



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

William Mitchell Trial Scrapbooks

Allan Janus

2018

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

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|-------------------------|---|
| Repository: | National Air and Space Museum Archives |
| Title: | William Mitchell Trial Scrapbooks |
| Identifier: | NASM.1992.0013 |
| Date: | 1925-1926 |
| Creator: | Webb, William |
| Extent: | 0.51 Cubic feet (1 flatbox) |
| Language: | English . |
| Summary: | Colonel William Lendrum "Billy" Mitchell (1879-1936) of the U.S. Army Air Service, a leading proponent of air power, was court-martialed for insubordination in October – December 1925 after publically criticizing the Navy and War Departments. This collection consists of two scrapbooks of material relating to the court-martial by William Webb, a member of Mitchell's defense team. |
| Digital Content: | Image(s): NASM.1992.0013-M0000001-00040 - William Mitchell Trial Scrapbooks |

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Mrs. William Webb, Gift, 1991, NASM.1992.0013

Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Allan Janus, 2018.

Preferred Citation

William Mitchell Trial Scrapbooks, Acc. 1992.0013, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

An active participant in American military aviation since its beginnings, Colonel William L. "Billy" Mitchell (1879-1936) was closely involved in shaping air policy and air defense strategy in the 1920s. Mitchell

publically criticized the Navy and War Departments in the wake of the crash of the U.S. Navy rigid airship "Shenandoah" on September 3, 1925. His actions resulted in a court-martial held from October – December 1925 for insubordination and "Conduct of a nature to bring discredit upon the military service." Mitchell was found guilty and was sentenced to "Suspension from rank, command, and duty with forfeiture of all pay and allowances for five years." Mitchell resigned from the Army on February 1, 1926. He remained a public voice for air power until his death on February 19, 1936. In 2003, Congress voted to posthumously commission William L. Mitchell as a major general in the Army.

Scope and Contents

This collection was created by William Webb, a member of Colonel William L. "Billy" Mitchell's the defense team for his 1925 court-martial. The collection consists of two scrapbooks containing photographs of Mitchell, Mitchell's family, the defense team, and witnesses; newspaper articles on the trial; and courtroom sketches.

Arrangement

The collection consists of one flatbox containing two scrapbooks; the contents were arranged by the donor.

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 defenses -- United States
- Air pilots
- Bombing, Aerial
- Courts-martial and courts of inquiry

Types of Materials:

- Clippings
- Photographs

Names:

- Mitchell, William, 1879-1936

Container Listing

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| Box 1, Item 1 | Trial Scrapbook 1 |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| Box 1, Item 2 | Trial Scrapbook 2 |
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