



# Smithsonian

*National Air and Space Museum*

## Paul Ayres Rockwell Photograph Collection

2002

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

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Air and Space Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Paul Ayres Rockwell Photograph Collection
<b>Date:</b>	1914-1918
<b>Identifier:</b>	NASM.XXXX.0609
<b>Creator:</b>	Rockwell, Paul Ayres, 1889-1985
<b>Extent:</b>	0.2 Cubic feet ((4 folders))
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Paul Ayres Rockwell, unknown, unknown, XXXX-0609, 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 Rockwells were assigned to Battalion C, 2nd Marching Regiment, of the Second Foreign Regiment of the French Foreign Legion. First stationed near Toulouse, France, on October 2, 1914, they arrived at Camp de Mailly, and soon saw action in trenches near Craonelle. Photos show the Americans both in the trenches and relaxing behind the lines. Paul Rockwell was wounded in Winter 1914-1915; after a long hospital stay he was invalided out of the Legion but "...remained in France to be near his brother, and engaged in French propaganda work." (Rockwell, p. 58). In April 1915, Kiffin Rockwell transferred to the First Foreign Regiment, joining the American Squad in Company 2, Battalion B. On September 2, 1915, he transferred to the French Aviation Service. On April 16, 1916 the Escadrille de Chasse Nieuport 124 (l'Escadrille Americaine), known as the "Lafayette Escadrille"; it was composed of American volunteer aviators under the command of French officers. The Escadrille's first victory was scored by Kiffin Rockwell on May 18, 1916. Photos from this period center around the activities of the Escadrille, predominantly depicting pilots and off-duty scenes, but including a number of aircraft photos. On September 23, 1916, Kiffin was shot down near Rodern, Alsace, and killed. Paul Rockwell continued to photograph the Escadrille through 1917; the few photos from (late) 1918 are of grave sites.

## Scope and Contents

In August 1914, Paul Ayres Rockwell (b.1889) and his brother, Kiffin Yates Rockwell, Americans of French extraction, volunteered to fight for France in the coming war (World War I). The photographs in this collection were (with very few exceptions) taken by Paul Rockwell from 1914 to 1918. Further information can be found in Paul Ayres Rockwell's book, *American Fighters in the Foreign Legion 1914-1918* (Houghton Mifflin Company, 1930) [SIL Catalog No. D548.35 R6X NASM].

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

### Types of Materials:

- Photographs

### Names:

- France. Armée. Escadrille Lafayette
- France. Armée. Légion étrangère
- Rockwell, Kiffin Yates
- Rockwell, Paul Ayres, 1889-1985