



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Lieutenant Harold G. Peterson Scrapbook

2002

National Air and Space Museum Archives
14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway
Chantilly, VA 20151
NASMRefDesk@si.edu
<https://airandspace.si.edu/archives>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	1
General.....	2
Arrangement.....	2
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Lieutenant Harold G. Peterson Scrapbook
Date:	1917-1942 (bulk 1917-1920)
Identifier:	NASM.1989.0127
Creator:	Peterson, Harold George
Extent:	0.5 Cubic feet ((1 flatbox))
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection is a 200 page scrapbook, filled with photographs, certificates, newspaper clippings, and ephemera relating to Harold George Peterson's aviation exploits.
Digital Content:	Image(s): Lieutenant Harold G. Peterson Scrapbook

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Charles Apfelbaum, Purchase, 1989, NASM.1989.0127

Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Patti Williams, 2020.

Preferred Citation

Lieutenant Harold G. Peterson Scrapbook, NASM.1989.0127, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

Material is subject to Smithsonian Terms of Use. Should you wish to use NASM material in any medium, please submit an Application for Permission to Reproduce NASM Material, available at [Permissions Requests](#) .

Biographical / Historical

Harold George Peterson was a prominent aviator of his time. Peterson was a squadron officer for the 50th Observation Squadron at Ellington Field, Houston, Texas during World War I. He went on to start an aviation field and pilot school, 'The Harold G. Peterson Aircraft Company,' located at White Bear, MN. He is most famous, however, for being forced to land at Folimir, Mexico on August 10, 1917. There, Lt. Peterson and

his passenger, Paul Davis, were captured by a band of roving bandits and held for a {dollar}15,000 ransom, which was to be paid by the U.S. Government. Peterson escaped across the boarder after a ransom of only 7,500 was paid.

Scope and Contents

This collection is a 200 page scrapbook, filled with about 800 photographs, plus certificates, newspaper clippings about his exploits, and other miscellaneous ephemera. The photographs include shots of Curtiss JN-4s on the ground, and air-to-air shots in formation, as well as other WWI era airplanes, both American and European, including a shot of the Albatross DVa 'Stropp.' Other photographs feature aerial shots of Paris, Mexico, and Hawaii, as well as a few engine photographs.

Arrangement

One item, no arrangement.

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, Military
- Air pilots
- Albatros D.Va (L24)
- Curtiss JN-4 Jenny Family
- World War, 1914-1918

Types of Materials:

- Certificates
- Clippings
- Ephemera
- Photographs
- Scrapbooks

Names:

- Davis, Paul
- Ellington Field, Texas
- Harold G. Peterson Aircraft Company
- United States. Army. Air Service. 50th Observation Squadron