



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Edwin C. Parsons Scrapbooks

Parsons, Edwin C. Scrapbooks

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National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Edwin C. Parsons Scrapbooks
Date:	1914-1924 (bulk 1915-1820)
Identifier:	NASM.XXXX.0308
Creator:	Parsons, Edwin C, 1892-1968
Extent:	0.66 Cubic feet (1 flatbox)
Language:	This collection contains materials in English and in French.
Summary:	This collection contains three scrapbooks and four certificates relating to Edwin C. Parsons' aviation career.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Adm. Edwin C. Parsons, Gift, unknown, NASM.XXXX.0308

Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Jessamyn Lloyd, 2019.

Preferred Citation

Edwin C. Parsons Scrapbooks, NASM.XXXX.0308, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Rear Admiral Edwin C. Parsons (1892-1968) had a varied aviation career, serving in two World Wars. Parsons graduated from Phillips Exeter Academy in 1910 and after attending the University of Pennsylvania, he moved to California where he learned to fly at Dominguez Field. Parsons was commissioned with the Mexican Aviation Corps in 1914 where he trained Pancho Villa's pilots. In 1915, he worked his way to Europe where he joined the Lafayette Escadrille, and was credited with eight kills, making him an ace. From 1920 until 1923, Parsons was a special agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). He then went to Hollywood where he became a script writer and technical advisor, working on such films as *Wings*, *Dawn Patrol*, and *The Great Adventure*. In 1934 he joined the Naval Reserve where he advanced to the rank of

Rear Admiral. During World War II Parsons served on an aircraft carrier and took part in amphibious landings in the South Pacific. He retired from the service in 1954.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains three scrapbooks and four certificates relating to Edwin C. Parsons' aviation career. The three scrapbooks include photos, news clippings, and mementos from Edwin C. Parsons' expatriate years, 1914-1924. Included in the albums are photos of Parsons' service in France with the Lafayette Escadrille and Les Cigognes squadron, his repatriation certificate, French military citations, and his memoir *Fighting Men of the Sky*, published in 40 installments weekly beginning 24 March 1918. Also included are news clippings of Parsons' exploits during his varied career.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged by type of material; the scrapbooks are in original order and the loose items are housed at the end of the collection.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

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

Types of Materials:

- Certificates
- Correspondence
- Memoirs
- Photographs
- Scrapbooks

Names:

- France. Armée. Escadrille Lafayette

Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1 [\[Scrapbook 1\]](#)

Box 1, Folder 2 [\[Scrapbook 2\]](#)

Box 1, Folder 3 [\[Scrapbook 3\]](#)

Box 1, Folder 4 [\[Loose Items\]](#)