



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

John Earl Smerdon, Jr. Papers

2013

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	1
Scope and Contents	2
Names and Subjects	

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	John Earl Smerdon, Jr. Papers
Date:	(bulk 1945-1963)
Identifier:	NASM.2013.0035
Creator:	Smerdon, John Earl, Jr.
Extent:	.28 Cubic feet ((2 containers))
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

David Smerdon, Gift, 2013

Preferred Citation

John Earl Smerdon, Jr. Papers, Accession 2013-0035, 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

John Earl Smerdon, Jr. (1925-2000) was a naval aviator and test pilot who flew numerous aircraft, including the National Air and Space Museum's Curtiss SB2C-5 Helldiver (BuNo 83479). Smerdon enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserve in 1943 at the age of 17. In 1946, Smerdon was designated as a naval aviator. Smerdon served with the reserves until being transferred to the Regular Navy at the rank of Lieutenant (junior grade) in March 1949. Smerdon later served as a test pilot at Naval Air Station Patuxent River and Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake. Smerdon retired from the Navy in 1963 as a Commander. During Smerdon's service with the U.S. Navy he flew numerous aircraft including the Stearman (1927) N2S-3 Kaydet (Model B75N1); North American SNJ Texan; Douglas SBD Dauntless; Curtiss SB2C Helldiver; Beech SNB-2C, SNB-3, and SNB-4 Navigator; Douglas R4D Skytrain; Douglas AD (A-1, BT2D) Skyraider; Grumman F6F Hellcat; Vought F4U Corsair; Boeing 767 Tanker Transport (KC-767); North American T-28 Trojan; Grumman S-2 (S2F) Tracker; Martin (Glenn L.) P5M (P-5) Marlin; Douglas F3D (F-10) Skyknight; Grumman TF-1 (C-1A) Trader; Lockheed P2V (P-2) Neptune; Douglas R5D Skymaster; Douglas A3D (A-3) Skywarrior; Martin (Glenn L.) P4M Mercator; McDonnell F2H (F2D, F-2) Banshee; Lockheed WV Super

Constellation; Vought F7U Cutlass; Grumman F11F (F-11) Tiger; Grumman F9F Panther (Straight-Wing); Fairchild R4Q-2 (C-119F) Packet; Vought F-8 (F8U) Crusader; Grumman UF-1 (HU-16C) Albatross; Lockheed TV-2 (TO-2, T-33B) Shooting Star; Lockheed T2V Seastar; North American FJ-4B (AF-1E) Fury; Douglas A4D-2N (A-4C) Skyhawk; Beech TC-45J Expeditor; and the Piper UO-1 (U-11A).

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of papers relating to John Earl Smerdon, Jr.'s military career including log books, pilot's licenses, photographs, correspondence, military records, and newsclippings. The log books cover the years of 1945-1963. The photographs are almost exclusively black and white and range in size from 3.5 by 2.5 inches up to 8 by 10 inches. The photographs include various views of Smerdon in uniform as well as in the cockpits of various aircraft including the North American FJ-4B (AF-1E) Fury; North American SNJ Texan; Curtiss SB2C Helldiver; Vought (RF-8A) F8U-1P Crusader; Douglas A3D (A-3) Skywarrior (photograph also includes McDonnell F3H-2N (F-3C) Demon, Douglas F4D (F-6) Skyray, North American FJ-4 (F-1E) Fury, Grumman F11F-1 (F-11A) Tiger, and Douglas A4D-1 (A-4A) Skyhawk); and the Douglas AD-5N (A-1G) Skyraider.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Curtiss SB2C Helldiver Family
- Douglas A3D-1 (A-3A) Skywarrior
- Douglas AD-4NA (A-1D) Skyraider
- Naval aviation
- North American FJ-4B (AF-1E) Fury
- Vought (RF-8A) F8U-1P Crusader

Types of Materials:

- Logbooks
- Photographs