



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Burroughs Wellcome "Tabloid" Medical Kit Photographs

2025

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Burroughs Wellcome "Tabloid" Medical Kit Photographs
Date:	circa 1924-1926
Identifier:	NASM.XXXX.1232
Extent:	0.05 Cubic feet (1 folder; 6 black and white photographs)
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection consists of several black and white photographs relating to the Burroughs Wellcome & Company "Tabloid" brand of medical kits used on the 1924 US Army Around the World Flight, and one kit carried by the Byrd Arctic Expedition of 1926.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Howard B. Fonda, Burroughs Wellcome & Co. (U.S.A.), Inc, gift, 1930, NASM.XXXX.1232

Related Materials

Related artifacts in the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum collection: The Douglas World Cruiser "Chicago" airplane: [Douglas World Cruiser Chicago, A19250008000](#) .

A Burroughs Wellcome "Tabloid" medical kit of the type carried by Lt. Lowell Smith aboard the Douglas World Cruiser "Chicago" during the US Army World Flight: [Kit, Medical, Douglas World Cruiser, Lt. Lowell Smith \(REPLICA\), A19640613000](#) .

See also *Videodisc Imagery Collection*, NASM.XXXX.1000, NASM 00171118: Booklet issued by Burroughs Wellcome & Co., London, circa 1912: "Famous Airmen and Their Equipments, With Some Notes on First-Aid in Emergencies."

Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Melissa A. N. Keiser, 2025.

Preferred Citation

Burroughs Wellcome "Tabloid" Medical Kit Photographs, NASM.XXXX.1232, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Burroughs Wellcome and Company was founded in London, England, in 1880 by the American pharmacists Henry Wellcome and Silas Burroughs. The company's "Tabloid" line of compact first-aid medical kits housed in lightweight aluminum cases were marketed to aviators as early as 1909. In the 1920s, Burroughs Wellcome established research and manufacturing facilities in the United States; "Tabloid" medical kits were carried aboard the Douglas World Cruiser airplanes during the 1924 US Army Around the World Flight as well as by the Byrd Arctic Expedition of 1926. In 1995 the company merged with Glaxo to form Glaxo Wellcome; by the early 2020s the company was part of GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), a multinational pharmaceutical and biotechnology company.

Scope and Contents

This collection is believed to consist of eight black and white photographs received by the National Air Museum in 1930 relating to the Burroughs Wellcome & Company "Tabloid" brand of medical kits (as of 2025 only six of the eight photographs have been identified in the Archives' holdings). One photograph depicts the kit carried by the Byrd Arctic Expedition of 1926; the remaining photographs show kits related to the 1924 US Army Around the World Flight. Views include a kit used on the flight, a presentation kit, and several of the Douglas World Cruiser airmen posing during the world flight holding a "Tabloid" kit.

Arrangement

Photographs are arranged numerically by NASM Archives Image reference number.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Medical supplies

Container Listing

Folder 1, Item 1

NASM 00040487: [Burroughs Wellcomb Co Ltd. "Tabloid" medical kit carried on 1924 US Army Around the World Flight, circa 1924-1925](#)

Notes: Top left front view, top open, of a Burroughs Wellcomb Co Ltd. "Tabloid" brand first aid kit carried aboard one of the Douglas World Cruiser (DWC) airplanes during the US Army Around the World Flight in 1924; studio photograph on white background. Tray of medications has been lifted out and posed in front of the aluminum case; stained medical guide booklet at right foreground with open case of medical instruments behind. Inside top cover is labeled "'Tabloid" Medicine Case, Official Medical Equipment, U.S. Army Air Service World-Flight, 1924. Autographed by the Successful Airmen. Presented to Burroughs Wellcome & Co. as a souvenir of the flight.' Autographed by Lowell Smith, Les [Leslie] Arnold, Henry H. Ogden, Leigh Wade, Erik H. Nelson, and Jack [John] Harding.

Folder 1, Item 2

NASM 00040494: [Burroughs Wellcomb Co Ltd. "Tabloid" medical kit carried on 1926 Byrd Arctic Expedition, May 1926](#)

Notes: Top front view, top open, of a Burroughs Wellcomb Co Ltd. "Tabloid" brand first aid kit carried on the Byrd Arctic Expedition of 1926; studio photograph on white background. Tray of medications has been lifted out and placed in front of the aluminum case with an open case of medical instruments at right; various components of the kit posed to be more visible. Inside top cover is labeled "'Tabloid" Medicine Case, Official Medical Equipment, Pioneer North Pole Flight, Byrd Arctic Expedition, May 1926. Autographed by members of the flight. Presented to Burroughs Wellcome & Co. as a souvenir of the flight by Commander Richard E. Byrd, U.S.N., Leader.' Autographed by R. E. Byrd, U.S.N. and Floyd Bennett.

Folder 1, Item 3

NASM 00040495: [Burroughs Wellcomb Co Ltd. "Tabloid" medical kit of the type carried on 1924 US Army Around the World Flight, circa 1924-1926](#)

Notes: The First-Aid Kit Carried in each plane of the World Flight Squadron. Top front view, top open, of a Burroughs Wellcomb Co Ltd. "Tabloid" brand first aid kit of the type carried aboard each of the Douglas World Cruiser (DWC) airplanes during the 1924 US Army Around the World Flight; studio photograph on white background, circa 1926. [Copied as National Air Museum negative NAM A-8138.]

Folder 1, Item 4

NASM 00040513: [US Army Air Service World Flight crew member \(possibly Lt. Lowell Smith\) poses with medical kit, 1924](#)

Notes: Member of the US Army Air Service World Flight wearing service uniform (possibly Lt. Lowell Smith) poses standing beside right rear fuselage of one of the Douglas World Cruisers (DWC), flight insignia visible behind him, holding one of the Burroughs Wellcomb Co Ltd. "Tabloid" brand first aid kits carried aboard the aircraft during the flight; 1924, location unknown. [Same location seen in NASM 00040515.]

Folder 1, Item 5

NASM 00040514: [US Army Air Service World crew member Staff Sgt John "Jack" Harding poses with medical kit, Calcutta, India, 1924](#)

Notes: Staff Sgt John "Jack" Harding, wearing pith helmet, poses standing beside left rear fuselage of one of the Douglas World Cruisers (DWC), US Army Air Service World Flight insignia visible behind him, holding open the top cover of the Burroughs Wellcomb Co Ltd. "Tabloid" brand first aid kit carried aboard the aircraft during the flight; Calcutta, India, July 1924. Kit is resting on the open access door of a compartment holding tools and other equipment. Unidentified man looks on from right foreground.

Folder 1, Item 6

NASM 00040515: [US Army Air Service World Flight crew member \(possibly Lt. Erik Nelson\) poses with medical kit, 1924](#)

Notes: Member of the US Army Air Service World Flight wearing flight suit and leather flight helmet (possibly Lt. Erik Nelson) poses standing beside right rear fuselage of one of the Douglas World Cruisers (DWC), flight insignia visible behind him, holding one of the Burroughs Wellcomb Co Ltd. "Tabloid" brand first aid kits carried aboard the aircraft during the flight; 1924, location unknown. [Same location seen in NASM 00040513.]