



Smithsonian
National Air and Space Museum

Cyrus Bettis Collection

Allan Janus

2018

National Air and Space Museum Archives
14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway
Chantilly, VA 20151
NASMRefDesk@si.edu
<https://airandspace.si.edu/archives>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Cyrus Bettis Collection
Identifier:	NASM.2009.0038
Date:	(bulk 1924-1926)
Extent:	0.05 Cubic feet (1 folder)
Creator:	Bettis, Cyrus
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Image(s): Cyrus Bettis Collection

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Aviationbug.com, purchase, 2009, NASM.2009.0038

Preferred Citation

Cyrus Bettis Collection, Acc. 2009.0038, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Cyrus Bettis (1893-1926) was one of the leading Army Air Service pursuit pilots in the early 1920s. Born in Carsonville, Michigan, Bettis entered the Army as a flying cadet in February 1918. He attended the school of Military Aeronautics at the University of Illinois and was sent to Camp Dick, Dallas, Texas in April of that year. He finished his flight training and was commissioned second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Service on September 11, 1918. On July 1, 1920, Bettis was commissioned in the Regular Army and promoted to first lieutenant. During the International Air Races in 1924, Lt. Bettis won the John L. Mitchell Trophy Race. Bettis won the 1925 Pulitzer Trophy competition and established a world record of 249.342 miles per hour, flying the Curtiss R3C-2 Racer in its land plane configuration. Bettis was also the backup pilot for the 1925

Schneider Trophy competition, and flew the R3C extensively in its float plane configuration. Bettis, along with Lt. James Doolittle, was awarded the Mackay Trophy for 1925. Bettis died at the Walter Reed General Hospital in Washington DC on September 1, 1926, as a result of injuries he received in an aircraft accident on August 23, 1926, when in heavy fog he crashed into a mountainside near Bellefonte, Pennsylvania.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of Cyrus Bettis' logbook, photographs, correspondence and news clippings that document the Pulitzer Trophy flights as well as Bettis' career as an Army Air Service pilot.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Aeronautics
Airplane racing
Curtiss R3C-2 Racer

Types of Materials:

Correspondence
Logs (records)
Photographs

Names:

Patrick, Mason M. (Mason Mathews)
Pulitzer Trophy Race

Preferred Titles:

United States Army Air Service

Container Listing

Box 90 (shared), Folder Documents, 1924-1926
1 [Image\(s\)](#)