



# Smithsonian

*National Air and Space Museum*

## Caterpillar Club Collection

2001

National Air and Space Museum Archives  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Air and Space Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Caterpillar Club Collection
<b>Date:</b>	1922-1940
<b>Identifier:</b>	NASM.XXXX.0576
<b>Creator:</b>	Caterpillar Club
<b>Extent:</b>	1.35 Cubic feet ((3 legal document boxes))
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Falk Harmel, gift, 1967, XXXX-0576, 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](#)

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## Biographical / Historical

The Caterpillar Club originated in October 1922 at Wright Field, Ohio, when a suggestion was made to start a club composed only of persons whose lives were saved by the use of the parachute when forced to leave an aircraft in flight. The name comes from the fact that parachutes were made from silk, produced from the caterpillar cocoon. By 1940 there were some 700 members of the Caterpillar Club, including such noteworthy members as Charles Lindbergh

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## Scope and Contents

This collection includes photographs of most of the members, and some of their aircraft and crash sites. There are also detailed reports of each of the 700 documented emergency parachute jumps as well as newspaper articles and correspondence about the Caterpillar Club and Lt. Col. Falk Harmel, who maintained this collection.

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## General

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Aircraft accidents
- Aircraft survival equipment
- Parachutes
- Periodicals

### Types of Materials:

- Correspondence
- Photographs
- Publications

### Names:

- Caterpillar Club