



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

United States Army Around the World Flight (1924) Collection

Hank Brown

1999



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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	
Administrative Information	1
Historical	2
Scope and Content	2
Arrangement	2
Names and Subjects	
Container Listing	
Series 1: NARA Record Group 72, Bureau of Aeronautics (Navy)	4
Series 2: NARA Record Group 29, Records of the Department of State, 1910-1929	5
Series 3: NARA Record Group 18, Records of Army Air Forces	6
Series 4: NARA Record Group 22, Records of the Bureau of Fisheries; and NARA Record Group 26, Records of the United States Coast Guard	7
Series 5: Record Group 24, Bureau of Naval Personnel	8
Series 6: Record Group 407, Records of the Adjutant General's Office	9
Series 7: Microfilm Reels	10

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	United States Army Around the World Flight (1924) Collection
Date:	1920-1925
Identifier:	NASM.XXXX.0152
Creator:	United States. Army. Air Service
Extent:	3 Cubic feet (6 boxes)
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

National Archives, Purchase, 1971, XXXX-0152, unknown

Processing Information

This collection consists of 5 reels of 35-mm microfilm and photocopied documents from the microfilm concerning the U.S. Army Around the World Flight in 1924. The microfilm documents are from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Record Groups 18, 22, 24, 26, 59 and 72. After reviewing the 5 reels of microfilm the processing archivist found that 4 out of the 5 reels have been photocopied to paper. The fifth reel entitled Final Report, Record Group 18 contains material that has not been printed to hard copy, therefore, the researcher may want to review this reel. In addition, there is no reel of microfilm for Record Group 72, only photocopied pages.

Processing Information

Processed by Hank Brown, 1999.

Encoded by Rena Schergen, February 2012.

Preferred Citation

United States Army Around the World Flight (1924) Collection, Acc. XXXX-0152, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

[Permissions Requests](#)

Historical

In 1924, the U.S. Army Air Service decided to attempt an around the world flight to prove that the airplane was a valuable and viable method of transportation and could therefore have a great impact on the world's future. The Douglas Aircraft Company was commissioned by the Army Air Service to build an aircraft for the flight. The result was the Douglas O-5 Observation Seaplane, which was referred to in 1924 as the Douglas World Cruiser (DWC). The O-5 grew out of the 1923 Douglas Observation Seaplane (DOS).

On April 6, 1924, four Army Air Service DWC Seaplanes departed from Seattle, Washington in an attempt to fly around the world. They were the: "Seattle", "Chicago", "Boston" and "New Orleans". The "Seattle" was delayed by a forced landing caused by engine trouble early on and was trying to catch up to the others when bad weather forced it off course. It crashed near Chignik, Alaska. The "Boston" suddenly lost oil pressure and had to land at sea between Orkney and Faroe Islands. Although the landing was successful, the "Boston" was damaged beyond repair during an attempt to hoist it on board the USS Richmond. At Pictou Harbor, Nova Scotia, the prototype aircraft arrived to join the remaining two and became the "Boston II". From there the planes flew on across the United States and landed at Sand Point Field in Seattle, Washington on September 28, 1924 having accomplished the 27,553-mile flight around the world.

Two of the World Cruisers still survive. The "New Orleans" (#4) is in the Air Force Museum at Dayton, Ohio. The "Chicago" (#2) is in the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content

This collection consists of correspondence, memos, newspaper articles and logbooks concerning the flight.

Arrangement

The documents on the microfilm are only arranged by Record Groups and not chronologically. The material covers correspondence, memos, newspaper articles, logbooks, descriptions of the Douglas World Cruiser (DWC) aircraft, memos dealing with permission to overfly and photograph foreign countries, the flight route, pilot selection, aircraft selection, equipment and weather forecasts. The decision was made during the processing to arrange the photocopied documents by subject and then chronologically.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Aeronautics -- Flights
- Aeronautics -- Records
- Aeronautics, Military
- Douglas World Cruiser (DWC)
- Endurance flights
- Flights around the world

Types of Materials:

Clippings
Correspondence
Logs (records)
Memoranda

Names:

United States. Army. Air Service

Container Listing

Series 1: NARA Record Group 72, Bureau of Aeronautics (Navy)

Available Formats: There is no reel of microfilm for this Record Group.

Box 1, Folder 1	Correspondence Relating to the U.S. Army Around the World Flight, 1924
Box 1, Folder 2	Correspondence Relating to the U.S. Army Around the World Flight, 1924
Box 1, Folder 3	Correspondence Relating to the U.S. Army Around the World Flight, 1927, 1924

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: NARA Record Group 29, Records of the Department of State, 1910-1929

Available Formats: Decimal File 811.2300/1-239 (NNM 71-123). Documents found on microfilm reel.

Box 1, Folder 4	Diplomatic Arrangements, 1923
Box 1, Folder 5	Diplomatic Arrangements, 1924
Box 1, Folder 6	Diplomatic Arrangements, 1924
Box 2, Folder 1	Diplomatic Arrangements, 1924
Box 2, Folder 2	Diplomatic Arrangements, 1924
Box 2, Folder 3	Diplomatic Arrangements, 1924
Box 2, Folder 4	Diplomatic Arrangements, 1924
Box 3, Folder 1	Diplomatic Arrangements and Correspondence, U.S. Navy Ships, 1923-1924
Box 3, Folder 2	Funds, 1924
Box 3, Folder 3	Personnel Applications to go on the Flight Around the World, 1923-1924

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: NARA Record Group 18, Records of Army Air Forces

Available Formats: World Flight 1924 Final Report (NNM 71-242). Documents found on microfilm reel.

Box 3, Folder 4	Preliminary Reports, Training and Plans, 1924
Box 3, Folder 5	Supplies and Equipment for Flight, 1923-1924
Box 4, Folder 1	Supplies and Equipment for Flight, 1923-1924
Box 4, Folder 2	Supplies and Equipment for Flight, 1923-1924
Box 4, Folder 3	Supplies and Equipment for Flight, 1923-1924

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 4: NARA Record Group 22, Records of the Bureau of Fisheries; and NARA Record Group 26, Records of the United States Coast Guard

Available Formats: Selected documents (NNM 71-215). Documents found on microfilm reel.

Box 4, Folder 4	Bureau of Fisheries, Correspondence and Articles and Logbooks of the Algonquin and Haida on the crash of the "Seattle", 1924
Box 4, Folder 5	Logbook for the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Haida, 1924
Box 4, Folder 6	Cruise Reports and Ships Logs, 1924

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 5: Record Group 24, Bureau of Naval Personnel

Available Formats: Selected pages from deck logs of U.S. Navy vessels (NNM 71-61). Documents found on microfilm reel.

Box 5, Folder 1	Logbooks: USS McFarland, USS Charles Ausburne, USS Colhlan, USS Barry, USS Detroit and USS Brazos, 1924
Box 5, Folder 2	Logbooks: USS Raleigh, USS Milwaukee and USS Lawrence, 1924
Box 5, Folder 3	Logbooks: USS Richmond, 1924
Box 5, Folder 4	Logbooks: USS Reid and USS Billingsley, 1924
Box 5, Folder 5	Logbooks: USS Sicard , USS Noa, USS Riza and USS Hart, 1924
Box 5, Folder 6	Logbooks: USS Barker, USS Whipple, USS Smith Thompson, USS Preble, USS Pruitt, USS Hulbert and USS Preston, 1924
Box 5, Folder 7	Logbooks: USS Barker, USS Whipple, USS Smith Thompson, USS Preble, USS Pruitt, USS Hulbert and USS Preston, 1924
Box 5, Folder 8	Logbooks: USS Hull, USS Corry, USS John D. Ford, USS Pope, USS Peary, USS Pillsbury, USS Paul Jones and USS Truxton, 1924

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 6: Record Group 407, Records of the Adjutant General's Office

Available Formats: Selected documents (NNM 71-50). Documents found on microfilm reel.

Box 6, Folder 1 [Post Flight Congratulations, 1924-1925](#)

Box 6, Folder 2 [Post Flight Congratulations and Tour, 1924-1925](#)

Box 6, Folder 3 [Post Flight Plans for Aircraft and Awards, 1924-1925](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 7: Microfilm Reels

5 Microfilm (35 mm)

Box 7	NARA Record Group 18 (Records of the Army Air Forces) World Flight 1924 Final Report (NNM 71-242), 1924
Box 7	NARA Record Group 24 (Records of the Bureau of Naval Personnel selected pages from deck logs of U.S. Navy vessels (NNM 71-61)
Box 7	NARA Record Group 59 (Records of the Department of State) 1910-1929 Decimal File 811.2300/1-239 (NNM 71-123), 1910-1929
Box 7	NARA Record Group 407 (Records of the Adjutant General's Office) selected documents (NNM 71-50)
Box 7	NARA Record Group 22 (Records of the Bureau of Fisheries) and NARA Record Group 26 (Records of the United States Coast Guard) selected documents (NNM 71-215)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)