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National Air and Space Museum

US Army Pan-American Goodwill Flight Stationery and Diary Form

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	US Army Pan-American Goodwill Flight Stationery and Diary Form
Date:	1929-1927
Identifier:	NASM.XXXX.0979
Creator:	United States. Army. Air Corps
Extent:	0.05 Cubic feet (1 folder)
Language:	English .
Summary:	The historic US Army Pan-American Goodwill Flight of 1926 and 1927 through Mexico and Central and South America was intended to improve relations with Latin American countries, to encourage commercial aviation, and to provide valuable training for Air Corps personnel. This collection consists of an unused correspondence card and envelope, and an unused diary form, from this flight.
Digital Content:	Image(s): US Army Pan-American Goodwill Flight Stationery and Diary Form

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Unknown, NASM.XXXX.0979.

Related Materials

Loening OA-1A San Francisco in the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Collection: [Loening OA-1A San Francisco, A19280010000](#) .

Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Jessamyn Lloyd, 2024.

Preferred Citation

US Army Pan-American Goodwill Flight Stationery and Diary Form, NASM.XXXX.0979, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

The historic US Army Pan-American Goodwill Flight of 1926 and 1927 through Mexico and Central and South America was intended to improve relations with Latin American countries, to encourage commercial aviation, and to provide valuable training for Air Corps personnel. The flight was made by ten pilots in five Loening OA-1A amphibian aircraft. To stimulate public interest, each airplane was named after a major US city, the *New York*, the *San Antonio*, the *San Francisco*, the *Detroit*, and the *St. Louis*. The 22,000 mile (35,200 km) flight began on December 21, 1926, from San Antonio, Texas, and the route extended through Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica; across the Panama Canal to Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia; down the west coast of South America to Valdivia, Chile; across the Andes Mountains to Bahia Blanca, Argentina; north to Montevideo, Uruguay; up to Paraguay; back down the Paraná River; along the coasts of Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, the Guianas, and Venezuela; thence through the West Indies and up the coast of the United States. An accident occurred on approach to the Argentine Air Service Field at Palomar, Buenos Aires when the *Detroit* and the *New York* collided midair, killing the crew of the *Detroit*, Clinton F. Woolsey and John W. Benton, and destroying both aircraft. In total, the journey took 59 flying days, interspersed with 74 days for scheduled maintenance and diplomatic meetings and ceremonies. The flight concluded at Bolling Field in Washington, DC, on May 2, 1927. One of the long-term legacies of the Pan-American Goodwill flight was that it helped pioneer a trail for later commercial air transport operations. The crews of all five aircraft, Herbert A. "Bert" Dargue, Ennis C. Whitehead, Arthur B. McDaniel, Charles McK. Robinson, Ira Clarence Eaker, Muir Stephen Fairchild, Bernard S. Thompson, Leonard D. Weddington, and Woolsey and Benton (posthumously), were awarded the MacKay Trophy.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of a 7.25 x 3.5 inch unused correspondence card featuring a color logo of a globe with wings and a banner that reads, "U. S. Army Pan American Flight." There is also an envelope for the card which features the same banner but not the logo. The collection also contains an unused diary form from the Pan-American Goodwill Flight, typewritten on a piece of 8 x 10.5 inch paper which bears the US Army watermark.

Arrangement

Collection is a single folder of material.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Aeronautics, Military

Events, 1926 San Antonio, TX to 1927 Washington, DC, Pan-American Goodwill Flight

Types of Materials:

Stationery