

ArtiFactsheet: B.E. 2c

The U.K. designed B.E. 2s saw service with the Royal Flying Corps (U.K.) from 1912 onwards. The B.E. 2c operated in France, mainly for reconnaissance and observation, although some were single-seat bombers. Single-seat B.E. 2c night fighters downed six airships over Britain.

A B.E. 2 became the first British aircraft to fly across the Channel and land in France after the outbreak of the First World War. All models of the B.E. 2 had such great stability that they could nearly fly themselves during reconnaissance and artillery observation missions. While an easy target in the air over France, the B.E. 2c's stability contributed to its success as a single-seat home-defence fighter against German airships in night raids over England.

For more information about the B.E. 2c visit ingeniumcanada.org/aviation/collection-research/artifact-royal-aircraft-factory-b-e-2c.php.

Many artifacts related to aviation and First World War planes can be found in the collection of Ingenium – Canada's Museums of Science and Innovation: ingeniumcanada.org/ingenium/collection-research/collection.php.

Artifact Details

B.E. 2c, 1915
Manufacturer: The British and Colonial Aeroplane Company Ltd.
Artifact no. 1967.0688

The B.E. 2c found at the Canada Aviation and Space Museum was sent to Canada as a war trophy in 1919. It was restored in the late 1950s and became a part of the Museum in 1964. The reason for the B.E.2c's appearance is because it was restored in a way to allow Museum visitors to see how First World War aircraft were constructed.

Fun Fact

The B.E. 2 was designed by famed aircraft engineer Geoffrey de Havilland.

Canada Aviation and Space Museum, Image Bank, CAVM 30346

