



Smithsonian  
*National Air and Space Museum*

Link Aviation, Inc. Collection

2001

National Air and Space Museum Archives  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Air and Space Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Link Aviation, Inc. Collection
<b>Identifier:</b>	NASM.1997.0002
<b>Date:</b>	[ca. 1930s-1970s]
<b>Extent:</b>	9.81 Cubic feet ((9 records center boxes))
<b>Creator:</b>	Link Aviation, Inc.
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Hughes Training, Inc., gift, 1996, 1997-0002, unknown

### Restrictions

No restrictions on access

### Conditions Governing Use

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## Biographical / Historical

Link Aviation, Inc., was a pioneer company in the field of synthetic flight training. Started by Edwin Link during the 1930s, Link Aviation, Inc., helped train over 500,000 military airman during World War II via their 'blue box trainers.' After the war, Link grew to be the largest manufacturer of electronic weapon-systems trainers and flight and space-mission simulators. During the company's existence, Link manufactured the following types of training systems: visual display systems; commercial aircraft simulators; military aircraft simulators, including the first jet trainer and the first jet bomber trainer; general aviation simulators; and space mission simulators. Link was sold in 1995 to General Motors' Hughes Electronics Corp., Hughes Training Inc.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection consists of mostly technical manuals and reports relating to Link Trainer models, circa 1933-1976. Also included as part of the collection is a microfilm copy of the early Link business records,

with corresponding database. Three folders of photographs regarding Link Aviation, Inc., were transferred later and added to this collection on 02/18/99.

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## General

NASMrev

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Flight simulator industry
- Flight simulators
- Flight training
- Link trainers

Types of Materials:

- Business records
- Manuals
- Photographs
- Publications
- Reports

Names:

- Link Aviation, Inc.
- Link, Edwin A. (Edwin Albert), 1904-1981