

116-1-224/P-100

Lewis Flight Propulsion Laboratory
21000 Brookpark Road
Cleveland 11, Ohio
July 12, 1955

portrait photo available

DR. EDWARD R. SHARP

Director of Lewis Flight Propulsion Laboratory
National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics

Dr. Edward R. Sharp, Director, Lewis Flight Propulsion Laboratory of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics at Cleveland, was first appointed to the staff of NACA's Langley Aeronautical Laboratory on February 1, 1922 as the committee's 54th employee. During his thirty-three years of continuous service to NACA, Dr. Sharp has held positions of importance to all three of the committee's principal research establishments.

After three years at the Langley Laboratory, Dr. Sharp was appointed Administrative Officer and held this post from 1925 to 1940.

As NACA expanded and branched out from the parent laboratory at Langley, Dr. Sharp was transferred to Moffett Field, California as Administrator of the building program of the Ames Aeronautical Laboratory. Then, in 1941 he was recalled to Langley to establish a program for the planning and construction of the Lewis Laboratory. Early in 1942 Dr. Sharp was appointed Construction Administrator for this new research facility and was transferred to Cleveland to direct its design and construction.

Upon the inauguration of research at the Lewis Laboratory in May of 1942, Dr. Sharp was appointed Manager of this operation and was appointed Director in June of 1947.

The establishment of the Lewis Flight Propulsion Laboratory was authorized by Act of Congress on June 26, 1940 with an initial appropriation of \$8,400,000. Today the establishment includes seventy-five buildings and structures, has approximately 2,600 employees and represents an investment of approximately one hundred million dollars.

Dr. Sharp was born on March 9, 1894 in Elizabeth City County, Virginia, is a law graduate of the College of William and Mary and was admitted to the State of Virginia Bar in 1924. He served with the United States Navy from 1914 - 1919 and retired from the United States Naval Reserve in 1941 with the rank of Lt. Commander.

Dr. Sharp resides at 17877 Lake Road, Lakewood, Ohio, with his wife, Elvira, and two Children, Elinor Ray and Robert. His oldest son, Edward G., is married and resides in Parkview, Ohio.

Membership - various technical societies, committees and organizations:

Institute of the Aeronautical Sciences - Fellow and elected Vice
President in 1955
Society of Automotive Engineers - member
American Association for the Advancement of Science
Cleveland Chamber of Commerce
Cleveland Chamber of Commerce Aviation Committee
The Air Foundation, Cleveland, Ohio
Cleveland Aviation Club
Academy of Model Aeronautics - Honorary Fellow
American Ordnance Association
Cleveland Community Fund - annual member
Cerebral Palsy Association of Cuyahoga County, Board of Directors
Citizens Committee for Public Welfare, Service and Improvement,
City of Cleveland
Newcomen Society of England
Case University National Advisory Committee
Aviation and Airport Development Committee of the Cleveland
City Council
Mayor's Airport and Harbor Commission
American Red Cross, Member of Executive Committee, 1955
Aviation Committee of Cleveland, Chamber of Commerce
Mayor's Special Advisory Committee on Lakefront and Harbor
Development

Honors and Awards:

October 30, 1947: United States Medal for Merit awarded by General Carl
Spatz, USAF, in behalf of President Truman.

Citation: "For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services to the United States from September 1939 to September 1945. Mr. Sharp, as Construction Administrator and Manager of the Aircraft Engine Research Laboratory, National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, distinguished himself in directing the construction of the Laboratory and the recruitment and development of the research staff under conditions of extraordinary difficulty and pressure. Through his outstanding qualities of leadership, he brought the Laboratory into production of research results in time for these results to be used in the construction of aircraft engines of superior performance for the accomplishment of that air supremacy which proved vital to the winning of the war."

Honors and Awards: (cont'd)

June 5, 1948: Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science by Case Institute of Technology.

Citation: "For leadership in the development and direction of one of the world's outstanding centers of aeronautical research in the new field of gas turbines, jet propulsion and rockets."

March 8, 1949: Certificate of Recognition by the Air Foundation.

Citation: "Air Foundation, Cleveland, Ohio, presents to Edward Raymond Sharp, ScD., distinguished Director of the Lewis Flight Propulsion Laboratory of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, this certificate of recognition for outstanding contributions, enduring over many years, to the cause of aviation, during which time he has steadily pursued a high policy of intelligent, loyal and effective public service in aeronautical research for the improvement of national defense resulting in important and vital contributions to military and commercial aviation."

May 1, 1944: Officially cited by the NACA as follows:

"For completing the construction of the Aircraft Engine Research Laboratory of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics at Cleveland, Ohio, approximately one year ahead of schedule and for developing an effective operating organization for that Laboratory in the face of serious man-power shortages, thus enabling the NACA to meet critical military objectives set for it by the Army and Navy and to accelerate important improvements in the military effectiveness of America's aircraft."

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