

Maurice Constant photographic portraits of Allied military and political leaders



**Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2020**

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/pp.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2004667316>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/eadpnp.pp020005>

Prepared by the Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress

Finding aid encoded by Prints and Photographs Division staff, August 2020
Revised November 2020

Collection Summary

Title: Maurice Constant photographic portraits of Allied military and political leaders

Span Dates: 1939-1945

Call No.: LOT 11822 (H)

Creator: Constant, Maurice, photographer, donor

Extent: 319 photographic prints : gelatin silver ; 41 x 51 cm. or smaller.

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2004667316>

Summary: This collection contains formal portraits of Allied military and political leaders of the World War II period. These photographs were originally produced for the United States Navy's archive, as part of a project starting in 1942 to create a pictorial record of prominent figures in the Allied war effort, including military personnel, politicians, ministers, and cabinet officers, as well as leaders from the Allied Nations. Pictured are leaders from the United States, Great Britain, the USSR, Europe, the Middle East, South America, and China.

Online Content: To see already digitized images from this collection, search our [Online Catalog](#) by call number or descriptive words.

Provenance

Gift of Commander Maurice Constant, USNR Retired; 1946.

Processing History

The Maurice Constant photographic portraits of Allied military and political leaders collection was processed by Prints and Photographs Staff. This finding aid contains unverified data from old container lists transcribed by Erin Ebert in 2020. Finding aid encoded by Maggie McCready in August 2020.

Related Material

Exhibit material with minimal documentation and unknown provenance came with the collection and is available in the Prints and Photographs Supplementary Archives; however, it is not certain which particular photos they relate to.

Related Materials at Other Repositories

The National Archives at College Park - Still Pictures (RDSS) also holds photographic prints and negatives taken by Maurice Constant:

- **Collection Identifier:** MC; Collection: National Broadcasting Company Collection of Photographs of U.S. And Foreign Officials Taken by Navy Cdr. Maurice Constant, 1938 - 1953.
- **Local Identifier:** 38-MCP; Portraits of Allied Military and Political Leaders, 1942 - 1946 from Record Group 38: Records of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, 1875 - 2006

Online Content

To see already digitized images from this collection, search our [Online Catalog](#) by call number or descriptive words.

Rights Restrictions

No known restrictions on publication. For information, see: "[Maurice Constant](#)"

Access Restrictions

The Maurice Constant photographic portraits of Allied military and political leaders collection is open to research.

Requesting Materials

For information about service in the Prints and Photographs Reading Room, including obtaining copies, see "[Information for Researchers](#)."

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, [reproduction number, e.g., LC-DIG-ppmsca-12345]

Bibliography

Guide to the Special Collections of Prints and Photographs in the Library of Congress / compiled by Paul Vanderbilt.

Washington, D.C. : 1955, no. 149 (Available in the Prints and Photographs Reading Room and [HathiTrust](#))

Washingtoniana : photographs : collections in the Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress / Kathleen Collins. Washington : The Library, 1989.

Biographical Note

Lieutenant Commander Maurice Constant of the USNR was born in Brooklyn, New York on June 4, 1895. In civilian life, Constant was a portrait photographer, capturing the likenesses of prominent figures in the arts, sciences, and government, including the Supreme Court Justices.

Prior to the creation of this set of photographs, Constant was commissioned in 1938 by Franklin D. Roosevelt to photograph members of his cabinet. Many of these photographs are incorporated into the Franklin D. Roosevelt Hyde Park Library archives. By 1942, Constant was commissioned as a Navy Officer and documentary photographer for the US Navy Archives in the Bureau of Personnel. Constant was tasked with photographing prominent navy flag officers and army leaders from the War Department as part of an effort to document United States military leadership during World War II. The Navy set up a Documentary Photography unit in "BuPers", or the Bureau of Naval Personnel as part of this effort. Constant reportedly traveled the globe three times between 1942 and 1945 to photograph other prominent allied leaders in Europe and China, and continued serving as a military photographer through the Korean War from 1950-1953.

In recognition of this work, Constant earned a letter of commendation from the Secretary of the Navy, and received a commendation from the Air Force in 1957. Constant died on September 17, 1968 in East Farmingdale, New York.

Scope and Content Note

The Photographic portraits of Allied military and political leaders is the product of Maurice Constant's work for the Bureau of Naval Personnel and the US Navy Archives during a project to document United States military leaders and Allied leaders of World War II for the historical record. Originally shot between 1942 and 1945, these 323 portrait photographs depict United States Naval, Air Force, and Army leaders and politicians; as well as prominent Allied leaders in Europe; the USSR; South America; the Middle East; Africa; and China.

Arrangement

The Photographic portraits of Allied military and political leaders is organized alphabetically.

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

Constant, Maurice, photographer, donor.

Subjects

Government officials--1930-1950.

Military officers--1930-1950.

Form/Genre

Gelatin silver prints--1930-1950.

Portrait photographs--1930-1950.

Description of Series

Container

Series

Maurice Constant photographic portraits of Allied military and political leaders, 1939-1945

Call No.: LOT 11822 (H)

Container List

Container	Contents
	Maurice Constant photographic portraits of Allied military and political leaders, 1939-1945
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BOX 1	Alexander, Rt. Hon. Albert Victor
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BOX 1	Arnold, Henry H.
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BOX 7	Fredrick, Robert T. Maj. Gen.
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BOX 9	Gromyko, Andrai A.
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BOX 9	Harris, Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur
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