



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

French Aviation Photography Collection

Melissa A. N .Keiser

2024

National Air and Space Museum Archives
14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway
Chantilly, VA 20151
Business Number: Phone: 703-572-4045
NASMRefDesk@si.edu
<https://airandspace.si.edu/archives>

Table of Contents

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

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	French Aviation Photography Collection
Date:	(bulk Spring 1937)
Identifier:	NASM.2005.0022
Creator:	Heermance, Laura W., 1916-1960
Extent:	187 Megabytes (11 digital image files (scans from 3 x 4.5 inch black and white print photographs))
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection consists of 11 digital images scanned from black and white photographs taken by Laura W. Heermance during a trip to Europe in Spring 1937. Heermance, an enthusiastic student pilot, took these photographs of aircraft in France at Le Bourget Airport in Paris and at the Aéro-Club de la Riviera near Nice.
Digital Content:	Image(s): French Aviation Photography Collection

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Louise H. Tallman, gift, 2005, NASM.2005.0022

Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Melissa A. N. Keiser, 2024.

Preferred Citation

French Aviation Photography Collection, NASM.2005.0022, 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

During the Spring of 1937, Laura W. Heermance and Louise Tallman of Connecticut (USA) were taken to Europe by their aunt. They were loaned a 35 mm Leica camera with black and white film and Ms Heermance, an enthusiastic student pilot, took photographs of aircraft in France at Le Bourget Airport in Paris and at the Aéro-Club de la Riviéra near Nice.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of digital image scans of eleven photographs taken by Laura W. Heermance (1916-1960) in France during the Spring of 1937. The photographs were shot Le Bourget Airport in Paris and at the Aéro-Club de la Riviéra near Nice. The scans were created from original 3 x 4.5 inch black and white print photographs (enlargements from 35mm black and white negatives taken with a Leica camera) loaned by the donor (the photographer's sister) in 2005 for copying by the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives. Views taken at Le Bourget show airliners from Imperial Airways (UK), Air France, SABENA (Belgium), and KLM (Koninklijke Luchtvaart Maatschappij) (Netherlands) and include the Short L.17 "Scylla" (r/n G-ACJJ), Lockheed Model 10-A Electra (r/n G-AEPR), Handley Page H.P.42E Hannibal "Hanno" (r/n G-AAUD), Douglas DC-2 "Kwak" (r/n PH-AKQ), Percival Gull Six (r/n F-AQNA), a Savoia-Marchetti S.73, a de Havilland DH.89 Dragon Rapide, and several Potez 62. Aircraft seen at or near the Aéro-Club de la Riviéra include de Havilland D.H.80A Puss Moth (r/n G-ABNC), Caudron C. 400 Phalène (Moth) (r/n F-APMV), Caudron C.232 (r/n F-AJZL), Potez 600 T2 Sauterelle (Grasshopper) (r/n F-AOBM), and Caudron C.272-4 Luciole (r/n F-APEN).

Arrangement

The images are grouped into two sets by location and appear in NASM Archives image number order.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Airlines
- Caudron C.232
- Caudron C.272 Luciole (Firefly)
- Caudron C.400 Phalene (Moth)
- Douglas DC-2
- Handley Page H.P. 42E Hannibal
- Percival Gull Six
- Potez 62
- Sabena Savoia-Marchetti S.73
- Short L.17 Scylla
- de Havilland D.H.80A Puss Moth
- de Havilland D.H.89 Dragon Rapide

Names:

Air France
Imperial Airways
KLM (Koninklijke Luchtvaart Maatschappij)

Container Listing

Le Bourget Airport, Paris, France

NASM-9A02980: [Imperial Airways Short L.17 "Scylla" \(r/n G-ACJJ\)](#)

Notes: Three-quarter right rear view of Imperial Airways Short L.17 Scylla "Scylla" (r/n G-ACJJ) on the ground at Le Bourget Airport, Paris, France, Spring 1937. Ground crew appear to be loading or unloading cargo.

NASM-9A02981: [Lockheed Model 10-A Electra \(r/n G-AEPR\) and Imperial Airways Handley Page H.P.42E Hannibal "Hanno" \(r/n G-AAUD\)](#)

Notes: One-half left rear view from above of British-registered Lockheed Model 10-A Electra (r/n G-AEPR, right foreground) and Imperial Airways Handley Page H.P.42E Hannibal "Hanno" (r/n G-AAUD, left background) on the ground at Le Bourget Airport, Paris, France, Spring 1937.

NASM-9A02982: [Air France Potez 62](#)

Notes: Long three-quarter left front view from above of three Air France Potez 62 aircraft on the ground at Le Bourget Airport, Paris, France, Spring 1937. Main terminal building visible at right.

NASM-9A02983: [KLM Douglas DC-2 "Kwak" \(r/n PH-AKQ\) and SABENA Savoia-Marchetti S.73 \(r/n OO-AG?\)](#)

Notes: One-half left rear view from above of KLM (Koninklijke Luchtvaart Maatschappij) Douglas DC-2 "Kwak" (r/n PH-AKQ, left foreground) and SABENA Savoia-Marchetti S.73 (r/n OO-AG?, right background) on the ground at Le Bourget Airport, Paris, France, Spring 1937. Both aircraft appear to be loading passengers and cargo.

NASM-9A02984: [Percival Gull Six \(r/n F-AQNA\)](#)

Notes: Long three-quarter right front view from above of Percival Gull Six (r/n F-AQNA) parked on the ground at Le Bourget Airport, Paris, France, Spring 1937.

NASM-9A02985: [Imperial Airways Handley Page H.P.42E Hannibal "Hanno" \(r/n G-AAUD\)](#)

Notes: Long one-quarter front left side view from above of Imperial Airways Handley Page H.P.42E Hannibal "Hanno" (r/n G-AAUD) on the ground at Le Bourget Airport, Paris, France, Spring 1937. Aircraft is being refueled from truck at left. A second smaller aircraft, possibly Lockheed 10A Electra (r/n G-AEPR) can also be seen being refueled at right background.

NASM-9A02986: [de Havilland DH.89 Dragon Rapide](#)

Notes: Very long one-half left front view from above of de Havilland DH.89 Dragon Rapide on the ground at Le Bourget Airport, Paris, France, Spring 1937.

Aéro-Club de la Riviera, Nice, France

NASM-9A02987: [de Havilland D.H.80A Puss Moth \(r/n G-ABNC\)](#)

Notes: Three-quarter left front view of de Havilland D.H.80A Puss Moth (r/n G-ABNC) on the ground at an unidentified airport somewhere on the French Riviera, probably near Nice, Spring 1937.

NASM-9A02988: [Caudron C. 400 Phalène \(Moth\) \(r/n F-APMV\) "Aile Populaire Niçoise"](#)

Notes: One-half right front view, close-up, of forward half of Caudron C. 400 Phalène (Moth) (r/n F-APMV) on the ground at an unidentified airport somewhere on the French Riviera, probably near Nice, Spring 1937. Artwork with name on right side of nose reads "Aile Populaire Niçoise," believed to be the name of a local aviation club.

NASM-9A02989: [Caudron C.232 \(r/n F-AJZL\)](#)

Notes: One-half right rear view of Caudron C.232 (r/n F-AJZL) on the ground at an unidentified airport somewhere on the French Riviera, probably near Nice, Spring 1937. Tail and wingtip of a second unidentified aircraft visible at left background.

NASM-9A02990: [Potez 600 T2 Sauterelle \(Grasshopper\) \(r/n F-AOBM\)](#) and [Caudron C.272-4 Luciole \(r/n F-APEN\)](#)

Notes: One-half right rear view of Potez 600 T2 Sauterelle (Grasshopper) (r/n F-AOBM, foreground) and Caudron C.272-4 Luciole (r/n F-APEN, left background); parts of two other unidentified small aircraft visible at right background. All are seen on the ground in front of the Aéro-Club de la Riviera hangar at an unidentified airport somewhere on the French Riviera, probably near Nice, Spring 1937.