Descriptive Finding Guide for the Philip R. Babcock Papers
SDASM.SC.10010-O/S

Finding aid prepared by Alan Renga
San Diego Air and Space Museum Library and Archives
2001 Pan American Plaza, Balboa Park
San Diego, CA, 92101
(619) 234-8291
10/15/2014
Title: Philip R. Babcock Personal Papers
Identifier/Call Number: SDASM.SC.10010-O/S
Contributing Institution: San Diego Air and Space Museum Library and Archives
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 1.5 Cubic feetThree boxes, two 12” X 5” X 15” and a third 22” X 2” X 18”，
Date (inclusive): 1893-1977
Abstract: Philip Babcock served with the 88th Aero Squadron in the First World War. This Collection documents his life and the history of the squadron.
Conditions Governing Access note
The collection is open to researchers by appointment.
Conditions Governing Use note
Some copyright may be reserved. Consult with the library director for more information.
Preferred Citation note
[Item], [Filing Unit], [Series Title], [Subgroups], [Record Group Title and Number], [Repository “San Diego Air & Space Museum Library & Archives”]
Immediate Source of Acquisition note
The materials in this collection were given to the San Diego Air and Space Museum.
Biographical/Historical note
Philip Babcock served in the 88th Aero Squadron during World War I, doubling as the group’s unofficial historian. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and Silver Star Citation for his achievements.
Philip Rodney Babcock was born on August 12, 1893 in Lynn, Massachusetts to his parents Fredric and Susan Babcock. After graduating high school in Lynn, he attended Massachusetts Agricultural College of Amherst in 1916. The following year Philip entered the U.S. Service and began officer training on June 17, 1917 at Camp Plattsburg. Afterwards, he was sent to the Aviation Ground School at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. After his training, he was enlisted as a flight student in Kelly Field, Texas, but was soon promoted to captain. On August 18, 1917, Philip and the 88th Aero Squadron were deployed from Kelly Field, to Paris, France. Philip Babcock personally fought in battles of Champagne, Verdun Sector, and St. Mihiel. He successfully received all photographic documents he was sent for nearby Squadrons. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and Silver Star Citation while stationed in France for his achievements, including shooting down two German planes. He married Theo E. Jagues (daughter of Allon and Carrie Jagues) and passed away October 1977 in Massachusetts.
The 88th Aero Squadron was a part of United States Third Army. The 88th was a photo reconnaissance, observation, and intelligence gathering squadron whose work was distributed to other squadrons stationed on the Western Front. While stationed in France, the 88th Aero Squadron assisted in battle of Champagne and St. Mihiel. While Philip was in France, he assisted creating flight paths and bombing routes. Most importantly, perhaps, he served as a historian for the squadron and recorded flight times, battles, and any other traffic through the squadron.
Scope and Contents note
Three boxes, two 12” X 5” X 15” and a third 22” X 2” X 18”，containing a variety of documents, books, and artifacts from Philip Babcock and his journey in WWI. From this collection, Philip kept a book of the 88th Aero Squadron he was a part of, documenting the squadron’s role in the war. He also kept the original map he used to plan all his crews flights.
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Babcock, Philip R., 1893-1977
United States. Army. Air Corps. Advanced Flying School (Kelly Field, Tex.)
World War, 1914-1918

Box 01
Folder 01 - Statements/Certificates from War Department


Folder 02- 88th Aero Squadron Rosters of Officers

Physical Description: 1. 88th Aero Squadron Rosters of Members (4 Pages) 2. 88th Aero Squadron (Observation) Roster of Officers Aug, 18, 1917- Nov. 11,1918 3. Roster of Officers Oct. 1, 1918

Folder 03- 88th Aero Squadron Rosters of Officers #2

Physical Description: 1. Letter of orders from W.C. Sherman Chief and Staff to Philip Babcock 2. Roster of Officers ordered in alphabetical order (4 Pages)

Folder 04- Personal Army Letters/ Hard Copy


Folder 05- Adjutants

Folder 06- Personal Inquiries

Folder 07- Portrait and Personal Photography
Physical Description: 1. Photo to Neal O'Connor “With high regards Pere Hart” (2 Copies) 2. Winner of the Photo Contest March 28, 1919 3. Group photo of all officers in front of Gasth of Unter Den Linden Von Franz 4. Original Portrait photo of Philip Babcock 5. Photos of Philip Babcock at a gathering (3 Photos) 6. Photo of Philip Babcock and another soldier standing in a door frame

Folder 08- Miscellaneous

Folder 09- Projection Slides
Physical Description: 1. 17 Page Projection Slides on War

Folder 10- Portrait Photos of Philip R. Babcock
Physical Description: 1. 3 Single Portrait Photos of Philip Babcock in Uniform

Box 02
Folder 11- Part 1: Novel on WW1
Physical Description: 1. 42 Page Novel on WW1 and how Philip Babcock handled traveling and fighting for USA and France.

Folder 12- Pre- Deployment Records
Physical Description: 1. 3 Page Document on Pre-Deployment

Folder 13- Book on The War With Germany- A Statistical Summary 1919
Folder 14- History of the 88th Aero Squadron

Small Box of Medals, Buttons from Uniform, and Pins- From Philip Babcock

Box 03
Hard Wooded Aerial Map, Used for Flight Planning in France- From Philip Babcock
Two Large Photo Albums
Physical Description: Documenting his time during World War One.