

Carl Spaatz Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
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Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

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Collection Summary

Title: Carl Spaatz Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1910-1981

Bulk Dates: 1942-1963

ID No.: MSS40725

Creator: Spaatz, Carl, 1891-1974

Extent: 120,000 items

Extent: 345 containers plus 29 oversize and 1 classified

Extent: 145 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78040725>

Summary: Career army and air force officer and first chief of staff of the United States Air Force. Diaries, journals, correspondence, memoranda, cables, reports, charts, maps, studies, research notes, printed matter, photographs, scrapbooks, speeches and writings, military memorabilia, family papers, financial records and other papers relating to Spaatz's military career and to his command during World War II of the United States Army Air Forces in Europe, the allied air forces in North Africa, and, after July 1945, the Strategic Air Force in the Pacific.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Anderson, Frederick L., 1905-1969--Correspondence.
Arnold, Eleanor Pool--Correspondence.
Arnold, Henry Harley, 1886-1950--Correspondence.
Bradley, Omar Nelson, 1893-1981--Correspondence.
Cherne, Leo, 1912- --Correspondence.
Cochran, Jacqueline--Correspondence.
De Seversky, Alexander P. (Alexander Prokofieff), 1894-1974--Correspondence.
Eaker, Ira, 1896-1987. Ira Eaker papers.
Eisenhower, Dwight D. (Dwight David), 1890-1969--Correspondence.
Hopper, Bruce C. (Bruce Campbell), 1892-1973. Bruce C. Hopper papers.
Knerr, Hugh Johnston, 1887-1971--Correspondence.
Lahm, Frank Purdy, 1877-1963--Correspondence.
LeMay, Curtis E.--Correspondence.
Lovett, Robert A. (Robert Abercrombie), 1895-1986--Correspondence.
Mack, Ted--Correspondence.
Marshall, George C. (George Catlett), 1880-1959--Correspondence.
Mitchell, William, 1879-1936--Correspondence.
Nixon, Richard M. (Richard Milhous), 1913-1994--Correspondence.
Patterson, Robert Porter, 1891-1952--Correspondence.
Quesada, Elwood R. (Elwood Richard), 1904-1993--Correspondence.
Snyder, John W. (John Wesley), 1895-1985--Correspondence.
Spaatz, Carl, 1891-1974.
Stimson, Henry L. (Henry Lewis), 1867-1950--Correspondence.
Symington, Stuart, 1901-1988--Correspondence.
Truman, Harry S., 1884-1972--Correspondence.
Twining, Nathan F. (Nathan Farragut), 1897-1982--Correspondence.
Vandenberg, Hoyt Sanford, 1899-1954--Correspondence.
Warner, Jack, 1916- --Correspondence.
White, Thomas D. (Thomas Dresser), 1901-1965--Correspondence.

Organizations

United States Strategic Air Forces in Europe.
United States. Air Force.
United States. Army Air Forces.

Subjects

Operation Overlord.
Operation Torch, 1942.
World War, 1939-1945--Aerial operations.
World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns--Africa, North.
World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns--France--Normandy.

Occupations

Air Force officers.
Army officers.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Carl Spaatz, career army and air force officer and first chief of staff of the United States Air Force, were given to the Library of Congress by Spaatz and the air force. Part I of the collection was given to the Library in 1948 and transferred from the Aeronautics Division of the Science and Technology Division to the Manuscript Division in 1961. Additional material was given by Spaatz between 1960 and 1968. Part II was transferred to the Library by the Air Force Office of Public Affairs in 1981 and by Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C., in 1988.

Processing History

The papers of Carl Spaatz were arranged and described by Charles Cooney in 1968. Additional material received in 1981 and 1988 was processed as Part II by Nan Thompson Ernst with the assistance of Susie H. Moody in 1996. The finding aid was revised in 2005 and 2014.

Additional Description

Part I of the Carl Spaatz Papers is described in the Library of Congress *Quarterly Journal*, vol. 6, May 1949, pp. 23-54.

Transfers

Some photographs have been transferred to the Library's Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of these papers.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Carl Spaatz is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Carl Spaatz are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Security Classified Documents

Government regulations control the use of security classified items in this collection. Manuscript Division staff can furnish information concerning access to and use of classified material.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Roman numeral designating the Part followed by a colon and container number, Carl Spatz Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1891, June 28	Born, Boyertown, Pa.
1914	B.S., United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y. Commissioned second lieutenant, United States Army
1915-1916	Student, Aviation School, San Diego, Calif.
1916	Assigned to First Aero Squadron, the aviation unit of General John J. Pershing's expedition in Mexico
1917	Married Ruth Harrison
1917-1918	American Expeditionary Forces in France during World War I; commanding officer of American aviation training center at Issoudun; flew combat missions with the Thirteenth Aero Squadron, Second Pursuit Group
1920-1933	Command positions in the Army Air Forces
1925	Air Service Tactical School
1929	Commanded the "Question Mark" flight, crewed by Ira C. Eaker, Elwood R. Quesada, and Harry A Halverson, which set endurance records for completing over 150 hours of continuous flight by refueling in mid-air
1933-1935	Chief, Training and Operations Division, Office of the Chief of Air Corps
1936	Command and General Staff School
1940	Chief, Plans Division, Army Air Force Headquarters Chief, Materiel Division, Army Air Force Headquarters Assistant Military Attaché (Air) in London, England, as official observer during the Battle of Britain
1941	Chief of Air Staff
1942	Commander, Air Force Combat Command Commander, Eighth Air Force Commander, Air Force, North African Theater of Operations, United States Army
1943	Commander, Northwest African Air Force, Italy
1944	Commander in chief, Strategic Air Forces, Europe
1945	Commander in chief, Strategic Air Forces, Japan
1946	Commanding general, Army Air Forces
1947	First chief of staff, United States Air Force
1948	Retired from the United States Air Force
1948-1961	Military affairs columnist, <i>Newsweek</i>
1974, July 14	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

Part I

Part I of the papers of Carl Andrew Spaatz (1891-1974) covers the years 1910-1953, with most of the material dated between 1942 and 1948. The material consists chiefly of correspondence, cables, and reports along with diaries, research notes, typescripts of articles and speeches by Spaatz, material collected by him for reference use, flight records, Spaatz's 201 (personnel) file, and assorted memorabilia. The papers in Part I are organized in ten series as [Diary and Notebooks](#); [Cables](#); [Subject File](#); [Chief of Staff File](#); [Speech, Article, and Book File](#); [Miscellany](#); [United States Strategic Air Forces File](#); [Eighth Air Force File](#); [Classified](#); and [Oversize](#).

Papers in Part I prior to 1941 consist primarily of the "[diary](#)," Spaatz's term for an assemblage of documents with added commentary. Though devoid of biographical data, Spaatz's diary became a repository during the war years for personal and official correspondence. Diary entries are interspersed with the correspondence. It appears that Spaatz began dictating diary entries in order to record decisions made at conferences, observations made during field inspections, reflections on operational problems, and comments on the course of the air war in general. After Spaatz's appointment in 1946 as commanding general of the Army Air Forces, responsibility for the maintenance of his papers shifted from his personal aide to an administrative assistant in his office. The effect of this change was that only a skeletal diary for subsequent years was maintained.

The voluminous material deemed neither personal nor significant enough for inclusion in the war diary comprises most of the remainder of Part I of the collection. Among these papers is a series of redline [cables](#), redline being the circuit set up to provide private, high-level communication among senior Army Air Force officers in Europe and in the Mediterranean. The [Subject File](#) comprises the largest series, consisting of special reports, surveys, charts, and other items arranged by subject. Much of the material duplicates records in the Air Force Archives at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama. Some material in the Subject File overlaps or complements material in other files. Cross references have been included in this finding aid to illustrate relationships between different files.

Spaatz's tenure as commanding general, Army Air Forces, and chief of staff of the United States Air Force is well documented in the [Chief of Staff File](#). This series of Spaatz's papers constitutes what is, in effect, the working office files of the Air Force Chief of Staff.

Speeches and articles written by Spaatz from 1946 to 1948 are included in the [Speech, Article and Book File](#), usually in typescript form. Prior to 1946, Spaatz's speeches and articles are included in the diary. Among these works are pamphlets written in the 1920s on pursuit aviation. Between 1946 and 1948, Spaatz's speeches and articles were maintained in three notebooks. The remainder of the series consists of drafts, outlines and research notes for the Spaatz report, a book-length work entitled *Air Power in Peace and War*, and a copy of the "Coffin report" entitled *The Contribution of Air Power to the Defeat of Germany*.

A small [Miscellany](#) series completes the personal papers in Part I. Among the papers in this file are financial records, Spaatz's 201 or personnel file, correspondence and reports, incomplete diaries, papers relating to Air Force officers such as Hugh Johnston Knerr, C. J. Moore, and Nathan Twining, and printed matter inscribed to Spaatz.

The collection also contains a sizeable body of documents of the [United States Strategic Air Forces](#) (USSTAF). The bulk of this material consists of papers of Bruce C. Hopper and the USSTAF Historical Section. When he learned of Spaatz's intention to place his papers in the Library of Congress, Hopper volunteered to turn his own files over to the Library. The Historical Section files include a section journal, the historian's journal, correspondence, historical studies, histories of various Army Air Force organizations, research material, and correspondence and studies by the USSTAF's German historians' project headed by Herhudt Von Rhoden.

Another group of papers in the collection includes correspondence files of Ira C. Eaker which have been placed in the [Eighth Air Force File](#). They consist for the most part of Eaker's correspondence as commanding general of the Eighth Air Force and a substantial number of reports either to or from Eaker. This file was compiled by the Historical Section of USSTAF when a history of the Eighth Air Force was contemplated. There is also a separate collection of Ira C. Eaker's papers in the Manuscript Division.

Prominent correspondents in Part I include Henry Harley Arnold, Omar Nelson Bradley, Jacqueline Cochran, Ira C. Eaker, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Hugh Johnston Knerr, Frank P. Lahm, Curtis E. LeMay, Robert A. Lovett, Ted Mack, George C.

Marshall, William Mitchell, Robert Porter Patterson, Alexander P. Seversky, John W. Snyder, Henry L. Stimson, Nathan F. Twining, Hoyt Sanford Vandenberg, Jack Warner, and Thomas D. White.

Part II

Part II of the Spaatz Papers ranges from 1915 to 1981 but most of the material is dated 1948-1963 and concerns Spaatz's activities after his retirement from the Air Force in 1948. Part II is organized in three series: [Retirement File](#), [Miscellany](#), and [Oversize](#). Spaatz retired from active duty in order to be able to advocate his views on the development of air power. The [Retirement File](#) documents his affiliation with military and civic organizations, his consultancies and task force commissions, writing projects and speaking engagements, associates and friends, and business, social, and sporting interests.

The [Miscellany](#) series includes family and biographical material, a few World War II documents, and a file of writings and speeches that parallels material in the [Speech, Article, and Book File](#) in Part I of the collection. Noteworthy among the World War II documents are plans for two principal operations, "Torch" in North Africa (1942) and "Overlord" in Normandy (1944).

Prominent correspondents in Part II include Frederick L. Anderson, Eleanor Pool Arnold (Mrs. Henry Harley Arnold), Leo Cherne, Ira C. Eaker, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Curtis E. LeMay, Richard M. Nixon, Elwood R. Quesada, Stuart Symington, and Harry S. Truman.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in two parts composed of thirteen series:

Part I:

- [Diary and Notebooks, 1910-1953](#)
- [Cables, 1943-1945](#)
- [Subject File, 1929-1945](#)
- [Chief of Staff File, 1946-1948](#)
- [Speech, Article, and Book File, 1946-1948](#)
- [Miscellany, 1915-1948](#)
- [United States Strategic Air Forces File, 1942-1946](#)
- [Eighth Air Force File, 1942-1945](#)
- [Classified, 1942-1948](#)
- [Oversize, 1915-1952](#)

Part II:

- [Retirement File, 1928-1963](#)
- [Miscellany, 1915-1981](#)
- [Oversize, 1943](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX I:1-31	<p><u>Part I: Diary and Notebooks, 1910-1953</u></p> <p>Diary, 1915-1953, consisting of correspondence, reports, invitations, copies of speeches and articles, diary entries, and printed matter, with indexes, 1942-1945, and notebooks, 1910-1940.</p> <p>Most files are arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX I:32-46	<p><u>Part I: Cables, 1943-1945</u></p> <p>Redline cables, incoming and outgoing.</p> <p>Arranged in a chronological file and an alphabetical file by name of correspondent.</p>
BOX I:47-241	<p><u>Part I: Subject File, 1929-1945</u></p> <p>Reports, charts, surveys, graphs, maps, interviews, cables, and correspondence.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by subject.</p>
BOX I:242-267	<p><u>Part I: Chief of Staff File, 1946-1948</u></p> <p>Office file consisting of desk calendars, mail lists, telephone memoranda, correspondence, reports, invitations, and visitor records; general correspondence; and a subject file.</p> <p>General correspondence is arranged chronologically. The subject file is arranged alphabetically by subject and chronologically thereunder.</p>
BOX I:268-274	<p><u>Part I: Speech, Article, and Book File, 1946-1948</u></p> <p>Typescripts, reading copies, and drafts of speeches; drafts of articles; interviews; research notes, outlines, and book drafts.</p> <p>Speeches, arranged chronologically, are followed by articles, interviews, and book material which are arranged alphabetically by title of the work.</p>
BOX I:275-283	<p><u>Part I: Miscellany, 1915-1948</u></p> <p>A 201 (personnel) file, financial papers, fragmentary diaries, papers of other Air Force officers, fragmentary correspondence and reports, and printed matter.</p>
BOX I:284-321	<p><u>Part I: United States Strategic Air Forces File, 1942-1946</u></p> <p>Correspondence, reports, journals, studies, research notes, news releases, personnel records, memoranda, and directives.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by name of organization.</p>
BOX I:322-329	<p><u>Part I: Eighth Air Force File, 1942-1945</u></p> <p>Correspondence, reports, journals, and printed matter.</p> <p>Correspondence files are arranged chronologically. Other files are arranged alphabetically by subject or document type.</p>
BOX I:CL 1	<p><u>Part I: Classified, 1942-1948</u></p> <p>Material containing security classified information.</p> <p>Organized and described according to the series and container from which the items were removed.</p>

- BOX I:OV 1-I:OV 28** **Part I: Oversize, 1915-1952**
Indexes, scrapbooks, presentation books, photographs, color sketches, maps, certificates, commission, drawings, and printed material.
Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.
- BOX II:1-15** **Part II: Retirement File, 1928-1963**
Correspondence, memoranda, reports and studies, newsletters, minutes of meetings, programs, writings, speeches, statements, notes and research material, photographs, charts, maps, and printed matter.
Arranged alphabetically by subject, title, or the name of an individual or an organization.
- BOX II:15-16** **Part II: Miscellany, 1915-1981**
Correspondence, memoranda, reports, transcripts, maps, photographs, writing and speech notes, drafts, and tear sheets.
Arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material.
- BOX II:OV 1** **Part II: Oversize, 1943**
Map arranged and described according to the series, container, and folder from which it was removed.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX I:1-31	Part I: Diary and Notebooks, 1910-1953 Diary, 1915-1953, consisting of correspondence, reports, invitations, copies of speeches and articles, diary entries, and printed matter, with indexes, 1942-1945, and notebooks, 1910-1940. Most files are arranged chronologically.
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Part I: Diary and Notebooks, 1910-1953

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	San Francisco, Calif., notes on joint maneuvers, 1930
	Personal reports, 1931-1933
	Battle of Britain diary, 1940 <i>For additional material see Container I:7, Diary, 1940</i>
	(3 vols.)
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	Notes on 5500 plane program
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BOX I:45	Timberlake, 1943 Twining, Nathan F., 1944
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Part I: Subject File, 1929-1945

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Part I: Subject File, 1929-1945

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Appendix: Commonly Used Abbreviations in the Collection

For a more comprehensive list and explanations of abbreviations used in the collection, see [Container I:47, Abbreviations, definitions, and codes](#)

Abbreviation	Definition
General	
AAF	Army Air Forces
AEAF	Allied Expeditionary Air Force
AWPD	Air War Plans Department
CBO	Combined Bomber Offensive
COSSAC	Chief of Staff, Supreme Allied Commander
ETOUSA	European Theater of Operations, United States Army
GAF	German Air Force
JOPC	Joint Operational Planning Committee
MAAF	Mediterranean Allied Air Forces
NAAF	Northwest African Air Forces
NACA	National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics
RAF	Royal Air Force
SHAEF	Supreme headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces
UK	United Kingdom
USSBS	United States Strategic Bombing Survey
USSTAF (E)	United States Strategic Air Forces (in Europe)
Aircraft types	
<i>German</i>	
Do	Dornier
FW	Focke-Wulf
He	Heikel
Ju	Junker
Me	Messerschmitt
<i>American</i>	
A	Assault or attack
B	Bomber
C	Cargo or carrier
P	Pursuit
X	Experimental