

Henry Fairfax Ayres diariesMS.0528

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1928-1944

Title Statement

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MS.0528

Unit ID

/repositories/3/resources/815

Unit Date

1928-1944

Language

English

Creator

Ayres, Henry Fairfax, 1886-1979

Extent

6 items Each diary measures 3.25 inches x 5.75 inches

Physical Location

Manuscripts stacks

Repository

Virginia Military Institute Archives

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

There are no restrictions

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Preferred Citation

Henry Fairfax Ayres diaries, 1928-1944. MS 0528. VMI Archives, Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Virginia.

Biographical / Historical

Henry Fairfax Ayres was born on April 23, 1886 in Oak Hill, Loudoun County, Virginia to Charles Greenleaf Ayres and Elizabeth Fairfax. He attended VMI as a member of the Class of 1906 and subsequently graduated from the United States Military Academy, Class of 1908. He served as a Lieutenant Colonel in the field artillery of the American Expeditionary Forces in France during World War I.

After the War Ayres worked as an investment banker in New York City, New York trading on Wall Street during the boom years of the 1920s, and pursued his avocation as a pilot. In 1937 he moved to Vermont where he was the legal committee chairman of the Vermont Sugar Makers Association, and was an inventor, environmentalist, and civic leader.

Ayres reentered military service as a Colonel in the Air Force following the outbreak of World War II, overseeing the conveying of pilots and flight crews to the Pacific and European theaters of operation. He served at Milne Bay, New Guinea in 1944 and in Rome and Anzio, Italy in 1945. In 1945 he was injured in a Patrol, Torpedo (PT) boat reconnaissance raid in the Dover Strait. Ayres died in Vermont on January 9, 1979 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of six leather bound diaries that contain a record of Henry Fairfax Ayres' life from 1928 to 1944. Three volumes (1928-1938) contain detailed information about his activities as a pilot, including a record of flights completed, record of hunting trips, and comments about life in New York City, New York.

The subsequent three volumes (1943-1944) contain a record of his World War II service supervising convoys. Included are detailed diary entries for this period, descriptions of London, England life during the World War II, and records of specific convoys.

Keywords

Naval convoys
Military convoys
World War, 1939-1945—Personal narratives
World War, 1939-1945
Air pilots, Military
Diaries
United States.—Army Air Forces
Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1906

Description of Subordinate Components

Diary

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5787

Unit Date 1943 September-November

Creator Ayres, Henry Fairfax, 1886-1979

Scope and Contents

This one-volume diary dates from Henry Fairfax Ayres's military service overseeing convoys. It includes information about his first North Atlantic convoy and diary entries discussing activities and wartime life in London, England.

Keywords

Diaries

World War, 1939-1945—Personal narratives

Military convoys