

**George W. Goddard Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2008**

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

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Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms008053>

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Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2008  
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## Collection Summary

**Title:** George W. Goddard Papers

**Span Dates:** 1889-1984

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1940-1976)

**ID No.:** MSS61803

**Creator:** Goddard, George W., 1889-1987

**Extent:** 4,900 items

**Extent:** 12 containers

**Extent:** 5.2 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm85061803>

**Summary:** United States Air Force brigadier general, author, and pioneer of modern aerial photographic reconnaissance. Correspondence, memoranda, writings, transcripts, research files, reports, patents, grants, diagrams, newspaper clippings, printed material, and photographs pertaining primarily to Goddard's career in the United States Army Air Corps and United States Air Force.

## 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

Eisenhower, Dwight D. (Dwight David), 1890-1969--Interviews.

Foulois, Benjamin Delahauf, 1879-1967--Interviews.

Goddard, George W., 1889- Overview: A life-long adventure in aerial photography. 1969.

Goddard, George W., 1889-1987.

Roosevelt, Elliott, 1910-1990--Interviews.

### Organizations

United States. Air Force--Officers.

United States. Army Air Forces--Officers.

United States. Army. Air Corps--Foreign service--Philippines.

United States. Army. Air Corps--Officers.

### Subjects

Aerial photography--Research.

Aerial photography--Technological innovations.

Aerial reconnaissance, American.

Air bases--Ohio.

Cartography--Philippines--Luzon.

Military camps--Philippines.

Military reconnaissance.

Photographic reconnaissance systems.

Photography, Military--United States.

Stereoscopic cameras.

### Places

Camp Nichols (Philippines)

Luzon (Philippines)--Discovery and exploration.

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (Ohio)

### Occupations

Air Force officers.

Authors.

## Provenance

The papers of George W. Goddard, United States Air Force brigadier general, author, and father of modern aerial photographic reconnaissance, were given to the Library of Congress by his daughter, Diane G. Bergh, in 1985.

## Processing History

The papers of George W. Goddard were arranged and described in 1991. The finding aid was revised in 2008.

## Transfers

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Some photographs and slides have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division. Sound recordings have been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the George W. Goddard Papers.

## Copyright Status

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

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of George W. Goddard 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.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, George W. Goddard Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Date	Event
1889, June 15	Born, Tunbridge Wells, England
1904	Moved to Syracuse, N.Y., to live with relatives
1910	Graduated, Washington Irving Preparatory School, New York, N.Y.
1912-1917	Free-lanced in Rochester, N.Y., as cartoonist and illustrator Staff artist for <i>Coke and Iron Monthly</i> , Chicago, Ill.
1917	Enlisted in the Aviation Section of the Signal Corps, United States Army
1918	Graduated, First Officer's School in Aerial Photography, School of Military Aeronautics, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. Appointed instructor of aerial photographic interpretation, School of Military Aeronautics Naturalized in Syracuse, N.Y.
1919	Assigned to McCook Field, Dayton, Ohio, by Gen. William "Billy" Mitchell; appointed officer-in-charge of aerial photographic research
1920	Promoted to first lieutenant and appointed officer-in-charge of aerial photography in the Office of the Chief of the Air Corps, Washington, D.C.
1924	Reappointed officer-in-charge of aerial photographic research, McCook Field, Dayton, Ohio

1927-1929	Appointed commanding officer of the Sixth Photographic Section, Camp Nichols, Philippine Islands
1929	Named director of the Army Photographic School, Chanute Field, Rantoul, Ill.
1934	Promoted to captain Supervised aerial mapping operations in central and northern Alaska
1936	Appointed chief of aerial photographic research and development, Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio
1940	Promoted to major
1942	Promoted to lieutenant colonel Developed the first stereoscopic strip camera
1943	Married Elizabeth Hayes
1944	Awarded Legion of Merit for work at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio Assisted United States Navy with aerial photographic reconnaissance in England and France
1945	Appointed photographic disarmament officer and assigned to Germany Awarded Oak Leaf Cluster for the Legion of Merit and the French Croix de Guerre
1946	Assigned to Bikini Island in connection with atom bomb testing
1948	Promoted to colonel
1950	Received the Thurman H. Bane Award from the Institute of Aeronautical Sciences Granted patent for the flashlight cartridge and camera night aerial photographic system
1951	Received the Progress Medal Award from the Photographic Society of America
1952	Promoted to brigadier general and appointed director of reconnaissance, Allied Air Forces in Central Europe, Fontainbleau, France
1953	Retired from air force Photographic director, Bulova Research and Development Laboratories, N.Y.
1959	Assistant to the president, Itek Laboratories, Boston, Mass.
1962	Asked by Gen. Curtis LeMay to make stereo strips of Cuban missile sites with the stereoscopic strip camera
1969	With coauthor DeWitt S. Copp published autobiography <i>Overview: A Life-long Adventure in Aerial Photography</i> . Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday Retired from Itek Laboratories
1976	Inducted into the Aviation Hall of Fame and the International Aerospace Hall of Fame
1987, Sept. 20.	Died, Boca Raton, Fla.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of George William Goddard (1889-1987) span the years 1889-1984, with the majority of the items dating from 1940 through 1976. The collection documents Goddard's military service, his writings, research, and public speaking activities, and his pioneering advances in the field of aerial photographic reconnaissance. The papers consist of the following series: [Chronological File](#), [Writings File](#), [Inventions File](#), [Oral History Transcripts File](#), and [Miscellany](#).

The Goddard Papers reflect the drive and enthusiasm of a man whose aspiration in life was the technological advancement of airborne photographic reconnaissance. Goddard's lifelong ambition began in 1919 with an assignment to McCook Field as officer-in-charge of aerial photographic research. Although he had joined the army with the sole intent of flying airplanes, Goddard quickly developed an intense interest in aerial photography. He spent the next thirty-four years advancing its technology and demonstrating its reconnaissance abilities to a rather skeptical army.

As the unofficial spokesman for airborne photographic reconnaissance, Goddard wrote articles for popular magazines, gave numerous slide lectures to professional and military groups, and obtained press coverage to promote the use of aerial photography in reconnaissance operations. These efforts, coupled with his belief that "a full-time push by one man in a given direction greatly exceeds in efficiency part-time opposition by many men," led to increased funding for Goddard's research and development laboratory at Wright Field, improved technology and new inventions, and ultimately, the military's recognition of the remarkable effectiveness of aerial photographic reconnaissance. The technology now standard in reconnaissance today--night and long-range photography, color emulsion, and other methods that enable reconnaissance to be accomplished by high-speed aircraft at all operational altitudes--is due to Goddard's ingenuity and determination.

The [Chronological File](#), originally arranged by Goddard for use in his autobiographical writings, documents his personal, professional, and military experiences as a pioneer in the field of aerial photographic reconnaissance. The series contains correspondence, memoranda, reports, and other materials pertaining to Goddard's military assignments in the United States, Philippines, and Europe, the operations of aerial photographic sections under his command, promotions and awards, and activities after retirement. The Cuban Missile Crisis, in which Goddard played an important role, is represented by only a few newspaper articles. Correspondence, notes, printed materials, newspaper clippings, and articles provide a wealth of biographical information on Goddard and disclose the high regard in which he was held by military officials and civilians involved in aerial photographic reconnaissance.

The [Writings File](#) contains articles, transcripts, correspondence, and working papers relating to Goddard's books, papers, lectures, speeches, and other writing projects. This file also contains book reviews, correspondence, and notes pertaining to his autobiography, *Overview: A Life-long Adventure in Aerial Photography*, and correspondence concerning Goddard's suspicions that the Itek Corporation, the United States Air Force, and Doubleday Publishing Company conspired to halt sales of the book due to its unflattering portrayal of Gen. Henry "Hap" Arnold. Another notable item is an article published by *National Geographic Magazine* in 1930 entitled, "The Unexplored Philippines from the Air." Illustrated with photographs taken by Goddard, the article describes his experiences in 1928 as commanding officer of the Sixth Photographic Section, charged with making a photographic mosaic map of the unexplored northeast corner of Luzon Island.

The [Inventions File](#) consists primarily of patent grants, reports, and diagrams relating to Goddard's patented inventions. Also included in this series are correspondence, notes, and printed materials pertaining to the stereoscopic strip camera. This camera, which was never patented, was developed by Goddard and his colleagues in 1942 at Wright Field and was used to make stereo strips of Cuban missile sites in 1962.

The [Oral History Transcripts File](#) contains transcripts of oral history interviews conducted by Goddard for use in his autobiographical writings. The interviewees were military officers and civilians interested or active in the science of aerial photographic reconnaissance during the years of Goddard's military service, including Benjamin Foulois, Elliott Roosevelt, and Dwight D. Eisenhower. Also included are several interviews with Goddard conducted by others. Original tapes of most of the interviews have been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division of the Library.

The final series in the collection, [Miscellany](#), consists primarily of printed materials collected by Goddard. The file contains books, journals, and informational reports, mostly regarding the use of aerial photographic reconnaissance in World War II. Photographs of Goddard and of his family and friends, several stereograph cards, and a 3-D photograph with stereoscopic glasses are also included.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in five series:

- [Chronological File, 1889-1983](#)
- [Writings File, 1925-1981](#)
- [Inventions File, 1933-1967](#)
- [Oral History Transcripts File, 1963-1969](#)
- [Miscellany, 1910-1984](#)

## Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-5	<p><b><u>Chronological File, 1889-1983</u></b></p> <p>Correspondence, memoranda, reports, notes, newspaper clippings, articles, certificates, photographs, and printed matter relating to the personal, military, and business activities of Goddard.</p> <p>Arrangement is by calendar year. Materials within each year are arranged in the following order: correspondence, military papers, certificates and awards, newspaper clippings, printed matter, photographs, and notes.</p>
BOX 6-8	<p><b><u>Writings File, 1925-1981</u></b></p> <p>Draft copies, articles, transcripts, correspondence, notes, working papers, and research materials relating to Goddard's writing projects.</p> <p>Arrangement is alphabetical by type of material and chronological thereunder.</p>
BOX 8	<p><b><u>Inventions File, 1933-1967</u></b></p> <p>Patent grants, reports, diagrams, correspondence, notes, and printed matter.</p> <p>Arrangement is alphabetical by title of invention.</p>
BOX 9-10	<p><b><u>Oral History Transcripts File, 1963-1969</u></b></p> <p>Transcripts of oral history interviews.</p> <p>Arranged in alphabetical order by surname of interviewee. One folder containing lists and descriptions of the interviewees precedes the transcripts. Although some transcripts are not dated, all of the interviews took place between 1963 and 1969.</p>
BOX 11-12	<p><b><u>Miscellany, 1910-1984</u></b></p> <p>Books, journals, manuals, pamphlets, photographs, press kits, reports, studies, stereograph cards, a 3-D photograph with stereoscopic glasses, and other materials.</p> <p>Arrangement is alphabetical by type of material.</p>

# Container List

Container	Contents
<b>BOX 1-5</b>	<b>Chronological File, 1889-1983</b> Correspondence, memoranda, reports, notes, newspaper clippings, articles, certificates, photographs, and printed matter relating to the personal, military, and business activities of Goddard. Arrangement is by calendar year. Materials within each year are arranged in the following order: correspondence, military papers, certificates and awards, newspaper clippings, printed matter, photographs, and notes.
<b>BOX 1</b>	1889-1940 (13 folders)
<b>BOX 2</b>	1941-1950 (10 folders)
<b>BOX 3</b>	1951-1971 (9 folders)
<b>BOX 4</b>	1972-1977 (7 folders)
<b>BOX 5</b>	1978-1983, undated (6 folders)
<b>BOX 6-8</b>	<b>Writings File, 1925-1981</b> Draft copies, articles, transcripts, correspondence, notes, working papers, and research materials relating to Goddard's writing projects. Arrangement is alphabetical by type of material and chronological thereunder.
<b>BOX 6</b>	Articles, 1930-1951, undated
<b>BOX 6</b>	Book projects
<b>BOX 6</b>	"For the Record," undated (2 folders)
<b>BOX 6</b>	"George Goddard's Sketch Book," 1975
<b>BOX 6</b>	"Goddard's Archives," 1977-1980
<b>BOX 6</b>	<i>Overview: A Life-long Adventure in Aerial Photography</i>
<b>BOX 6</b>	Book reviews, 1969-1970
<b>BOX 6</b>	Correspondence and notes, 1966-1981, undated (2 folders)
<b>BOX 7</b>	Movie idea, 1971, undated
<b>BOX 7</b>	"Pioneering Years in Aerial Photography" (unpublished, distributed by Goddard to educational institutions), 1969-1973
<b>BOX 7</b>	Remarks
<b>BOX 7</b>	General, 1942-1975, undated (2 folders)
<b>BOX 7</b>	Notes and slide captions, undated (2 folders)
<b>BOX 7</b>	Research materials, 1925-1975, undated (1 folder)

## Writings File, 1925-1981

Container	Contents
BOX 8	(3 folders)
BOX 8	<b>Inventions File, 1933-1967</b> Patent grants, reports, diagrams, correspondence, notes, and printed matter. Arrangement is alphabetical by title of invention.
BOX 8	Aerial camera, 1963
BOX 8	Aerial and ground photographic equipment for photographing nuclear bomb explosions, 1961
BOX 8	Automatic aerial photography, 1959
BOX 8	Automatic photographic apparatus, 1933
BOX 8	Flashlight cartridge and camera night aerial photographic system, 1945-1950, undated (2 folders)
BOX 8	Method of illuminating areas viewed from an aircraft at night, 1967
BOX 8	Multiple-sensor airborne reconnaissance systems, 1963
BOX 8	Strip camera, 1945-1949, 1964, undated (2 folders)
BOX 9-10	<b>Oral History Transcripts File, 1963-1969</b> Transcripts of oral history interviews. Arranged in alphabetical order by surname of interviewee. One folder containing lists and descriptions of the interviewees precedes the transcripts. Although some transcripts are not dated, all of the interviews took place between 1963 and 1969.
BOX 9	List of names
BOX 9	Abrams-Baker
BOX 9	Baudu-Cahill
BOX 9	Carroll-Curry
BOX 9	Davidson-Eisenhower
BOX 9	Fairchild-Gilbert
BOX 10	Goddard-Hancock
BOX 10	Hardy-Hoskinson
BOX 10	Kauffman-Knerr
BOX 10	Leghorn-O'Brien
BOX 10	Odenthal-Pierstorff
BOX 10	Reinhartz
BOX 10	Richards-Steakley
BOX 10	Steichen-Tarkington
BOX 10	Troidle-Winston
BOX 11-12	<b>Miscellany, 1910-1984</b> Books, journals, manuals, pamphlets, photographs, press kits, reports, studies, stereograph cards, a 3-D photograph with stereoscopic glasses, and other materials. Arrangement is alphabetical by type of material.
BOX 11	Books, 1957, undated (3 folders)
BOX 11	Journals and magazines, 1936-1956, 1976, undated (3 folders)



## Miscellany, 1910-1984

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
BOX 11	Manuals, 1955
BOX 12	Pamphlets, 1955
BOX 12	Photographs, 1910-1984, undated
BOX 12	Press kits, 1975
BOX 12	Reports, 1935-1945, 1963-1975 (2 folders)
BOX 12	Stereograph and 3-D cards, miscellaneous, undated
BOX 12	Studies, 1961, undated (2 folders)