Descriptive Finding Guide for

103rd Aero Squadron Logbook Collection
(Lafayette Escadrille)

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Provenance

The materials in this collection were purchased by the museum, processed, and available for research with no restrictions.

History

Two of the most prized possessions in the Museum's collection are a pair of logbooks recording events related to the 103rd Aero Squadron from the First World War. The 103rd squadron was the first American combat squadron to see action in the War and was initially comprised of 17 pilots from the famed Lafayette Escadrille, the French squadron made up of mostly American volunteers. One of the logbooks contains a record of the flight operations of the squadron, including hours flown and a narrative about each day's activities. Some of these reports, listed as the "Nature of Patrol" are quite interesting and detailed.

The other logbook records more the Squadron's more mundane activities not related to flight, such as the names of new squadron members, or where the 103rd was stationed. This book spans the period when the squadron was formed till when it returned to the United States after the War.

The logbooks were professionally repaired and digitized in 2006. There is some speculation that the logbooks were discovered in a trashcan in Coronado by a collector. The daily activity logbook was transcribed by Steve Ruffin in 2020.
Scope & Content Notes

This collection contains two original logbooks. Both measures approximately 8.5 x 11 inches and are stored in archivally safe enclosures. They have both been digitized and are stored on the DAMS. The logbooks and the transcription can be viewed on Archive.org.

Important Personalities & Subjects

103rd Aero Squadron, Lafayette Escadrille, World War One, SPAD VII, SPAD XIII, Paul Frank Baer

Series Description

SERIES I: Logbooks/Diaries

Box Listing

Box 1 of 2

SERIES I: Logbook/Diary (February 1918-March 1919)
This logbook records the 103rd Aero Squadron’s more mundane activities not related to flight, such as the names of new squadron members, or where the 103rd was stationed. This book spans the period when the squadron was formed till when it returned to the United States after the War. Approx. 170 pages of entries.

Box 2 of 2

SERIES I: Logbook/Diary (February 1918-December 1918)
This logbook contains a record of the flight operations of the squadron, including hours flown and a narrative about each day’s activities. Some of these reports, listed as the "Nature of Patrol" are quite interesting and detailed. Approx. 250 pages of entries.

End of Box Listing