



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Kettering Bug (Aerial Torpedo) Microfilm Drawings and Index

2013

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Kettering Bug (Aerial Torpedo) Microfilm Drawings and Index
Identifier:	NASM.2013.0007
Date:	(bulk 1917-1920)
Creator:	Kettreing, Charles
Extent:	0.11 Cubic feet ((2 boxes))
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

General Motors Company, Gift, 2012

Preferred Citation

Kettering Bug (Aerial Torpedo) Microfilm Drawings and Index, Accession 2013-0007, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

The Kettering Bug (Aerial Torpedo) was an experimental, unmanned World War I precursor to modern air-to-air and air-to-ground guided missiles. Per a request from the United States Army Aircraft Board, the Kettering Bug was designed by Charles Kettering of Dayton, Ohio, and built by the Dayton-Wright Airplane Company. Orville Wright acted as an aeronautical consultant on the project, while Elmer Ambrose Sperry designed the control and guidance system. The prototype Bug was completed and delivered to the Aviation Section of the U.S. Army Signal Corps in 1918, near the end of World War I. The Bug was capable of striking ground targets up to 75 miles (120 km) from its launch point, while traveling at speeds of 50 mph, but despite some successes during initial testing, the Bug was never deployed.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of one 35 mm reel of microfilm containing "A" size drawings of the Kettering Bug (Aerial Torpedo), and an 8.5 by 11 inch handwritten index to drawings entitled, "Experimental No's 1 to 3499."

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Aeronautics
Kettering Bug (Aerial Torpedo)

Types of Materials:

Microfilms