



Smithsonian
National Air and Space Museum

Virgil Kauffman/Aero Service Corporation Collection

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National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Virgil Kauffman/Aero Service Corporation Collection
Identifier:	NASM.1987.0146
Date:	1910-1986 (bulk 1920-1940)
Extent:	0.43 Linear feet 0.49 Cubic feet (1 legal document box)
Creator:	Kauffman, Virgil
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection consists of files on Aero Service Corp and Virgil Kauffman.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Virgil Kauffman Estate and C. Eric Storms, gift, 1986, 1987-0146, unknown

Processing Information

The archivist used file unit titles that were present at time of donation; provenance of these titles are unknown. Anything the archivist added is in brackets.

Some file unit titles were at least Dorothy Cochrane's, Museum Specialist. She removed the materials from Kauffmans home in 1986. The titles might be original still, but it is unknown.

The researcher might also like to visit The Library Company of Philadelphia, which houses almost 4,000 aerial images taken primarily during the 1920s and 1930s by the Aero Service Corporation.

Preferred Citation

Virgil Kauffman/Aero Service Corporation Collection, Acc. 1987-0146, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical Note

Virgil Kauffman (1898-1925) was a photographer and photogrammetrist. Kauffman was a unit photographer in the U.S. Army during World War I and was assigned to the Air Service for aerial reconnaissance. After the war Kauffman joined the Aero Service Corporation and eventually became President of the company. Aero Service was founded in 1919 to carry out a wide variety of projects, including aerial photography, photo mapping, and remote sensing. The company participated in several important projects, including work with the Tennessee Valley Authority, U.S. Geological Survey, and mapping work for the European and Pacific theaters during World War II.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of correspondence, published materials, press clippings, photographs, and maps documenting Aero Service and its photogrammetrist work, as well as material on Virgil Kauffman in particular.

Arrangement

Arranged by the archivist in chronological order.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aerial photography
- Aerial reconnaissance
- Aeronautics
- Aeronautics, Military
- Photogrammetrists
- Photogrammetry
- Remote sensing

Types of Materials:

- Clippings
- Correspondence
- Maps
- Photographs
- Publications

Names:

Aero Service Corp
Kauffman, Virgil

Container Listing

- Box 1, Folder 1 [Misc.], [1910]-1984
Photocopies of correspondence and newspaper articles. Also includes a small booklet published by Aero called "Solving the Problem of Air" .
- Box 1, Folder 2 World War I Photos of Verdum [France,] Planes & Blimps, 1918
- Box 1, Folder 3 Plane Photos with IDs [Captions], 1920s-1934
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 4 Dominion of Canada - "Report of the Air Board for the Year 1922," 1923
- Box 1, Folder 5 Correspondence re: Virgil Kauffman's Flight on the U.S.S. Shenandoah, 1924
- Box 1, Folder 6 "Topography From the Air" by L.J.R. Holst, October 1928
- Box 1, Folder 7 Misc. Photos of Aero Service, 1929-1959
2 Folders
Aerials, aircraft and dirigibles grounded and in flight, pilots, equipment, people at work in the field and office. Many have captions although dates are rare. Some photos have been catalogued: their numbers are NASM 9A11786-95. A few of the photos include Virgil Kauffman.
- Box 1, Folder 8 "Aerial Photography" by Captain H.K. Baisley, 1937
- Box 1, Folder 9 Eric Storms [Chief Engineer] Materials - Aero Service, Division of Litton Industries, 1940-1986
- Box 1, Folder 10 Notes on the Aerial Photographs of Resolution Targets. Mt. Wilson Observatory, Pasadena CA, [1944]
- Box 1, Folder 11 Aero Service Corporation Papers Gleaned from WBSS.C Files Before Their Destruction, 1946-1967, 1973
Newspaper clippings, booklets, reports, newsletters, ephemera, correspondence, prospectus, diary excerpts, agreement, trademark registration, photos.
- Box 1, Folder 12 Aerial Photos of Western Shield Area - South Arabia. Flown Jan. to Oct., 1956
- Box 1, Folder 13 *The Early History of Aero Service Corporation as Told by Virgil Kauffman*
[Essay], UNDATED