

Paul Ayres Rockwell papersWLU.Coll.0301

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Inclusive 1914-1985

Title Statement

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

WLU.Coll.0301

Unit ID

/repositories/5/resources/431

Unit Date

Inclusive 1914-1985

Unit Date

Bulk 1915-1919, 1960-1980

Language

English French

Creator

Rockwell, Kiffin Yates, 1892-1916

Creator

Parsons, Edwin C.

source

Rockwell, W. J. Kenneth

Creator

Rockwell, Paul Ayres, 1889-1985

Extent

12 Linear Feet

Repository

Washington and Lee University, University Library Special Collections and Archives

Administrative Information

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Biographical / Historical

Paul Ayres Rockwell, of North Carolina, was a member of the Washington and Lee University Class of 1912. At the outset of the First World War, he, with his brother Kiffin, who had also attended Washington and Lee, volunteered for the French Foreign Legion before the United States entered the war. After he and his brother were both wounded in action, Kiffin left the infantry for flight and aerial combat training and became one of the founding members of the Lafayette Escadrille, the French air combat unit comprised primarily of American volunteers. Paul, deemed unfit for further combat became a war correspondent and the unit historian of the Lafayette Escadrille. Paul later served in the Second World War and became a colonel in the U. S. Army.

Scope and Contents

The Paul Ayres Rockwell Papers consists primarily of Rockwell's personal archive and research collection on the history of the French and American volunteer air combat corps, the "Lafayette Escadrille," and the American volunteers of the French Foreign Legion during the First World War. Highlights of this collection include the war period letters to Paul Rockwell from various pilots and related officials of the Lafayette Escadrille, members of the French Foreign Legion and the letters of his brother, the famous American combat aviator Kiffin Yates Rockwell and his mother Loula Rockwell. Another important feature of this collection is the large assortment of related original photographs taken by Paul Rockwell during the war while documenting his and his brother's experiences in the field. The photographic holdings also include a substantial cache of collected imagery relative to the key subjects. After the First World War, as Lafayette Escadrille historian, Paul Rockwell continued to expand upon the archive to include content related to the lives of the veterans, unit reunions, memorials, reminiscences through about 1980. Lastly, the collection is rich with primary and secondary resources pertaining to Rockwell family genealogy, Paul Rockwell's biographical history, and general history of both world wars.

Keywords

France
Air pilots, Military
United States
Military operations, Aerial -- French
World War (1914-1918)
Armed Forces -- Aviation
World War (1939-1945)
Infantry
War stories, American
War correspondents
War memorials
Rockwell family
France. Armele. Escadrille Lafayette
Rockwell, W. J. Kenneth
France. Armée. Légion étrangère

Description of Subordinate Components

Papers

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/31602

Text 1 (box)