

Carl Spaatz

A Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Charles Cooney

**Revised and expanded by Nan Thompson Ernst with the
assistance of Susie H. Moody**



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

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Latest revision: 2005-11-22

Collection Summary

Title: Papers of Carl Spaatz

Span Dates: 1910-1981

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1942-1963)

ID No.: MSS40725

Creator: Spaatz, Carl, 1891-1974

Extent: 120,000 items; 345 containers plus 22 oversize plus 1 classified; 145 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: 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 U.S. Army Air Forces in Europe, the allied air forces in North Africa, and, after July 1945, the Strategic Air Force in the Pacific.

Administrative Information

Provenance:

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:

Part I of the Carl Spaatz Papers is described in the Library of Congress *Quarterly Journal*, vol. 6, May 1949, pp. 23-54. It was arranged and described in 1968. Additional material received in 1981 and 1988 was processed as Part II in 1996. The finding aid was revised in 2005.

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The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Carl Spaatz is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

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: Container number, Carl Spaatz Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Names:

Spaatz, Carl, 1891-1974
 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
 Eisenhower, Dwight D. (Dwight David), 1890-1969--Correspondence
 Knerr, Hugh Johnston, 1887-1971--Correspondence
 Lahm, Frank Purdy, 1877-1963--Correspondence
 LeMay, Curtis E.--Correspondence
 Lovett, Robert A. (Robert Abercrombie), 1895- --Correspondence
 Mack, Ted--Correspondence
 Marshall, George C. (George Catlett), 1880-1959--Correspondence
 Mitchell, William, 1879-1936 --Correspondence
 Nixon, Richard M. (Richard Milhous), 1913- --Correspondence
 Patterson, Robert Porter, 1891-1952--Correspondence
 Quesada, Elwood R. (Elwood Richard), 1904- --Correspondence
 Snyder, John W. (John Wesley), 1895-1985--Correspondence
 Stimson, Henry Lewis, 1867-1950--Correspondence
 Symington, Stuart, 1901- --Correspondence
 Twining, Nathan F. (Nathan Farragut), 1897-1982--Correspondence
 Truman, Harry S., 1884-1972--Correspondence
 Vandenberg, Hoyt Sanford, 1899-1954--Correspondence
 Warner, Jack, 1916- --Correspondence
 White, Thomas D. (Thomas Dresser), 1901-1965--Correspondence
 United States. Air Force
 United States. Army Air Forces
 United States Strategic Air Forces in Europe
 Eaker, Ira, 1896-1987. Papers of Ira Eaker
 Hopper, Bruce C. (Bruce Campbell), 1892-1973. Papers of Bruce C. Hopper

Subjects:

Operation Overlord
 Operation Torch
 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

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
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 ean. 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, 1932-1952, n.d.](#)
- Part II
 - [Retirement File, 1928-1963, n.d.](#)
 - [Miscellany, 1915-1981, n.d.](#)
 - [Oversize, 1943](#)

Description of Series

Container

Series

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 an index, 1942-1945, and notebooks, 1910-1940.

Most files are arranged chronologically.

BOX I:32-46

Part I: Cables, 1943-1945

Redline cables, incoming and outgoing.

Arranged in a chronological file and an alphabetical file by name of correspondent.

BOX I:47-241

Part I: Subject File, 1929-1945

Reports, charts, surveys, graphs, maps, interviews, cables, and correspondence.

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

BOX I:242-267

Part I: Chief of Staff File, 1946-1948

Office file consisting of desk calendars, mail lists, telephone memoranda, correspondence, reports, invitations, and visitor records; general correspondence; and a subject file.

General correspondence is arranged chronologically. The subject file is arranged alphabetically by subject and chronologically thereunder.

BOX I:268-274

Part I: Speech, Article, and Book File, 1946-1948

Typescripts, reading copies, and drafts of speeches; drafts of articles; interviews; research notes, outlines, and book drafts.

Speeches, arranged chronologically, are followed by articles, interviews, and book material which are arranged alphabetically by title of the work.

BOX I:275-283

Part I: Miscellany, 1915-1948

A 201 (personnel) file, financial papers, fragmentary diaries, papers of other Air Force officers, fragmentary correspondence and reports, and printed matter.

BOX I:284-321

Part I: United States Strategic Air Forces File, 1942-1946

Correspondence, reports, journals, studies, research notes, news releases, personnel records, memoranda, and directives.

Arranged alphabetically by name of organization.

BOX I:322-329

Part I: Eighth Air Force File, 1942-1945

Correspondence, reports, journals, and printed matter.

Correspondence files are arranged chronologically. Other files are arranged alphabetically by subject or document type.

BOX I:CL 1

Part I: Classified, 1942-1948

Material containing security classified information.

Organized and described according to the series and container from which the items were removed.

- BOX I:OV 1-I:OV 21** **Part I: Oversize, 1932-1952, n.d.**
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, n.d.**
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, n.d.**
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.

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<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
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Part I: Diary and Notebooks, 1910-1953

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BOX I:32-46	Part I: Cables, 1943-1945 Redline cables, incoming and outgoing. Arranged in a chronological file and an alphabetical file by name of correspondent.
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BOX I:47-241	Part I: Subject File, 1929-1945 Reports, charts, surveys, graphs, maps, interviews, cables, and correspondence. Arranged alphabetically by subject.
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BOX I:271	Research notes
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BOX I:275	Personal miscellany - Banking correspondence, 1946-1948 - Bank note, 1946 - Bank statements, 1946 - Bills - Bonds - Bonneville, Ltd. - Certificates, commission, and drawings <i>See Oversize</i> - Federal income tax, 1946-1948 - Insurance - Liquor bills - Memberships and subscriptions - Mexican award <i>Newsweek</i> congratulations - Scrapbooks <i>See Oversize</i> - Virginia tax, 1947
BOX I:276	201 (personnel) file - Other material - Collected personal papers - Knerr, Hugh Johnston - Moore, Clifford J. - Twining, Nathan F. (diary fragment)
BOX I:277	Fragments - Eisenhower, Dwight D.-Montgomery, Bernard L., correspondence (copies) Research papers - Miscellaneous

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BOX I:279	Miscellaneous printed matter <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX I:280	Miscellaneous printed matter
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BOX I:282	Miscellaneous printed matter
BOX I:283	Miscellaneous printed matter
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BOX I:284	Activity reports Adjutant general's office Advisory Specialist Group Air inspector Commanding general Headquarters General orders
BOX I:285	Letter directives Memoranda
BOX I:286	Historical Section Correspondence General 1941-1944
BOX I:287	1945 Hopper, Bruce C., and Carl Spaatz, 1945 Journals Office 1943 July-1944 Aug. 1944 Sept.-1945 Aug. Private journal of Bruce C. Hopper, 1943 May-1945 Apr.
BOX I:289	Daily work journal German historians project Correspondence Documents Inventory (von Rhoden Collection) Studies Annex to short study 5 Battle for air supremacy over Britain German Air Force in the Mediterranean Reich air defense

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BOX I:317	Memoranda Organization Periodic report Policy book
BOX I:318	Publications Range violations Ranges Miscellany
BOX I:319	Organization Papers taken by Ira C. Eaker Plans and Post-hostilities Section Presentation books <i>See Oversize</i> Public relations office Journal
BOX I:320	News releases (numbered) Staff meetings, daily and weekly
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BOX I:322-329	Part I: Eighth Air Force File, 1942-1945 Correspondence, reports, journals, and printed matter. Correspondence files are arranged chronologically. Other files are arranged alphabetically by subject or document type.
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BOX I:326	Report of Committee of Officers Report for General Devers Report on North African mission Special report on Bremen, Germany Report of special investigation Tactical mission report (D-Day) Report on target priorities, Eighth Air Force
BOX I:327	Commands Bomber Command Bombardment Division Commanders meetings Diary General's notebook Letters Public relations office Operational training school Operations summaries Reports, final Fighter Command Faranol, Lynn, "To the Limits of Their Endurance: A Family Story of the VIII Fighter Command" Reports Weekly commander's report
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BOX I:329	Public relations office Signal Section Station lists Strategic and tactical operations See Oversize "Visit of Carl A. Spaatz," 1945 See Oversize Weather Section Miscellaneous material, 1942-1943
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Part I: Classified, 1942-1948

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BOX I:OV 8	Chief of Staff File, 1946-1948 Subject file Air Force Planning Stanford Research Institute, <i>Expansibility of the Airframe Industry</i> , volume 2, 1948 (Container I:255)
BOX I:OV 9	Training “Air Indoctrination Course,” Tactical Air Command, Ninth Air Force, 1947 (Container I:255)
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BOX I:OV 11	Scrapbooks Commemoration service, American Memorial Chapel, St. Paul's Cathedral, London, England, 1952 (Container I:275)
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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	Heinkel
Ju	Junker
Me	Messerschmitt
<i>American</i>	
A	Assault or attack
B	Bomber
C	Cargo or carrier
P	Pursuit
X	Experimental