



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Albert Willibald Seypelt Collection

2002

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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<https://airandspace.si.edu/archives>

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Collection Overview

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| Repository: | National Air and Space Museum Archives |
| Title: | Albert Willibald Seypelt Collection |
| Date: | 1892-1941 |
| Identifier: | NASM.1985.0011 |
| Creator: | Seypelt, Albert Willibald, -1966 |
| Extent: | 0.9 Cubic feet ((2 legal document boxes)) |
| Language: | Collection is in English; a number of news clippings are in German, French, Italian, and in Danish. |
| Summary: | This collection consists of correspondence, newspaper clippings, photographs, and motion picture film documenting the Seypelt-Kern flight. The material also includes Seypelt's aviation licenses and certificates, as well as photographs documenting his enlistment in the German army during World War I. The collection also contains material on the first westward transatlantic flight (1928), from Ireland to Labrador by 'Bremen', a Junkers W-33 monoplane piloted by Hermann Koehl, Baron Guenther von Huenefeld, and James Fitzmaurice. The collection also contains one 16mm film on the flight of the "Yankee Doodle." |

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Gisela S. Enchelmayer, Gift, 1985, 1985-0011, NASM

Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Chris King, 1989. Revised by Paul Silberman, 1990. Digital assets attached by Allan Janus, 2020.

Preferred Citation

Albert Willibald Seypelt Collection, Acc. NASM.1985.0011####, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

On October 21, 1927, Albert Willibald [William] Seypelt (d.1966) and George William Kern began a tour of Europe in a lightweight Klemm-Daimler L-20 dubbed the 'Yankee Doodle.' Leaving from Stuttgart, Germany, the duo travelled over 6,000 miles visiting Belgium, France, Italy and Austria before returning to Stuttgart on January 20, 1928.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of correspondence, newspaper clippings, photographs, and motion picture film documenting the Seypelt-Kern flight. The material also includes Seypelt's aviation licenses and certificates, as well as photographs documenting his enlistment in the German army during World War I. The collection also contains material on the first westward transatlantic flight (1928), from Ireland to Labrador by 'Bremen', a Junkers W-33 monoplane piloted by Hermann Koehl, Baron Guenther von Huenefeld, and James Fitzmaurice.

Note: The digital images in this finding aid were repurposed from scans made by an outside contractor for a commercial product and may show irregular cropping and orientation in addition to color variations resulting from damage to and deterioration of the original objects.

Arrangement

Arrangement: 1 - Correspondence; 2 - Newspaper clippings on the flight of the Yankee Doodle; 3 - Aviation certificates, licenses, and other memorabilia; 4 - Photographs; 5 - Clippings and photographs on the flight of the Bremen.

General

NASMrev

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Aeronautics -- Records
- Aeronautics, Commercial
- Junkers W 33 Family
- Junkers W 33b "Bremen"
- Klemm L-20 "Yankee Doodle"
- Transatlantic flights
- World War, 1914-1918

Types of Materials:

- Certificates
- Clippings

Correspondence
Motion pictures (visual works)
Photographs

Names:

Fitzmaurice, James C., 1898-
Kern, George William
Seypelt, Albert Willibald, -1966
von Huenefeld, Guenther

Container Listing

Correspondence

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Box 1, Folder 2 | Fr. W. Seibel to William Seypelt and George Kern, 1927 Notes: Folder contents not copied. |
| Box 1, Folder 1 | Hanns Klemm to William Seypelt and George Kern, 1927 Notes: Folder contents not copied. |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | Hanns Klemm to William Seypelt and George Kern, 1927 Image(s): Correspondence - Hanns Klemm to William Seypelt and George Kern |
| Box 1, Folder 4 | Fr. W. Seibel to George Kern, 1927 Image(s): Correspondence - Fr. W. Seibel to George Kern |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | Telegram - Spanish Ambassador to George Kern, November 14, 1927 Image(s): Telegram from Spanish Ambassador to George Kern |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | Österreichischer Aëro-Club to Willibald Seypelt and George Kern, December 9, 1927 Image(s): Correspondence - Österreichischer Aëro-Club to Willibald Seypelt and George Kern |
| Box 1, Folder 7 | Willibald Seypelt and George Kern to Hanns Klemm, December 16, 1927 Image(s): Correspondence - Willibald Seypelt and George Kern to Hanns Klemm |
| Box 1, Folder 8 | Mercedes-Benz Automobil-Gesellschaft to Willibald Seypelt and George Kern, January 7, 1928 Image(s): Correspondence - Mercedes-Benz Automobil-Gesellschaft to Willibald Seypelt and George Kern |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | Hamburg-Amerika Linie to Willibald Seypelt, February 21, 1928 Image(s): Correspondence - Hamburg-Amerika Linie to Willibald Seypelt |

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News Clippings on the flight of the Yankee Doodle, 1927

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|------------------|---|
| Box 1, Folder 10 | "Americans in Flivver Plane Touring Europe", November 4, 1927 Image(s): Clipping - "Americans in Flivver Plane Touring Europe" |
| Box 1, Folder 11 | "2 U.S. Pilots Thrill Paris with 'Vest-Pocket' Plane", November 4, 1927 Image(s): Clipping - "2 U.S. Pilots Thrill Paris with 'Vest-Pocket' Plane" |
| Box 1, Folder 12 | "American Amateur Flier and Pilot to Leave Paris for Tour by Plane", November 5, 1927 Image(s): Clipping: "American Amateur Flier and Pilot to Leave Paris for Tour by Plane" |
| Box 1, Folder 13 | "Young Americans Arrive in Paris Flying Tiny Plane", November 5, 1927 Image(s): Clipping - "Young Americans Arrive in Paris Flying Tiny Plane" |
| Box 1, Folder 14 | "Seeing Europe by Air", November 9, 1927 Image(s): Clipping - "Seeing Europe by Air" |
| Box 1, Folder 15 | "Flying Tourists Halted by Storm on Riviera", November 22, 1927 Image(s): Clipping - "Flying Tourists Halted by Storm on Riviera" |
| Box 1, Folder 16 | "Chicago Flyer Touring Europe Lands in Storm", January 22, 1928 Image(s): Clipping - "Chicago Flyer Touring Europe Lands in Storm" |
| Box 1, Folder 17 | "Tours Europe in Flivver", February 4, 1928 Image(s): Clipping - "Tours Europe in Flivver" |
| Box 1, Folder 18 | "Airmen in Tiny Plane Tour Continent, Fly across Alps", February 16, 1928 Image(s): Clipping - "Airmen in Tiny Plane Tour Continent, Fly across Alps" |
| Box 1, Folder 19 | "Return Home after Jitney Plane Journey", March 13, 1928 Image(s): Clipping - "Return Home after Jitney Plane Journey" |
| Box 1, Folder 20 | Untitled Clipping, March 15, 1928 Image(s): Clipping |
| Box 1, Folder 21 | "Two Yankee Doodle Fliers: William Seypelt and George Kern, Jr.", March 24, 1928 Image(s): Clipping - "Two Yankee Doodle Fliers: William Seypelt and George Kern, Jr." |
| Box 1, Folder 22 | "Will Import Tiny Planes That Run on 1 Cent a Mile", March 13, 1928 Image(s): Clipping - "Will Import Tiny Planes That Run on 1 Cent a Mile" |
| Box 1, Folder 23 | "European Flivver Tour", April 1928 Image(s): Clipping - "European Flivver Tour" |
| Box 1, Folder 24 | "Air Flivvers", Undated |

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| Box 1, Folder 25 | "Americans Flying over Europe", Undated Image(s): Clipping - "Americans Flying over Europe", Undated |
| Box 1, Folder 26 | "'Fliver' Plane Breaks All Economy Records", Undated Image(s): Clipping - "'Fliver' Plane Breaks All Economy Records", Undated |
| Box 1, Folder 27 | "Seypel[t] Given Ovation by Italian Air Aces", Undated |
| Box 1, Folder 28 | Untitled, Undated Clipping Image(s): Clipping - Untitled, Undated |
| Box 1, Folder 29 | "Die Amerikanischen Flieger in Alpern", 12 January 1928; "Europa-Rundflug eines Amerikaners," 7 January 1928; "Geprach mit den Zwei Alpenuberfliegern", 8 January 1928; "Die Flieger" - Undated Image(s): Clippings - "Die Amerikanischen Flieger in Alpern", 12 January 1928; "Europa-Rundflug eines Amerikaners," 7 January 1928; "Geprach mit den Zwei Alpenuberfliegern", 8 January 1928; "Die Flieger" - Undated |
| Box 1, Folder 30 | Clippings from Scrapbook on the Kern-Seypelt 1928 European tour in the "Yankee Doodle" from American, German, French and Italian Newspapers |
| Box 1, Folder 31 | Clippings from Scrapbook on the Kern-Seypelt 1928 European tour in the "Yankee Doodle" from American, German, French and Italian Newspapers |
| Box 1, Folder 32 | Clippings from Scrapbook on the Kern-Seypelt 1928 European tour in the "Yankee Doodle" from American, German, French and Italian Newspapers |
| Box 1, Folder 33 | Clippings from Scrapbook on the Kern-Seypelt 1928 European tour in the "Yankee Doodle" from American, German, French and Italian Newspapers |
| Box 1, Folder 34 | Clippings from Scrapbook on the Kern-Seypelt 1928 European tour in the "Yankee Doodle" from American, German, French and Italian Newspapers |
| Box 1, Folder 35 | Clippings from Scrapbook on the Kern-Seypelt 1928 European tour in the "Yankee Doodle" from American, German, French and Italian Newspapers |
| Box 1, Folder 36 | Clippings from Scrapbook on the Kern-Seypelt 1928 European tour in the "Yankee Doodle" from American, German, French and Italian Newspapers |
| Box 1, Folder 37 | Clippings from Scrapbook on the Kern-Seypelt 1928 European tour in the "Yankee Doodle" from American, German, French and Italian Newspapers |
| Box 1, Folder 38 | "Bei Ichwerem Wintersturm Im Leichtflugzeug Uber Die Alpen, January 7, 1928 Image(s): Clipping - "Bei Ichwerem Wintersturm Im Leichtflugzeug Uber Die Alpen |
| Box 1, Folder 39 | "Aus Nah Und Fern", January 1928 Image(s): Clipping - "Aus Nah Und Fern" |

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| Box 1, Folder 40 | Der Fliegerabend, January 1928 Image(s): Clipping - Der Fliegerabend |
| Box 1, Folder 41 | "Bei Ichwerem Wintersturm Im Leichtflugieng Über Die Alpen", 7 January 7, 1928 Image(s): Clipping - "Bei Ichwerem Wintersturm Im Leichtflugieng Über Die Alpen" |
| Box 1, Folder 42 | "Gelprach Mit Den Zwei Alpenüberfliegern", January 8, 1928 Image(s): Clipping - "Gelprach Mit Den Zwei Alpenüberfliegern" |
| Box 1, Folder 43 | "Schaufuge Der Amerikanischen Flieger", January 1928 Image(s): Clipping - "Schaufuge Der Amerikanischen Flieger" |
| Box 1, Folder 44 | "Europarundflug Im Leight-Flugzeug", January 12, 1928 Image(s): Clipping - "Europarundflug Im Leight-Flugzeug" |
| Box 1, Folder 45 | "Im Ford-Wagen Der Luft", January 12, 1928 Image(s): Clipping - "Im Ford-Wagen Der Luft" |
| Box 1, Folder 46 | "Lagesneuigkeiten, Station Wien, Der Europarundflug Der Amerikaner Kern und Seypelt", January 12, 1928 Image(s): Clipping - "Lagesneuigkeiten, Station Wien, Der Europarundflug Der Amerikaner Kern und Seypelt" |
| Box 1, Folder 47 | "'Yankee Doodle' und Seine Führer in Wien", January 12, 1928 Image(s): Clipping - "'Yankee Doodle' und Seine Führer in Wien" |
| Box 1, Folder 48 | "Die Alpenüberflieger Albert Seypelt und George Kern Zeigen Ihre Kunkt in Alpern", January 13, 1928 Image(s): Clipping - "Die Alpenüberflieger Albert Seypelt und George Kern Zeigen Ihre Kunkt in Alpern" |
| Box 1, Folder 49 | "Amerikanische Flieger in München", January 21, 1928 Image(s): Clipping - "Amerikanische Flieger in München" |
| Box 1, Folder 50 | "Aus Dem Lande - Europa-Rundflug Kern-Seypelt Erfolgreich Beendet", January 23, 1928 Image(s): Clipping - "Aus Dem Lande - Europa-Rundflug Kern-Seypelt Erfolgreich Beendet" |
| Box 1, Folder 51 | "Der Europaflug Im Leichtflugzeug", January 23, 1928 Image(s): Clipping - "Der Europaflug Im Leichtflugzeug" |
| Box 1, Folder 52 | "Die Europaflieger Wieder in Boblingen", January 23, 1928 Image(s): Clipping - "Die Europaflieger Wieder in Boblingen" |
| Box 1, Folder 53 | "Das Macht Ihnen so Schnell Niemand Nach!", January 24, 1928 Image(s): Clipping - "Das Macht Ihnen so Schnell Niemand Nach!" |

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| Box 1, Folder 54 | "Die Deutsch-Amerikaner Seypelt und Kern Nach Ihrem Europa-Flug", January 25, 1928 Image(s): Clipping - "Die Deutsch-Amerikaner Seypelt und Kern Nach Ihrem Europa-Flug" |
| Box 1, Folder 55 | "Ein Volksflugzeug", February 12, 1928 Image(s): Clipping - "Ein Volksflugzeug" |
| Box 1, Folder 56 | "Das Hallensportsfest des Berliner Sportsclubs", undated Image(s): Clipping - "Das Hallensportsfest des Berliner Sportsclubs", undated |
| Box 1, Folder 57 | "Der 'Kleine Klemm'", February 1928 Image(s): Clipping - "Der 'Kleine Klemm'" |
| Box 1, Folder 58 | "Das Klemm-Daimler-Leichtflugzeug L 20 'Jankee [sic] Doodle'", undated Image(s): Clipping - "Das Klemm-Daimler-Leichtflugzeug L 20 'Jankee [sic] Doodle'", undated |
| Box 1, Folder 59 | "Der Europa-Rundflug Erfolgreich Beendet", undated Image(s): Clipping - "Der Europa-Rundflug Erfolgreich Beendet", undated |
| Box 1, Folder 60 | "Die Amerikanischen Flieger in Alpen", undated Image(s): Clipping - "Die Amerikanischen Flieger in Alpen", undated |
| Box 1, Folder 61 | Miscellaneous Clippings Notes: Folder contents were not scanned. |
| Box 1, Folder 62 | "Deux aviateurs venus de Stuttgart d'étapes en étapes sur une avionnette sont arrivés à Marignane", November 15, 1927 |
| Box 1, Folder 63 | "Les Pilotes W. Seypelt et G. Kern sont arrivés cet après-midi à Nice", November 17, 1927 |
| Box 1, Folder 64 | "'Le Yankee Doodle' est Arrive à Nice", November 18, 1927 |
| Box 1, Folder 65 | "De Stuttgart à Nice en Avion", November 18, 1927 |
| Box 1, Folder 66 | "Une Avionnette de Tourisme à Atterri, hier, à Nice", November 18, 1927 |
| Box 1, Folder 67 | "Une Avionnette de Tourisme à Nice", November 19, 1927 |
| Box 1, Folder 68 | "'Yankee Doodle', der kommer til København", January 24, 1928 |
| Box 1, Folder 69 | "L'atterraggio forzato di due aviatori americani", December 10-11, 1927 |
| Box 1, Folder 70 | "Il giro d'Europa di due americani sur un minuscolo aeroplano", December 30, 1927 |
| Box 1, Folder 71 | "Un Biplace de 19 CV Vole au Bourget", undated |

Box 1, Folder 72

["Venezia - Gli Aviatori Americani fanno tappa ad Udine", December 31, 1927](#)

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Aviation Certificates, Licenses, and Memorabilia

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| Box 1, Folder 73 | Medical Statement on Physical Fitness for Pilot; Statement of Results of Class 'A' Pilot's Examination |
| Box 1, Folder 74 | Class A Pilot's License Issued to Willibald Seypelt, 1927 |
| Box 1, Folder 75 | Flight Training School Müncheberg (Rumpler) to Pilot Replacement Department 4, 1927 |
| Box 1, Folder 76 | Military Pass Issued to Willibald Seypelt, December 1914 |
| Box 2, Folder 1 | German Passport Issued to Willibald Seypelt |
| Box 2, Folder 2 | Award of Aircraft Commander's Badge Issued to Willibald Seypelt, April 11, 1918 |
| Box 2, Folder 3 | Preliminary Notice, Award of Iron Cross, First Class, issued to Willibald Seypelt, October 1918 |
| Box 2, Folder 4 | Discharge Notice Issued to Willibald Seypelt, December 3, 1918 |
| Box 2, Folder 5 | Reproduction of Willibald Seypelt's Birth Certificate, October 15, 1892 |
| Box 2, Folder 6 | Top Secret Night Flying Signals and Codes, April 1918 |
| Box 2, Folder 7 | U.S. Commercial Pilot's License Issued to Willibald Seypelt, 1930 |
| Box 2, Folder 8 | Ligue Internationale des Aviateurs, Membership Identification Card for Willibald Seypelt |
| Box 2, Folder 9 | Fédération Aéronautique Internationale, Membership Certificate of Willibald Seypelt, 1917 |
| Box 2, Folder 10 | Pilot Log Book of Willibald Seypelt, June 1938 - October 1941 |
| Box 2, Folder 11 | International Union of Operating Engineers, Registration of William Seypelt, 1938 |
| Box 2, Folder 12 | International Union of Operating Engineers, "Certificate of Honorable Withdrawal" issued to William Seypelt, 1940 |
| Box 2, Folder 13 | Certificate of U.S. Citizenship Issued to Albert Willibald Seypelt, 1929 |
| Box 2, Folder 14 | Willibald Seypelt Business Cards |
| Box 2, Folder 15 | Mercedes-Benz 20PS Engine Advertisement |

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| Box 2, Folder 16 | Klemm-Daimler L-20 Aircraft Specifications |
| Box 2, Folder 17 | Clipping - Death of Pierre Corbu, 1927 |
| Box 2, Folder 18 | Ford Flying Flivver |
| Box 2, Folder 19 | Clipping - Chicago Aviation Convention, December 1927 |
| Box 2, Folder 20 | Clipping - Marriage of Thomas J. O'Reilly, Jr. and Edna S. Hughes, undated |

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Photographs

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| Box 2, Folder 21 | Photographs of Albert Willibald Seypelt |
| Box 2, Folder 22 | Photographs of the Kern-Seypelt Tour of Europe in the "Yankee Doodle", 1928 |
| Box 2, Folder 23 | Photographs of Klemm and Klemm-Daimler Aircraft |
| Box 2, Folder 24 | Photographs of Unidentified Aircraft |
| Box 2, Folder 25 | Miscellaneous Aerial Photographs |
| Box 2, Folder 26 | Miscellaneous Photographs and Postcards |
| Box 2, Folder 27 | Clippings and Photographs on the Flight of the "Bremen" in 1928 |

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[Additional Material]

Box 2, Folder 28 ["Der Deutsch Sportflieger" - Article on the Flight of the "Bremen", January 1928](#)

Box 2, Folder 29 [Clipping - "Die 'Bremen' nach nirgendwo gefichtet", April 12, 1928](#)

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