UNITED STATES AIR FORCE HISTORY

An Annotated Bibliography

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Introduction

More than 63 years have elapsed since the U. S. Government signed a contract with the Wright brothers to buy the world's first military aircraft. Its delivery in August 1908 for a series of trial flights stirred great public interest and thousands of Washington, D. C., residents crossed the Potomac to nearby Fort Myer, Va., to watch the aerial show. Among them were President William H. Taft, members of his cabinet, and, according to one account, "everyone of consequence in the social set in the Capital City." Also on hand were members of the press, who reported the successful start of the flights on September 3 and, two weeks later, the tragic crash which seriously injured Orville Wright, the pilot, and killed his passenger, Lt. Thomas E. Selfridge. The latter had the unhappy distinction of becoming the first airplane fatality in history.

The reports of the Fort Myer events, published extensively in America and Europe, marked the beginning of an immense flood of literature about military aviation and aviators, and their deeds in war and peace. This annotated bibliography on U. S. Air Force history is a sampling of that literature, prepared primarily for the student and scholar. It was compiled in the Office of Air Force History by Mrs. Mary Ann Cresswell, the staff archivist, and Mr. Carl Berger, chief of the Histories Division. In addition to screening recent books and articles, they consulted a number of previously published bibliographies for pertinent items, most of which were subsequently examined for inclusion here. Significant contributions to this work also were made by staff editors Lawrence Paszek and Eugene P. Sagstetter, Mrs. Selma Shear, who typed the manuscript, and Air Force field historians, who reviewed and commented on the preliminary draft.

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Guided Missiles: Operations, Design, and Theory. Foreword by Lt. Gen. Charles T. Myers. New York: McGraw, York: McGraw. 1958. 575 pp.

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Andrews, Frank Maxwell, 1884-1943.

Papers, 1920-1942. In the Library of Congress, Manu-

script Division.

Acting, later Commander of General Headquarters Air Force, Oct. 1934-Mar. 1939. Commander of U.S. Forces in Europe in the early part of World War II. Correspondence; military service record and flight record: speeches; articles; news clippings, Bulk of the collection (1935-1942) covers the organization and admin-istration of the air arm of the War Dept. and the operations of the Caribbean Defense Command, which he commanded 1941-1942.

Arnold, Henry Harley, 1866–1950. Papers, 1907-1950.

In the Library of Congress, Manu-

script Division.

General of the Air Force. Chief of the Air Corps, Sep. 1938-Mar. 1942; Commanding General of the AAF Mar. 1942–Jun. 1946. Family cormar. 1942-Jun. 1946. Family correspondence (1934-1950); general correspondence respondence; notes and manuscripts of speeches, articles, and books, especially the uncut manuscript of Global Mission; reports; photos; news clippings; and printed matter referring to Ar-nold's early career (1907-1938); his role as chief architect of U.S. air power (1938-1946); and activities and writings after retirement in 1946. For

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Billiard, Louis Phillip, 1891-1918.

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clety, Topeka.

Pioneer aviator. (His papers are part of the Billiard family papers, 1872-1959.) General correspondence covering bis career as exhibition pilot; flight records (1911-1918); and diaries and letters (1917-1918) written in France while a test pilot for the American Expeditionary Forces.

Bong, Richard Ira, 1920-1945.

Papers, 1941-1944. In the State Historical Society of

Wisconsin, Madison.

Medal of Honor recipient; air ace of World War II. Correspondence (family), with descriptions of training in California and military exploits in the South Pacific.

Brereton, Lewis Hyde, 1890–1967.

Papers, 1941-1946. In the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library, Abilene, Kansas.

Commander of the 12th Aero Squadron, Mar. 1918-Jnl. 1918; Commander of Far East Air Force, 5th Air Force, 10th Air Force, and 9th Air Force during World War II. Papers include transcript of headquarters diary for 8 Dec. 1941-24 Feb. 1942 and scrapbooks for 1942-1946.

Chanute, Octave, 1832-1910.

Papers, 1850-1910.

In the Library of Congress, Manu-

script Division,

Civil engineer and aerial navigator. Correspondence; letter books; kite diagrams and sketches; notebooks; articles; and photos. Concerns partly his role in the history of aviation (1890-1910), including material on his glider experiments.

Chennault, Claire Lee, 1890-1958. Papers, 1941-1954.

In the Hoover Institution on War. Revolution and Peace, Stanford Uni-

versity.

Leader of the famed Flying Tigers in China during World War II; commander of 14th Air Force, Mar. 1943-Correspondence; diaries; Jul. 1945. manuscripts of writings; articles: combat reports; group field orders; flight material; and other papers relating to the American Volunteer Group, China Air Task Force, 14th Air Force, and Civil Air Transport. Inc.

Eaker, Ira Clarence, 1896— Papers, 1918-1960.

In the Library of Congress, Manu

script Division.

Aviation pioneer; Air Commander in Chief of Mediterranean Allied Air Forces in World War II. Correspondence; diary notes (1942-1947); re-ports; press releases; and a speech, article, and book file on military aeronautics. Includes printed matter on bis flight of the "Question Mark" (1929); Air Mail Route 4, Western Zone (1934); and his organization and command of the VIII Bomber Command, 8th Air Force, AAF in England, and Mediterranean Allied Air Forces.

Fairchild, Muir Stephen, 1894-1950.

Papers, 1937-1950. In the Library of Congress, Manu-

script Division.

Vice-Chief of Staff of the Air Force. May 1948-Mar. 1950. Correspondence; reports; speeches; and articles, chiefly (1948-1950). Includes printed matter by Fairchild for the Air Corps Tactical School.

Foulois, Benjamin Delahauf. 1879-1967.

Papers, 1898-1966.

In the Library of Congress. Manuscript Division.

Pioneer aviator. Chief of the Air 1931-1935. Correspondence: diaries; reports; copies of official documents and personal records; and flight record. Includes material on his service as Assistant Chief and Chief of Army Air Corps; Army airmail operations; and aviation legislation.

Gorrell, Edgar S.

Papers, 1917–1919, In the National Archives.

Colonel, Army Air Service. cludes his "History of the U.S. Army Air Services," an unpublished manuscript. 286 vols. (Also, on 58 rolls of microfilm). A collection of documents on the Air Service in World War I, arranged in 18 topical snbseries, i.e., Series E-Squadron Histories. They include general orders. orders, squadron histories. news clippings, photos, maps, cartoons, and personal comments by officers.

Hansell, Haywood S., Jr., 1903— Papers, 1941–1945.

In the U.S. Air Force Academy

Library, Colorado.

Den. Chief of the Air Staff, Plans, Oct. 1943-Ang. 1944; Commanding General of 21st Bomber Command, Aug. 1944-Jan. 1945. Papers include correspondence; photos; reports; speeches, and unpublished manuscript, "American Air Power in World War 1I.

Knerr, Hugh Johnson, 1887--

Papers, 1935-1949. In the Library of Congress, Manuscript Division.

Commanding General of 8th Force Service Command, Oct. 1943-Jun. 1944. Correspondence: reports; orders; speeches; articles; and financial records, chiefly regarding the logistics phases of air warfare in World War II.

Kuter, Laurence Sherman, 1905-Papers, 1927-1962.

In the U.S. Air Force Academy

Library, Colorado.
Asst. Chief of the Air Staff, Plans and Combat Operations, May 1943-May 1945; first commander of MATS, Feb. 1948-Oct. 1953. Papers iuclude correspondence (1936-1960); photos; and scrapbooks of his career (1927-1962).

Lafayette Escadrille.

Records, Mar. 1916-Feb. 1918.

In the U.S. Air Force Academy Library, Colorado.

Official papers include correspondence: photos: membership cards: newspaper clippings, and scrapbooks.

Lahm, Frank Samuel, 1846-1931.

Papers, 1850-1931. In the Library of Congress, Manu-

script Division.

Pioneer aviator; Commander of the Air Corps Training Center, San An-Correspondence; logs; Tex. barograph records of Lahm's balloon flights; regulations; lectures; photos; news clippings; part of an unfinished history of aeronautics; and memora-bilia. Includes writings and diaries of Henry Weaver who in 1905 in-vestigated for Lahm the achievements claimed by the Wright brothers. For a description of the collection see: The Library of Congress Quarterly Journal of Current Acquisitions, May 1954, vol. 11, no. 3, pp. 165-166.

LeMay, Curtis Emerson, 1906— Papers, 1928-1965. In the Library of Congress, Manu-

script Division.

Commanding General of the Strategic Air Command, Oct. 1948-Jun. 1957; Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Jul. 1961-Jan. 1965. Correspondence; reports; diaries; copies of official documents; flight records; commissions; photos; news clippings; and memorabilia. Bulk of the collection covers the period 1947-1965; includes command papers which reflect his activities during World War II; his role in the development of SAC; and his duties as Vice and later Chief of Staff.

Loening, Grover Cleveland. 1888 -

Papers. 1900-1942.

In the Library of Congress, Manu-

script Division.

Aircraft engineer. Correspondence; manuscripts; news clippings; photos; drawings; blueprints; and other printed matter, referring to aeronautical development. Byrd's Antarctic expedition, the Wright Company, and the Loening Company.

Lyons, John Coriden.

Propaganda leaflets, 1941-1945. In the Dwight D. Eisenhower Li-

brary, Abilene, Kansas

A collection of World War II propleaflets. particularly aganda from North Africa, Mediterranean Theater. and the China-Burma-Indla Theater.

Mitchell, William, 1897-1936. Papers, 1907-1946.

In the Library of Congress, Manuscript Division.

Assistant Chief of the Air Service, Apr. 1921-Apr. 1925. Diaries (1917-1923); correspondence; manuscripts of books, articles, and speeches (includes several unpublished writings); ports; news clippings; aerial photos; and memorabilia. Includes subject file of material on operations of the Air Corps in World War 1, subsequent de-velopment of airpower, and Mitchell's court martial. For a description of the collection see: The Library of Congress Quarterly Journal of Current Acquisitions, Aug. 1949, vol. 6, no. 4, pp. 39-40.

National Aircraft War Production Council.

Records, 1942–1945. In the Harry S. Truman Library,

Independence, Mo.

Correspondence; reports; minutes of meetings; working schedules: other papers relating to its activity in coordinating and expediting the American aircraft manufacturing industry during World War II.

Pershing, John Joseph, 1860–1948.

Papers, 1882-1949. In the Library of Congress, Manuscript Division.

Commander in Chief, American Expeditionary Forces, May 1917-Nov. 1918; Chief of Staff of the Army, July 1921-Sep. 1924. For a description of the collection see: The Library of Congress Quarterly Journal of Current Acquisitions, May 1953, vol. 10, no. 3. p. 156.

Quesada, Elwood Richard, 1904-Papers, 1943-1963. In the Dwight D. Eisenhower Li-

brary. Abilene, Kan. Commanding General of the 9th Tactical Air Command during World War II; first commander of Tactical Air Command, Mar. 1946-Nov. 1948. Correspondence: scrapbooks; particularly of "Question photos Mark" flight (1929).

Spaatz, Carl, 1891—

Papers, 1915–1953. In the Library of Congress, Manuscript Division.

First Air Force Chief of Staff, Sep. 1947-Jun. 1948. Correspondence; diaries; cables; reports; research notes; typescripts of articles and speeches; flight records; personnel file; and memorabilia. Includes papers, chiefly for 1942-1948 relating to Spaatz's tenure as Commander in Chief of the U.S. Strategic Air Forces (1944-1945), the papers of Bruce Hopper and the Historical Section of the USSAF; as Commanding General of the AAF (1946); and as Chief of Staff, USAF (1947-1948). For information on the collection see: McFarland, Marvin W. "The General Spaatz Collection." The Library of Congress Quarterly Journal of Current Acquisitions, May 1949, vol. 6, no. 3, pp. 23-55.

Stimson, Henry L., 1867–1950.

Papers, 1865-1955. In the Yale University Library, New

Haven, Conn.

Secretary of War, 1940-1945. respondence and daily diaries, particularly during World War II. For a description of the collection see: Riggs, John B. "The Henry L. Stimson Collection." Yale University Library Gazette, Oct. 1952, vol. 27, pp. 55–65.

Twining, Nathan Farragut. 1897-

Papers, 1924-1960.

In the Library of Congress, Manu-

script Division.

Chief of Staff of the Air Force. Jun. 1953-Jun. 1957; Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Aug. 1957-Sep. 1960. Correspondence; diaries; flight records; reports; official documents; and unpublished writings. Bulk of the material covers the period (1953-1960).

U. S. Air Force Historical Archives.

Located at the Air University, Max-

well AFB, Ala.

The Archives, operated by the Historical Research Division, contains more than a million documents which, collectively, span the life of the Air Force and its predecessors, the Army Air Forces, the Air Corps, the Air Service, and the Aviation Section of the Signal Corps. Primarily, the collection consists of Air Force unit histories and supporting operational documents of the major commands, numbered Air Forces, and lower echelon units (divisions, wings, groups, squadrons).

Closely related to the unit histories are the USAF Historical Study Series of more than 125 special monographs prepared by Air Force historians since 1943. They deal with such subjects as the development of air doctrine, personnel, training, organization, cam-paigns in various theaters, in World War II, and the Korean conflict.

In addition the Archives holds siz-

able collections of personal papers donated by such distinguished airmen as Frank P. Lahm, Benjamin D. Foulois, Muir S. Fairchild, Millard F. Harmon, Ennis Whitehead, William E. Kepner, and others. The largest of these is the Ernest L. Jones collection of several hundred documents, including a chronology of the U.S. air arm beginning with the year 1861.

U. S. Air Force Museum, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio

The Museum maintains an archives 75,000 documents approximately related to its physical holdings of 4.500 aeronautical items. These artifacts range from a Wright brothers' plane, uniforms and guns of World War I, fighters and bombers of World War II, to the B-36 and space capsules.

Little or no archival material is associated with other Air Force mu-seums, such as the Davis-Monthan Museum, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.; Lackland AFB Museum, Lackland AFB, Tex.; SAC Museum, Offutt AFB. Neb.; or the Air Force Space Museum, Cape Kennedy AFS, Fla.

U. S. President's Air Policy Commission.

Records, 1947-1948. In the Harry S. Truman Library,

Independence, Mo.

Correspondence: administrative and personnel files; transcripts of hearings; statements of witnesses appearing before the commission; briefs; drafts of commission reports to the President; aeronautical charts; and published material.

Vandenberg, Hoyt Stanford, 1899-1954.

Papers, 1923-1953.

In the Library of Congress, Manu-

script Division.

Chief of Staff of the Alr Force, Apr. 1948-Jun. 1953. Correspondence : reports; notes and manuscripts of speeches and articles; diaries; and personnel files. Collection is comprehensive for years (1948-1953), when the Air Force underwent much growth and development, with Vandenberg's role documented throughout in the subject files dealing with the budget and congressional hearings.

White, Thomas Dresser, 1901-1965.

Papers, 1953-1961. In the Library of Congress, Manuscript Division.

Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Jul. 1957-Jun. 1961. Correspondence; reports; cables; and copies of speeches and statements, including those made before congressional committees on air power needs and capabilities.

Wright, Wilbur, 1867-1912, and Orville Wright, 1871-1948.

Papers, 1910–1922.

In the Franklin Institute Library.

Philadelphia.

Airplane inventors. Drawings of the 1903–1905, 1907 and 1910 biplanes and the 1910 motor representing the step by step record of research and development which led to the first powered flight. Includes notes and other papers relating to wind tunnel tests.

Wright, Wilbur, 1867-1912, and Orville Wright, 1871-1948. Papers, 1881-1954. In the Library of Congress, Manuscript Division.

Airplane inventors. Correspondence: diaries; notebooks; business accounts; legal papers; reports; photos; photographer plates; and printed matter. Notebooks contain scientific and meteorological observations at the Kitty Hawk experiment and other flights. Includes family correspondence; inventors' letters; minutes of National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics and manuscript and galley proofs of The Wright Brothers by Fred Kelly (1943), with annotations by Orville Wright. Two volumes of their papers and correspondence have been published. See: McFarland, Marvin W., ed. The Papers of Wilbur and Orville Wright, Including the Chanute-Wright Letters and Other Papers of Octave Chanute.New York: McGraw, 1953. 1,278 pp.

NOTE: Certain documentary collections are open to investigators under restrictions of the depository.

Reference Works and Guides

Adams, Frank D. Aeronautical Dictionary. Washington: Govt. Print. Off., 1959. 199 pp.

Prepared by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration at the request of the Department of Defense.

Aeronautics and Space Report of the President Transmitted to Congress January 1971. Washington: Govt. Print. Off., 1971. 115 pp.

This annual report, required of the President by the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958, covers the Department of Defense/Air Force space

activities.

Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce of America, Inc. The Aircraft Year Book. New York: Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce, 1919.

Standard reference on annual aviation events, civil aviation and Industry reports, and government research and development. The title and publisher varies in later editions.

"Air Force Almanac." Air Force, Sep. 1951, vol. 34, no. 9, pp. 33–128.

Includes information on activities of major Air Force commands and operating agencies; describes weapons in the Air Force inventory; and provides other useful data. Subsequent annual reviews are published by the magazine, usually in May or September issue.

The Air Officer's Guide. 20th ed. Harrisburg, Pa.: Stackpole Books, 1969. 479 pp.

Reference book of military information pertinent to Air Force officers.

Aircraft Industries Association of America, Inc. Aviation Facts and Figures. New York: Mc-Graw, 1945.

Annual compilation of facts in the world of aviation. The title and publisher varies in later editions.

The Airman's Guide. 1st ed. Harrisburg, Pa.: Military Service Publishing Co., 1949.

Reference manual of information for all alrmen. especially non-commissioned officers.

Bonney, Walter T. "Chiefs of the Army Air Force, 1907-1957."

Airpower Historian, July 1960,

vol. 7, no. 3, pp. 129-142.

Brief biographies of the first 14 chiefs, from Brig. Gen. James Allen (1908-1913) to Gen. Thomas D. White (1957-1961).

Brassey's Annual: The Armed Forces Year-Book. J. L. Moulton, ed. 81st ed. New York: Praeger, 1970.

Annual review of defense problems and achievements in essay form. The title varies with previous editions.

Brett, George H., and Albert Douglas. The Air Force Officer's Guide. New York: McGraw, 1952. 367 pp.

Compere, Tom, ed. The Air Force Blue Book. New York: Military Publishing Institute, 1959. 384 pp.

Directory of U.S. Air Force Installations, Both Domestic and Foreign, With Useful Information on Each Base and Its Nearby Community. Harrisburg, Pa.: Stackpole Books, 1963.

DuPre, Flint O. U. S. Air Force Biographical Dictionary. New York: Watts, 1965. 273 pp.

Emme, Eugene M. Aeronautics and Astronautics: An American Chronology of Science and Technology in the Exploration of Space, 1915-1960. Washington: Govt. Print. Off., 1961. 240 pp.

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Aero—Aero Publishers, Inc.
Appleton—Appleton-CenturyCrofts, Inc.; D. Appleton
Century Co., Inc.
Arco—Arco Publishing Co., Inc.
Atheneum—Atheneum
Publishers

Ballantine—Ballantine Books, Inc.
Bantam—Bantam Books, Inc.
Barnes—A. S. Barnes and
Company, Inc.
Bobbs-Merrill—The BobbsMerrill Co., Inc.

Cassell—Cassell & Co., Ltd. Chilton—Chilton Book Company Coward—Coward-McCann, Inc. Crowell—Thomas Y. Crowell Co. Crown—Crown Publishers, Inc.

Day—John Day Co., Inc.
Dodd—Dodd, Mead & Co.
Doran—George H. Doran
Company
Doubleday—Doubleday & Co.,
Inc.
Duell—Duell, Sloan and Pearce
Dutton—E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc.
Faber—Faber & Faber, Ltd.
Farrar—Farrar, Straus & Giroux,
Inc.; Farrar, Straus and
Young

Funk-Funk & Wagnalls Co.

Greenburg—Greenburg Publisher

Harcourt—Harcourt, Brace & Co.; Harcourt, Brace,
Jovanovich, Inc.
Harper—Harper & Row

Harper—Harper & Row Publishers, Inc.; Harper and Brothers

Heinemann—William Heinemann, Ltd. HMSO—Her (His) Majesty's

Stationary Office
Hodder—Hodder and Stoughton,

Hodger—Hodger and Stoughton, Ltd. Holt—Holt Ringhart & Wington

Holt—Holt, Rinehart & Winston, Inc.; Henry Holt & Co., Inc. Houghton—Houghton, Mifflin Co.

Hutchinson—Hutchinson & Co., Ltd.

Knopf-Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.

Lippincott—J. B. Lippincott
Co.
Little—Little, Brown & Co.
Lothrop—Lothrop, Lee &
Shepard Co.

McGraw—McGraw-Hill Book
Co., Inc.
McKay—David McKay Co., Inc.
Macmillan—The Macmillan Co.
Messner—Julia Messner, Inc.
Morrow—William Morrow & Co.,
Inc.

Norton-W. W. Norton & Co., Inc.

Praeger—Frederick A. Praeger, Inc. Putnam's—G. P. Putnam's Sons

^{*}Names of publishers with full citations are omitted.

Rand—Rand McNally & Co. Random—Random House Rinehart—Rinehart & Co., Inc. Ronald—The Ronald Press Co. Rosen—Richards Rosen Associates, Inc.

Scribner's—Charles Scribner's Sons Simon—Simon & Schuster, Inc. Van Nostrand—D. Van Nostrand Co., Inc. Viking—The Viking Press, Inc.

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