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National Air and Space Museum

Mansfield Lahm Airport Memorial and Dedication Scrapbook

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Mansfield Lahm Airport Memorial and Dedication Scrapbook
Date:	September 9, 1967
Identifier:	NASM.XXXX.0268
Extent:	0.24 Cubic feet (1 flat box)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Frank Purdy Lahm (1877--1963) was the first balloon pilot, the first airship pilot, and the first airplane pilot in the US Army. Lahm was born in Mansfield, Ohio and on September 9, 1967, the airport there was renamed in his honor and dedicated as the Mansfield Lahm Airport. This collection consists of a scrapbook documenting the dedication ceremony for Mansfield Lahm Airport held on September 9, 1967.
Digital Content:	Image(s): Mansfield Lahm Airport Memorial and Dedication Scrapbook

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Paul E. Garber, Gift, date unknown, NASM.XXXX.0268.

Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Jessamyn Lloyd, 2022.

Preferred Citation

Mansfield Lahm Airport Memorial and Dedication Scrapbook, NASM.XXXX.0268, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Frank Purdy Lahm (1877--1963) was the first balloon pilot, the first airship pilot, and the first airplane pilot in the US Army. Like his father, Frank Samuel Lahm, his early interest was in ballooning, and in 1906 he won the James Gordon Bennett International Balloon Race. In 1909 Lahm and Lt. Frederick E. Humphreys were trained by Orville and Wilbur Wright to fly the first plane the US Army purchased from the Wrights. In 1912

he was made commanding officer of the US Army Flying School in the Philippines, and during World War I he was commander of the Second Army Air Service. Following the war Lahm founded the Air Corps Training Center at Randolph Field, a source of great pride to him, but was reassigned in 1931 as air attaché and later military attaché to France and Belgium. When Lahm retired from the military in 1941 he had distinguished himself as recipient of the Distinguished Service Medal and the French Legion of Honor. Lahm was born in Mansfield, Ohio and on September 9, 1967, the airport there was renamed in his honor and dedicated as the Mansfield Lahm Airport. The event included speeches, a showing of the film *The Lahm Story* (produced by the US Air Force Museum and narrated by James Stewart), the unveiling of a bust of Lahm and a plaque sponsored by the Early Birds in his honor, luncheon, military band concert, aircraft display and air show, formal reception and dinner, and a military ball.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of a scrapbook documenting the dedication ceremony for Mansfield Lahm Airport held on September 9, 1967. The scrapbook includes 8 by 10 inch black and white photographs of the day's events as well as some ephemera, including a souvenir program. Speakers and other participants in the event that are pictured in the scrapbook include Paul E. Garber; Robert A. "Bob" Hoover; Royal D. Frey; Martin F. "Mike" Scanlon; William C. "Bill" Diehl; Ernest Craft Hall; Glenn E. Messer; Errol H. Zistel; William Austin Denehie; Stanley I. Vaughn; George A. Page, Jr; Emil Matthew Laird; George Henry Scragg; Claude W. Pound; and Fred W. Haise, Jr. Some of the photographs also show aircraft that participated in the day's aircraft display and air show including the Northrop T-38A Talon, McDonnell F-4D Phantom II, Cessna T-37 (Cessna 318B), Lockheed C-130 Hercules, Breezy RLU1 (Roloff-Liposky-Unger), North American P-51 Mustang, Lockheed F-104 Starfighter, as well as a Quail Decoy Missile (ADM-20, GAM-72) and a Hounddog Missile (AGM-28, GAM-77). Also shown on the ground and in flight are the US Air Force Thunderbirds aerial demonstration team.

Arrangement

Collection is in original order.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Air pilots
- Airplanes
- Airports

Types of Materials:

- Scrapbooks

Names:

- Lahm, Frank Purdy, 1877-1963