



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

William Mitchell Scrapbooks

2016

National Air and Space Museum Archives
14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway
Chantilly, VA 20151
NASMRefDesk@si.edu
<https://airandspace.si.edu/archives>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	William Mitchell Scrapbooks
Date:	(bulk 1898-1920)
Identifier:	NASM.XXXX.0331
Extent:	0.94 Cubic feet ((1 box))
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Image(s): William Mitchell Scrapbooks

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Caroline S. Mitchell, Gift, Unknown

Preferred Citation

William Mitchell Scrapbooks, Accession XXXX-0331, 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

Brigadier General William "Billy" Mitchell (1879-1936), pilot and aviation and aerial bombing advocate, joined the army as a private and, by the Spanish-American War, was the youngest lieutenant involved in the operation. Mitchell saw service in the Philippines, Cuba, and on the Mexican border, and graduated from the Army School of the Line (1908) and Army Staff College (1909) before serving on the Army General Staff (1913-1916). He held a number of command and staff posts in the Air Service in France during World War I (1917-1919) and first soloed in 1917. After a short period as Director of Military Aeronautics (1919) and Chief of Training and Operations (1920), he became Assistant to the Chief of Air Service (1921-1926). During this period he advocated the creation of an independent Air Service and demonstrated the utility of air power through the famous bomber vs. battleship trials (1921), the group flight to Alaska from the continental US (1923), and Army's Around the World Flight (1924). Unfortunately, Mitchell's public criticism of government policies, in defiance of Army regulations, resulted in his court martial for conduct prejudicial of "good order and military discipline" and insubordination in October-December 1925. Found guilty and suspended for five years, Mitchell resigned his commission in January 1926. He continued to promote aviation and decry government inefficiencies until his death.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of scrapbooks belonging to Caroline S. Mitchell, relating to William Mitchell. The scrapbooks contain photos from the first two decades of Mitchell's military career, from 1898 through 1920. Although no photos cover the World War I period, there are a number of photographs relating to the periods just before and just afterward. The photos depict Signal Corps camps in Cuba, the Philippines (including the January 29, 1911 eruption of the Taal Volcano), and various U.S. locations; polo tournaments; horse tournaments; a few aviation tournaments; and Mitchell's children. The collection also includes Mitchell's original commissions in the United States Army Signal Corps.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Aeronautics
Aeronautics, Military

Types of Materials:

Scrapbooks

Names:

Mitchell, William, 1879-1936
United States. Army. Air Service
United States. Army. Signal Corps