

SMS 198
29 March 2023
Schreck, Christopher J.

PATRICK, MASON M.
1917-1934
LINEAR FT.: 0.5
APPROX. NO. PGS.: 500
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Mason M. Patrick (1863-1942) was commander of the 1st Engineer Regiment in France and Chief of Air Services in World War I. He was also a Major General and Chief of the United States Army Air Service from 1921 to 1927. In his six-year tenure in this role he approved the first flight around the world by US Army pilots in 1924 and the Pan-American goodwill flight to every capital in Central and South America. He initiated the experimental flying organization at Wright Field, Ohio, and recommended legislation for the Air Service to become the Air Corps in 1926, which eventually led to the development of an independent United States Air Force. On 26 August 1950, eight years after his death, the Air Force's long-range proving ground base at Cocoa, Florida was named Patrick Air Force Base in his honor.

The items in this collection were provided to the Academy by Lt. Col. Sid F. Spear, USAF Director of Information, in 1960.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This small collection consists of diaries, photographs, and other items relating to Patrick's service between 1917 and 1925. These items are held within a single box divided into four series, outlined in the *Arrangement and Description* section below.

Names: Patrick, Mason M.; Spear, Sid F.

Keywords and terms: Generals; United States Army Air Service; American Expeditionary Forces; 1st Engineer Regiment; World War I; World War, 1914-1918; first aerial circumnavigation; diaries; journals

For information on how to cite the materials in this collection, see the Clark Special Collections Citation Guide at <https://usafa.libguides.com/spc>, or contact Clark Special Collections at (719) 333-4674.

ARRANGEMENT AND DESCRIPTION

SERIES ONE: DIARIES

BOX 1

- Folder 1 Diaries
- Diary, 1917-1918. Diary of Patrick describing his official and personal activities in France as a colonel in command of the 1st Engineer Regiment in World War I, 6 Aug 1917-28 May 1918
- Diary, 1919. Diary of Patrick describing his official and personal activities as Chief of Air Services, American Expeditionary Forces, in World War I, 8 Jan 1919-14 Jul 1919

SERIES TWO: PHOTOGRAPHS

BOX 1

- Folder 2 Photographs
- "Pershing and His Fighting Generals." A photograph of the generals, lieutenant generals, and major generals who served in Europe in command of armies or air corps, as members of Gen. Pershing's staff, or in command of divisions while those divisions were engaged in offensive or defensive operations, 1925. A list of all generals is included
- Photograph of Maj. Gen. Patrick in West Point uniform, n.d.
- Photograph of Maj. Gen. Patrick (approximately age 60) in uniform, n.d.
- Photograph of Maj. Gen. Patrick receiving military ribbon from unidentified civilian, n.d.
- Folder 3 Album 1. "Souvenir du Passage a Paris des Aviateurs Americains." Twenty-four uncaptioned and undated photographs of pilots and aircraft of first U.S. Army flight around the world. France, n.d.
- Folder 4 Album 2. "Start and Finish of the World Flight, Seattle, Apr 6-Sep 28 1924." Twenty-eight captioned photographs of flyers and aircraft of the first U.S. Army flight around the world, which Maj. Gen. Patrick approved as Chief of Air Service. Most of the pictures are in and over Seattle, Washington

SERIES THREE: PRINTED MATTER

BOX 1

- Folder 5 Printed Matter
- Certificate of four-year reappointment (2nd term) of Maj. Gen. Patrick as Chief of the Air Service, effective 5 Oct 1925, signed by President Calvin Coolidge and Secretary of War Dwight Davis. 16 December 1925

Airpower Historian XI, No. 2 (April 1964). Includes article (pgs. 45-48) and photographs of first U.S. Army flight around the world, April-September 1945

Bolling Beam, special issue, 30 September 1964. Includes article "Headquarters Command USAF Salutes Round the World Fliers " (2 copies)

SERIES FOUR: ARTIFACTS

BOX 1

Sterling goblet (trophy), inscribed, "Stotsenburg Club, Fort Stotsenburg, P.I., Winner, Handicap Match Play Tournament, February 1934, General Mason M. Patrick."