Pathfinder: Air Power Development Centre Bulletin*, Issue 166, October 2011

<https://airpower.airforce.gov.au/APDC/media/PDF-Files/Pathfinder/PF166-Oswald-Watt-The-Leader-the-RAAF-Never-Had.pdf> retrieved 25 November 2020

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains entries submitted to the Oswald Watt Essay Competition, 1965-1971. This annual prize of a pair of binoculars was established in 1921 in memory of Oswald Watt, and is awarded to a Royal Military College (Duntroon) cadet for the best essay on military aviation or aeronautics

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SOURCE OF ACQUISITION

Check with Curator

EXISTENCE AND LOCATION OF ORIGINALS

Special Collections, UNSW Canberra

Collection Contents

Papers of Oswald Watt (MSS 205)

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Box 1 (MSS 205.B1)

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1965 (Inclusive date(s))

Oswald Watt Essay Competition, The Sydney Morning Herald:

1965 – Sergeant R.K. Peterswald 'The Role of Air Mobile Forces or Air Cavalry' (no title given)

1965 – Corporal E.B. Morris (Air Reconnaissance) (no title given)

1965 – Corporal D.J. Bedford 'Air Reconnaissance in Counter-Insurgency and Limited War Operations'

1965 – Sergeant K.R. Cairns (Air Reconnaissance) (no title given)

1965 – Sergeant M.F. Dodson (Air Reconnaissance) (no title given)

1965 – Colour Sergeant M.R. Battle (Air Reconnaissance) (no title given)

1965 – Sergeant I.R. Taylor 'Air Reconnaissance and Air Mobile Forces'

– Sergeant D.M. Horner 'The Development of Close Air Support in the Mediterranean Campaign'

1970 – Sergeant R.C. Aley (1970 winner) 'Army Aviation at the Cross Roads - Where Do We Go From Here?'

Folder 2 (MSS 205.B1.2)

1969 (Inclusive date(s))

1969 – uncommissioned officer P.J. Abigail 'The Integration of the Three Major RAAC Units'

1970 – Corporal C. Crawford 'An Integrated Unit - Cavalry Regiment and Air Cavalry Flight'

1971 – Colour Sergeant D.J.G. Taylor 'For the Want of a Nail'
