



# Smithsonian

*National Air and Space Museum*

## Instrument Landing System Collection

2001

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

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Air and Space Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Instrument Landing System Collection
<b>Date:</b>	1939-1944
<b>Identifier:</b>	NASM.1991.0089
<b>Creator:</b>	Byrne, Paul
<b>Extent:</b>	0.45 Cubic feet ((1 legal document box))
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Mrs. Paul Byrne, gift, 1991, 1991-0089, unknown

### Restrictions

No restrictions on access

### Conditions Governing Use

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## Biographical / Historical

In 1938 the International Telephone Development Company (ITDC) was awarded a contract by the Bureau of Standards for the Aeronautical Branch of the Department of Commerce (BAC) to develop a blind landing system which would enable pilots to land their aircraft under conditions of poor visibility. In 1944, the term 'Blind Landing' was changed to 'Instrument Landing.'

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## Scope and Contents

This collection includes newspaper and magazine articles on ILS testing and development; ITDC proposal for the system; technical reports with engineering drawings; 24 photos of the Indianapolis testing, 13 with accompanying glass plate transparencies; and 3 autographed photos of pilot Benny Howard, CAA Chief of Radio Development Bill Jackson, and United Airlines Director of Flight Operations R.T. Feng.

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## General

NASMrev

## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

- Aeronautical instruments
- Aeronautics
- Airplanes -- Landing
- Instrument flying
- Instrument landing systems

### Types of Materials:

- Clippings
- Drawings
- Glass negatives
- Photographs
- Reports

### Names:

- International Telephone Development Company