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## Guide to MS656 Earl F. Evans collection

Armand J. Avila

*University of Texas at El Paso*

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Guide to

MS 656

Earl F. Evans collection

1912 – 1922 Span Dates,  
1918 – 1922 Bulk Dates,

1 foot, 5 inches (linear)



Processed by Armand J. Avila  
February 13, 2018

Donated by unknown donor.

Citation: Earl F. Evans collection, 1912 - 1922, MS 656, C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department. The University of Texas at El Paso Library.

C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department  
University of Texas at El Paso

## Biographical Sketch

Earl F. Evans (1898 – 1922) was a military pilot during WWI and the Polish-Soviet War. He was born on July 22, 1898, the son of Mrs. Sophie Evans. He was a cousin of famed El Paso pilot Elliot Chess. During his youth, Evans was a carrier in the Circulation Department of the *El Paso Herald-Post* for five years, before graduating from El Paso High School in 1916. During WWI he entered the American flying service on September 29, 1917, and was the only one of four men to pass aviation tests at Kelly Field in San Antonio, Texas. Evans went to France as an aviator at only 20 years old, eventually attaining the rank of Second Lieutenant in the Aviation Section. He was acknowledged as an expert flyer and was known for his love of aerial stunts such as barrel rolls and flying upside down for extended periods. His initial deployment was to France, where he moved between various cities such as Issodun, Verdun, Nice, and St. Nazaire. Not long after, he redeployed to Manila in the Philippine Islands, although his service also took him to Vladivostok, Russia and Nagasaki, Japan. He and his cousin Elliot Chess also served in the Polish 7<sup>th</sup> Air Escadrille, which was known as the Kościuszko Squadron. The squadron was formed by U.S. volunteers during the Polish-Soviet War, which was fought from 1919 to 1921. After returning to El Paso, Evans helped found the Organization of the El Paso Aero Club as well as a luncheon club for airmen. He enjoyed giving recreational flights to people in the area, and local aviators saw him as a pioneer and a leader. Earl Evans was killed in an airplane accident near Pinon, New Mexico in 1922. He was piloting a plane with two passengers when the plane hit turbulence and fell 800 feet. Evans was 24 years old when he died.

## Series Description or Arrangement

The collection is arranged into two boxes. Box 1 contains two scrapbooks compiled by Earl Evans. These scrapbooks document his military travels and activities. Box one also contains two photographs of Evans addressed to his mother, photographs of World War I-era airplanes and airplane accidents, Evans' obituary, and various documents such as immigration visas, U.S. and Polish records, and an El Paso Public Schools Certificate of Attainment. Box 2 contains oversize or fragile documents, such as Earl Evans' Certificate of Appointment to the rank of Second Lieutenant, and a folder and matching trifold, each containing a photographic portrait of Earl Evans.

## Scope and Content Notes

The Earl F. Evans collection dates 1912 – 1922, bulk 1918 – 1922. Types of documents include scrapbooks, photographs, military orders and government visas, newspaper clippings, and certificates. The collection is arranged into two boxes. Box 1 contains two scrapbooks compiled by Earl Evans. These scrapbooks document his military travels and activities. Box one also contains two photographs of Evans addressed to his mother, photographs of World War I-era airplanes and airplane

accidents, Evans' obituary, and various documents such as immigration visas, U.S. and Polish records, and an El Paso Public Schools Certificate of Attainment. Box 2 contains oversized or fragile documents, such as Earl Evans' Certificate of Appointment to the rank of Second Lieutenant, and a folder and matching trifold, each containing a photographic portrait of Earl Evans. This collection helps document WWI-era aviation as well as Earl Evans' military career, travels, and activities.

## **Provenance Statement**

Donor is unknown.

## **Restrictions**

No deed of gift; no rights to the materials.

Some materials are fragile; photocopying may be restricted.

## **Literary Rights Statement**

Permission to publish material from the Earl F. Evans collection must be obtained from the C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library. Citation should read Earl F. Evans collection, MS656, C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library.

## **Notes to the Researcher**

Some materials are fragile; please handle with care.

See also:

Elliot Chess papers, MS238.

K.S. Brown aviation collection, MS300.

## Container List

Box #	Folder #	Title	Date
1	----	Small scrapbook of photographs & items collected on military travels	circa 1917 – 1922
1	----	Envelope containing photographs of WWI-era aircraft & aircraft accidents	1918 – 1919
1	1	Envelope with U.S. visa, Polish/American documentation, and military discharge orders	circa 1920
1	2	Envelope containing obituary of Earl Evans	1922
1	3	Photograph of Earl Evans; envelope with newspaper clipping about Poland honoring Elliott Chess	circa 1921
1	4	Photograph of Earl Evans	circa 1917 – 1922
1	----	Scrapbook of WWI-era aircraft & aircraft accident photographs, as well as photographs of locations & people	1919 - 1920
1	5	El Paso Public Schools Certificate of Attainment for Earl Evans	1912
2	1	Earl Evans' Certificate of Appointment to Second Lieutenant	February 26, 1918
2	2	Trifold photograph of Earl Evans	circa 1917 – 1922
2	3	Folder with photograph of Earl Evans	circa 1917 – 1922