



# Smithsonian

*National Air and Space Museum*

*History of the Women Pilots in the  
Air Ferrying Division, ATC Collection*

Patti Williams

2021

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

<b>Repository:</b>	National Air and Space Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	<i>History of the Women Pilots in the Air Ferrying Division, ATC Collection</i>
<b>Date:</b>	1942-1945
<b>Identifier:</b>	NASM.2021.0019
<b>Creator:</b>	United States. Army. Air Corps Marx, Walter J.
<b>Extent:</b>	.39 Cubic feet (One letter document case.)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	<p>This collection consists of Major Walter Marx's report <i>History of the Women Pilots in the Air Ferrying Division, ATC</i> along with related memoranda and rewrites. The collection also contains six color transparencies of WAFs, a memorandum discussing discrimination the WASPS faced while in Lebanon Tennessee in 1943, and the Northwest Route under the Ferrying Division Air Transport Command, June 16, 1942-November 1, 1942 Report.</p> <p>This collection is in English.</p>
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Image(s): NASM 9A18304, Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS) pilots in the cockpit of a North American AT-6 Texan. History of the Women Pilots in the Air Ferrying Division, ATC Collection, NASM..2021.0019</a>

---

## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Paul Marx, Gift, 2021, NASM.2021.0019

### Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Patti Williams, 2021

### Preferred Citation

*History of the Women Pilots in the Air Ferrying Division, ATC Collection*, NASM.2021.0019, 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

Nancy Harkness Love's 1942 proposal to set up a group of female pilots to ferry aircraft from factories to air bases during World War II was approved as the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS). Love commanded this unit until August 5, 1943, when the WAFS were merged with the newly formed Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs) and she was named the executive for all WASP ferrying operations. From light aircraft, the WASPs advanced quickly to fly every Air Corps aircraft in use at the time. With the exception of aerial gunnery and formation flying, these women received the same training as the male pilots. WASPs ferried planes, towed targets, flew cargo, simulated bombing missions, performed radio control, flight tested aircraft, gave instrument instruction, and performed many other duties. Their work allowed more men to participate in aviation combat roles'.

Walter J. Marx held a Ph.D. in history from Columbia University. Marx taught at the College of Chestnut Hill in Philadelphia and Catholic University in Washington before serving four years in the Air Force, where he reached the rank of major. During his service, Marx wrote the 600 page report *History of the Women Pilots in the Air Ferrying Division, ATC*. After the war he worked at the State Department.

---

## Scope and Contents

This collection consists of Major Walter Marx's report *History of the Women Pilots in the Air Ferrying Division, ATC* along with related memoranda and rewrites. The collection also contains six color transparencies of WAFs, a memorandum discussing discrimination the WASPs faced while in Lebanon Tennessee in 1943, and the *Northwest Route under the Ferrying Division Air Transport Command, June 16, 1942-November 1, 1942 Report* .

---

## Arrangement

Arranged by material type.

---

## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Women air pilots
- World War, 1939-1945

### Types of Materials:

- Color transparencies
- Reports

### Names:

- Love, Nancy
- United States. Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron
- Women Airforce Service Pilots (U.S.)

---

## Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1	History of the Women Pilots in the Ferrying Division, ATC, Part 1, Beginning to page 250 <a href="#">Digital Content: "History of the Women Pilots in the Ferrying Division, ATC"</a>
Box 1, Folder 2	History of the Women Pilots in the Ferrying Division, ATC, Part 2, Page 251 to end
Box 1, Folder 3	Rewrites of History of the Women Pilots in the Ferrying Division, ATC <a href="#">Digital Content: Rewrites of "History of the Women Pilots in the Ferrying Division, ATC"</a>
Box 1, Folder 4	History of the WASPs in Air Transport Command 1945 - memos <a href="#">Digital Content: "History of the WASPs in Air Transport Command 1945" - memos</a>
Box 1, Folder 5	<a href="#">Memo regarding the questioning of WASPs in Lebanon, TN</a>
Box 1, Folder 6	<a href="#">Photocopies of various WAFs images and newspaper reprint</a>
Box 1, Folder 7	<a href="#">Color Transparencies of WAFs</a>
Box 1, Folder 8	Northwest Route under the Ferrying Division Air Transport Command, June 16, 1942 – Nov.1 1942 <a href="#">Digital Content: "Northwest Route under the Ferrying Division Air Transport Command, June 16, 1942 – Nov.1 1942"</a>