



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Walter W. Pentecost (Flying
Tigers) Photograph Collection

2001

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.....	1
Biographical / Historical.....	1
General.....	2
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Walter W. Pentecost (Flying Tigers) Photograph Collection
Date:	1941
Identifier:	NASM.XXXX.0567
Creator:	Pentecost, Walter W. ("Penny")
Extent:	0.2 Cubic feet ((4 folders))
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Walter W. Pentecost, gift, 1982, XXXX-0567, unknown

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

Walter W. 'Penny' Pentecost's involvement in the world of aviation spanned the greater part of his lifetime. Following a stint as a barnstormer in the 1920s, Pentecost studied engineering at Purdue University. While working at North American Aviation as an Allison engine specialist, he was hired by the Intercontinent Corporation as an 'advance man' for the American Volunteer Group (a.k.a. the Flying Tigers). He was stationed in Rangoon, Burma between May and November of 1941 to oversee the assembly of approximately 100 Flying Tiger Curtiss P-40 Warhawks that were shipped to that nation for the Flying Tigers' mission to defend the Burma Road. Following this mission, Pentecost was sent to Loiwing, China, where he became involved with locating and refurbishing downed combat aircraft, and rescuing reusable parts that could be used to reconstruct other airplanes. Upon his return to the United States, Pentecost worked as a flight test engineer for combat airplanes, and as a service engineer for the Nike Zeus missile system. He also spent time as a project engineer for the Manned Orbiting Laboratory and assisted with NASA's Sky Lab.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains 88 photographs, primarily of Curtiss P-40 Warhawks, both before and after assembly in Rangoon. There are also photos of the American Volunteer Group, as well as of other aircraft, namely the Bristol Blenheim Bomber, Fleet Model 10, the Douglas DC-3, and several of the Lockheed 10 Electra.

Most of the photographs were taken by Pentecost, except for five which are Curtiss-Wright photos simply furnished by Pentecost. There is at least one photograph of Walter Pentecost himself. Only approximately 10 of the photos are dated (1941), and a number of them do not list a location. Most, however, note Rangoon as the location, with some taken in Loiwing, China and its surrounding area.

General

NASMrev

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Aeronautics, Military
- Bristol Blenheim
- Curtiss P-40 Warhawk Series
- Douglas DC-3 Family
- Fleet (Canada) Model 10
- Lockheed Model 10 Electra Family
- World War, 1939-1945
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Aerial operations
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Campaigns -- Burma
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Campaigns -- India

Types of Materials:

- Photographs

Names:

- American Volunteer Group
- Intercontinent Corporation
- Pentecost, Walter W. ("Penny")