



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Ruby Berau Collection

Amanda Buel

2004

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Ruby Berau Collection
Date:	(bulk 1931-1977)
Identifier:	NASM.2004.0066
Creator:	Berau, Ruby, 1900-1978
Extent:	0.18 Cubic feet (1 flat box)
Language:	English .
Summary:	The Ruby Berau Collection measures 0.18 cubic feet and dates from 1931-1977. The collection materials document Berau's aviation career.
Digital Content:	Image(s): Ruby Berau Representative Image

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Robert B. Cooley, Gift, 2004, NASM.2004.0066

Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Amanda Buel, 2018.

Preferred Citation

Ruby Berau Collection, Acc. 2004.0066, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Ruby Berau (1900-1978) was the proprietor of "The Canteen" in Akron, Ohio, when she became interested in aviation. In 1931, she became a member of the Squadron of Death (S.O.D.), an all-woman group of student fliers based at the Akron Airport. The Squadron had thirteen members and met the second Friday of each month and *always* on a Friday the 13th. Berau completed her training under Ray "Kitch" Kitchingman and received her pilot's license on August 23, 1932. She was part of an act with Babe Smith Walker, where Berau

flew the aircraft and Walker was the parachute jumper. Berau also bought an aircraft, flown by Kitchingman, which was used to charter trips. She was a member of the Ninety-Nines.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of the following types of material chronicling the aviation career of Ruby Berau: scrapbook pages; photographs, including shots of Berau, Babe Walker Smith, Admiral T. G. W. Settle, Harry Harter, Major Addison, Ray "Kitch" Kitchingman, Jimmy Doolittle, and groups shots of Squadron of Death (S. O. D.) members; newspaper articles; Berau's logbook (1931-1936); Berau's 1935 noncommercial pilot's license; telegram; S.O.D. Emblem; and autographed National Air Race tickets, 1934-1935.

Note: The digital images in this finding aid were repurposed from scans made by an outside contractor for a commercial product and may show irregular cropping and orientation in addition to color variations resulting from damage to and deterioration of the original objects.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aeronautics -- Exhibitions
- Women air pilots

Types of Materials:

- Articles
- Logs (records)
- Photographs
- Scrapbooks
- Telegrams
- Tickets

Names:

- Doolittle, James Harold, 1896-1993
- Harter, Harry
- Kitchingman, Ray "Kitch"
- National Air Races
- Ninety-Nines (Organization)
- Settle, Thomas G. W.
- Smith, Babe Walker

Places:

- Ohio -- Akron

Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1 [Noncommercial Pilot's License No. 26569, August 31, 1935](#)

Box 1, Folder 2 [Pilot's Log, 1931-1937](#)

Box 1, Folder 3 [\[Correspondence and Documents\], 1936-1977](#)

Box 1, Folder 4 [\[Newspaper Clippings\], 1943-1977 and undated](#)

Box 1, Folder 5 [\[Photographs\]](#)
11 Photographs

Box 1, Folder 5 [\[Scrapbook Pages\]](#)