



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

James Rogers McConnell Collection [Truitt]

McConnell, James Rogers, Collection [Truitt]

Jessamyn Lloyd

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	James Rogers McConnell Collection [Truitt]
Date:	1890-1928
Identifier:	NASM.XXXX.0232
Creator:	McConnell, James Rogers, 1887-1917
Extent:	0.33 Cubic feet (2 boxes)
Language:	This collection is predominantly in English, but some materials are in French.
Summary:	This collection consists of correspondence, newspaper articles, and a photograph album documenting James Rogers McConnell's life, especially his World War I service in the Lafayette Escadrille.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

James M. Truitt, gift, 1963, NASM.XXXX.0232

Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Jessamyn Lloyd, 2018.

Preferred Citation

James Rogers McConnell Collection [Truitt], NASM.XXXX.0232, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

James Rogers McConnell (1887-1917) was a member of the Lafayette Escadrille. Born in Chicago, McConnell attended two years of schooling at the University of Virginia before leaving the law school in 1910 to join his family in Carthage, North Carolina. There, he served as a land and industrial agent of the Seaboard Airline Railway and as secretary of the Carthage Board of Trade. After war broke out in Europe, McConnell arrived in France to enlist with the American Ambulance Corps. McConnell withdrew from the Ambulance Corps and entered the aviation training

program, becoming one of the first members of the Lafayette Escadrille. McConnell first flight was on May 13, 1916, in which he flew a Nieuport biplane. McConnell was shot down and killed on March 19, 1917 above the Somme Battlefields. He was the author of the book *Flying for France*.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of correspondence, newspaper articles, and a photograph album documenting James Rogers McConnell's life, especially his World War I service in the Lafayette Escadrille. This collection contains material pertaining to both McConnell's service as well as the service of his fellow Lafayette Escadrille members, including Kiffin Rockwell, Victor Chapman, and Raoul Lufbery. The correspondence includes letters from McConnell to his family and friends, as well as condolence letters from McConnell's friends to his family after his death. The photographs include images of McConnell, his friends--both ambulance drivers and pilots, aircraft, his grave, his crypt in the Lafayette Memorial, and also his memorial in Carthage, North Carolina. The newspaper articles include ones written by McConnell about his war service.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged by type of material.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Aeronautics, Military
- Ambulances
- Periodicals
- World War, 1914-1918
- World War, 1914-1918 -- Aerial operations

Types of Materials:

- Correspondence
- Photographs

Names:

- Chapman, Victor
- France. Armée. Escadrille Lafayette
- France. Armée. Légion étrangère
- Lufbery, Raoul
- McConnell, James Rogers, 1887-1917
- Rockwell, Kiffin Yates

Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1	[Photo Album]
Box 1, Folder 2	[Loose Items]
Box 2, Folder 1	[Images]
Box 2, Folder 2	[Articles about James McConnell]
Box 2, Folder 3	[Articles, Brochures Written by James McConnell]
Box 2, Folder 4	[Memorial Brochures, Misc.]
Box 2, Folder 5	[Correspondence Relating to McConnell's Memorials]
Box 2, Folder 6	[James McConnell Correspondence]
Box 2, Folder 7	[Sympathy Correspondence to McConnell's Family and Friends]