

**Donald Wilson Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2012**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm81045922>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms013024>

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Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2013

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Donald Wilson Papers

**Span Dates:** 1910-1979

**ID No.:** MSS45922

**Creator:** Wilson, Donald, 1892-1978

**Extent:** 37,600 items

**Extent:** 67 containers plus 2 oversize and 3 vault containers

**Extent:** 26 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm81045922>

**Summary:** U.S. Army and Air Force officer. Diaries, journals, correspondence, speeches, lectures, flight records, maps and other items relating to Wilson's personal life and military career. Diaries include accounts of the Iwo Jima and other South Pacific campaigns during World War II.

## 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

Wilson, Donald, 1892-1978.

### Subjects

Air warfare.

Bombing, Aerial.

Iwo Jima, Battle of, Japan, 1945.

World War, 1914-1918--Aerial operations, American.

World War, 1939-1945--Aerial operations, American.

World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns--Pacific Ocean.

### Places

Mexico--Foreign relations--United States.

Mexico--History--Revolution, 1910-1920.

United States--Foreign relations--Mexico.

### Occupations

Air Force officers.

Army officers.

## Provenance

The papers of Donald Wilson, U.S. Army and Air Force officer, were given to the Library of Congress by Wilson in 1962. Additions were given by him in 1971-1978.

## Processing History

The collection was processed in 1979 and expanded in 1984. The finding aid was revised in 2012.

## Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Donald Wilson in these papers and in other collections in the custody of the Library of Congress is reserved. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division for further information.

## Access and Restrictions

Restrictions apply governing the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division for information concerning these restrictions. In addition, 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, Donald Wilson Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Date	Event
1892, Sept. 25	Born, Hiner's Mill, W.Va.
1910	Surveyor, Baltimore and Ohio Railroad
1916-1917	Enlisted in the Maryland National Guard as a private and served with it on the Mexican border
1918-1919	Served on the Western Front during World War I and was transferred to the United States Army Air Service
1938-1939	Director of Air Tactics and Strategy and head of Air Corps Tactical School, the forerunner of the Air University at Maxwell Field in Alabama
1942-1944	Chief of staff, Fifth Air Force
1944	Assistant chief of staff, United States Army Air Forces for Organization, Commitments and Requirements
1945	Present at the Battle of Iwo Jima as an official Army Air Forces observer Assumed command of Air Force Proving Ground Command.
1947	Discharged from army with rank of major general
1973	Published <i>Wooing Peponi: My Odyssey thru Many Years</i> . [Carmel, Calif.]: D. Wilson
1978, June 21	Died

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Donald Wilson (1892-1978) span the years 1910-1979 and consist of diaries, journals, correspondence, writings, speeches, military lectures, flight records, news clippings, and maps relating chiefly to Wilson's military career as an army and air force officer from service on the Mexican border before World War I through World War II. The diaries contain accounts of the Iwo Jima campaign during World War II and of other battles in the South Pacific. A focus is on the primacy of air warfare and strategic bombing. The greatest portion of the correspondence is personal and non-military. Included in the collection is a manuscript by Wilson entitled "Origin of a Theory for Air Strategy."

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is organized by type of material and includes two additions.

# Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Diaries and journals
BOX 2	General correspondence
BOX 2	1910-1912
BOX 3	1913-1915
BOX 4	1915-1917
BOX 5	1917-1918
BOX 6	1918-1919
BOX 7	1919-1933
BOX 8	1934-1943
BOX 9	1943
BOX 10	1943-1945
BOX 11	1945-1954
BOX 12	1955-1960
BOX 13	1960-1962
BOX 14	Book, articles, and speeches
BOX 14	Articles and speeches
BOX 14	Book, "The Origin of a Theory for Air Strategy"
BOX 15	Miscellaneous
BOX 16	Subject file
BOX 16	A-M
BOX 17	M-O
BOX 18	O-T
BOX 19	T-V
BOX 20	Personal file
BOX 21	Military lectures
BOX 22	Miscellany
BOX 23	Flight records
BOX 24	Newspaper clippings and scrapbooks
BOX 25	Printed matter, maps, diagrams, and commissions
BOX 26	Addition I
BOX 26	Travel notebooks
BOX 26	1950s-1960s
BOX 27	1970s
BOX 28-30	Family correspondence, 1950s-1970s
BOX 31-34	General correspondence, 1950s-1970s
BOX 35-36	Subject file, 1950s-1970s
BOX 37-39	Travel file, 1950s-1970s
BOX 40-46	Writings
BOX 40-46	Autobiography, <i>Woing Peponi</i> , 1940s-1970s
BOX 47	Articles, 1940s-1970s, undated
BOX 48-57	Financial records, 1910-1970s

## Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 58-62	Miscellany, including clippings and loose maps
BOX 63-64	Photographs
BOX OV 65	Printing plates for <i>Wooing Peponi</i> , awards, certificates, and phototographic reproductions (Oversize)
BOX X66-X68	Closed material
BOX 69	Addition II
BOX 69	Correspondence, 1976-1978
BOX 69	Condolences, 1978-1979
BOX 69	Financial records
BOX 69	Housing miscellany, 1951-1978 (4 folders)
BOX 69	Passbooks, 1961-1978
BOX 70	Cashbooks, 1951-1977
BOX 70	Bank statements, 1974-1977
BOX 70	Receipts, 1976-1978
BOX 71	Vouchers, 1950-1977
BOX 71	Check stubs, 1973-1978
BOX 71	Diploma, Air Corps Tactical School, 1931
BOX OV 72	“Operational Survey No. 1, Land-Air Offensive in New Guinea, ” typescript and maps (Oversize) 1942, Nov. 2-1943, Jan. 23