



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT W. DOUGLASS JR.

Died May 27, 1976

Robert Wilkins Douglass Jr. was born in 1900 in Memphis, Tenn. He joined the Student Army Training Corps on Oct. 10, 1918; entered the U.S. Military Academy Nov. 3, 1918, graduated June 13, 1922 and was commissioned a second lieutenant of Infantry.

After serving with the 29th Infantry at Fort Benning, Ga., General Douglass entered the Primary Flying School at Brooks Field, Texas in March 1924, was transferred to the Advanced Flying School at Kelly Field, Texas, and completed his flying training a year later. He was assigned to the 94th Pursuit Squadron at Selfridge Field, Mich. In January 1926 he went to France Field in the Panama Canal Zone for duty with the 24th Pursuit Squadron, and on April 13, 1926 was transferred to the Air Service.

Appointed an instructor in the Air Corps Primary Flying School at Brooks Field, Texas in February 1929, General Douglass served as aide to the commanding general of Duncan Field, Texas from January 1930 to October 1931, moving to Randolph Field, Texas in that capacity. In August 1934 he entered the Air Corp Tactical School at Maxwell Field, Ala., and graduated the following June. Moving to Barksdale Field, La., he served with the 55th Pursuit Squadron and later became intelligence and operations officer of the 20th Pursuit Group.

Going to Schofield Barracks, Hawaii in September 1937, General Douglass was assigned to the 18th Pursuit Group, and two years later joined the 18th Reconnaissance Squadron at Mitchel Field, N.Y. From September 1940 until January 1941 he was an observer in England, and then attended the Air Defense School at Mitchel Field. In April 1941 he was named executive officer of the Third Interceptor Command at Tampa, Fla., becoming operations officer of the Third Air Force that October. The following February he was named a member of the Permanent Joint Board on Defense of Canada and the U.S.

Returning to Hawaii in September 1942, General Douglass commanded the Seventh Fighter Command until April 1944 when he assumed command of the Seventh Air Force in the Central Pacific. In July 1945 he was assigned to the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. That October the general assumed command of the First Air Force at Mitchel Field, N.Y., taking it to Fort Slocum, N.Y. the following June. He became commanding general of the Indoctrination Division of the Air Training Command at San Antonio, Texas in July 1947.

Transferred to the U.S. Air Forces in Europe in October 1948, General Douglass was named Chief of Staff, USAFE, at Wiesbaden, Germany. In February 1951 he became acting commander of the 12th Air Force at Wiesbaden and the following month was named special assistant to the commander-in-chief, USAFE, there. That April he assumed command of the 18th Air Force, Tactical Air Command, at Greenville Air Force Base, S.C.

Assigned to Air Force headquarters, Washington, D.C. on Sept. 30, 1954, the general was named senior U.S. Air Force member on the Joint Mexican - U.S. Defense Commission. On Nov. 1, 1954 he also became senior U.S. Air Force member, U.S. Delegation, on the Joint Brazil -U.S. Defense Commission.

His decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star Medal, and Air Medal. He is rated a command pilot, combat observer and technical observer.

Robert Wilkins Douglass , Jr.

Date of birth: March 8, 1900
Date of death: May 27, 1976
Place of Birth: Tennessee, Memphis
Home of record: Memphis Tennessee

Robert Wilkins graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Class of 1922. He retired as a U.S. Air Force Major General.

AWARDS AND CITATIONS



Air Force Distinguished Service Medal

See more recipients of this award

Awarded for actions during the Cold War

(Citation Needed) - SYNOPSIS: Major General Robert Wilkins Douglass, Jr. (AFSN: 46A), United States Air Force, Service Medal (Army Design) for exceptionally meritorious and distinguished services to the Government of the United States.

General Orders: Department of the Air Force, General Orders No. 54 (1951)

Service: Air Force

Rank: Major General



Legion of Merit

See more recipients of this award

Awarded for actions during the World War II

(Citation Needed) - SYNOPSIS: Major General Robert Wilkins Douglass, Jr. (AFSN: 46A), United States Army Air Force, for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services to the Government of the United States, from 1944 to 1945.

Action Date: 1944 - 1945

Service: Army Air Forces

Rank: Major General

Company: Commanding General

Division: 7th Air Force



Distinguished Flying Cross

[See more recipients of this award](#)

Awarded for actions during the World War II

(Citation Needed) - SYNOPSIS: Major General Robert Wilkins Douglass, Jr. (AFSN: 46A), United States Army Air Force, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as Commanding General, SEVENTH Air Force, and zealous manner in which he has sought out the enemy and destroyed him, his devotion to duty and courage to his fellow flyers. His actions on all these occasions reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States.

Action Date: World War II

Service: Army Air Forces

Rank: Major General

Company: Commanding General

Division: 7th Air Force

Robert W. Douglass, Jr. 1922

Cullum No. 6905 • May 27, 1976 • Died in Heber Springs, AR

Interred in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA



Robert Wilkins Douglass Jr., was born in Memphis, Tennessee, on 8 March 1900. He served in the Student Army Training Corps at the University of Tennessee prior to entering the United States Military Academy on 3 November 1918. He was graduated and commissioned a second lieutenant in the Infantry on 13 June 1922.

After serving with the 29th Infantry at Fort Benning, Georgia, he entered Primary Training School at Brooks Field, Texas, in March of 1924, then to the Advanced Flying School at Kelly Field, Texas, graduating in 1925. He was assigned to the 94th

Pursuit Squadron at Selfridge Field, Michigan, in 1926 and later went to the 24th Pursuit Squadron at France Field, Panama Canal Zone. His transfer to Air Service occurred on 13 April 1926.

In 1929 he became an instructor in the Air Corps Primary Flying School at Brooks Field, Texas. The next year he became aide to General F. P. Lahm at Duncan Field, Texas, and the following year became aide to General Charles H. Danforth.

In 1934 he attended the Air Corps Tactical School at Maxwell Field, Alabama, graduating in 1935, and was appointed intelligence and operations officer of the 20th Pursuit Group at Barksdale Field, Louisiana. He then entered and graduated from the Command and General Staff school at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, in 1937.

Going to Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, in 1937, he served with the 18th Pursuit Group for two years, returning to the states to serve with the 18th Reconnaissance Squadron at Mitchel Field, New York.

In 1940 until January 1941 he was an Observer in England returning to Mitchel Field, New York, to attend Air Defense School. In 1941 he was named Executive Officer of the Third Interceptor Command at Tampa, Florida, and later became Operations Officer of the same unit. The following year he was named a member of the Permanent Joint Board on Defense of Canada and the United States.

In 1942 he returned to Hawaii to command the Seventh Fighter Command until 1944 at which time he assumed command of the Seventh Air Force in the Central Pacific. His unit covered the Gilberts, Marshalls, Mariannas and Bonin Islands.

After World War II ended he became Commanding General of the 1st Air Force at Mitchel Field, New York, and later transferred his headquarters to Fort Slocum, New York. In 1947 he was assigned as Commanding

General of the Indoctrination Division of the Air Training Command at San Antonio, Texas.

His new assignment in 1948 was to the United States Air Forces in Europe as Chief of Staff at Wiesbaden, Germany, thereafter becoming Acting Commander of the 12th Air Force and then Special Assistant to the Commander-in-Chief, United States Air Force in Europe. Following this he became Commanding General of the 18th Air Force, Tactical Air Command, Greenville, South Carolina.

In 1954 he was assigned to Air Force Headquarters, Washington, D.C., and named Senior USAF Member of the Joint Mexican-United States Defense Commission, and also Senior USAF Delegate, Inter-American Defense Board, and Senior Member of the United States Delegation of The Joint Brazil-United States Defense Commission.

He retired from the Air Force on 28 February 1957 at Donaldson Air Force Base, Greenville, South Carolina.

This was not to end his active career. Shortly after retiring he accepted a position as New York representative for United Aircraft International in New York City, which was later known as United Technologies Corporation. He served in this capacity for a period of ten years.

During the same period he served as president of the Wings Club of New York.

In 1967 he re-retired and moved to Eden Isle, Arkansas, where he had built a beautiful home and spent his time with gardening, fishing, golf and just enjoying himself.

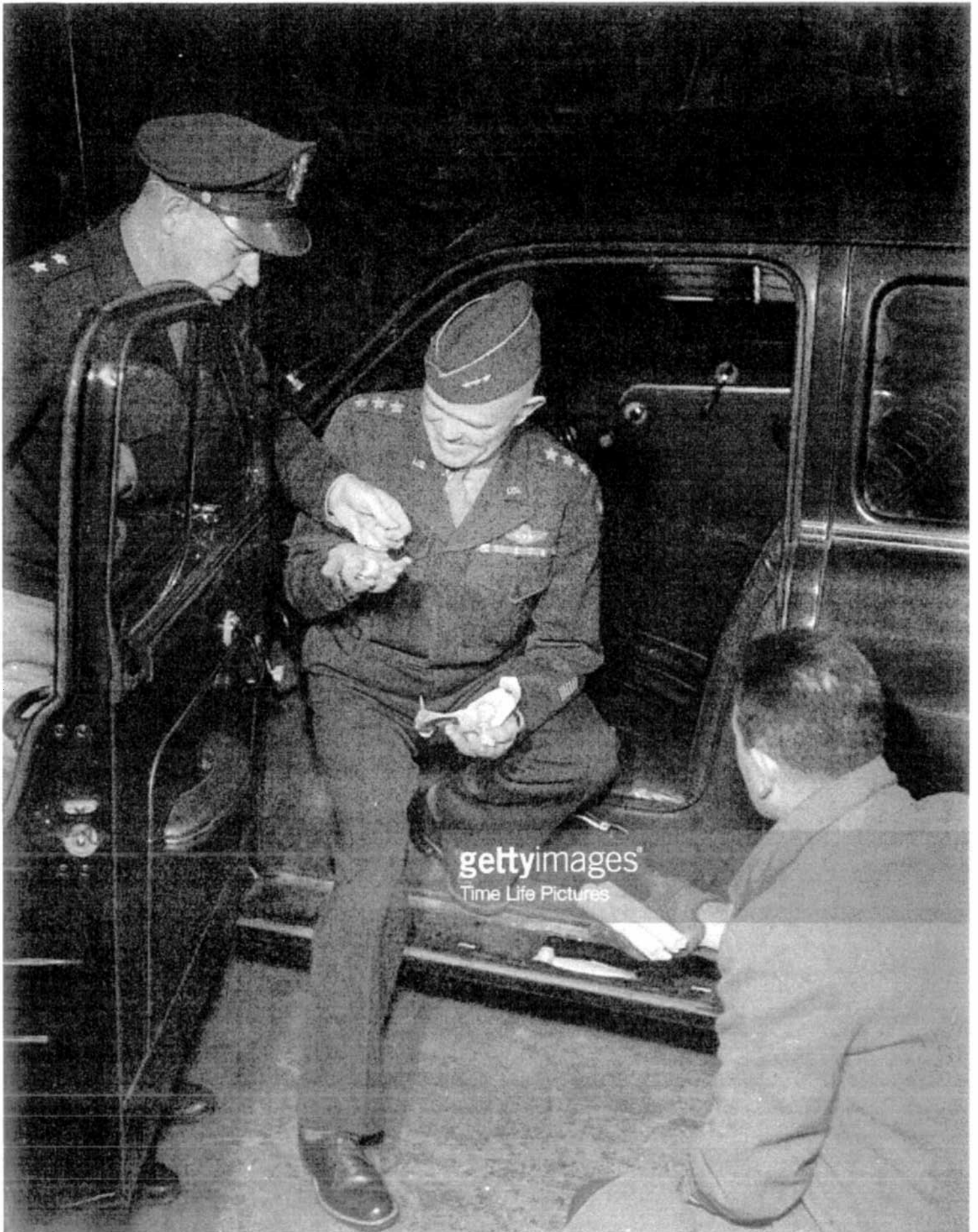
He is survived by his wife, Irene; his son, Robert W. Douglass III, Class of 1950, United States Military Academy; two grandchildren, Susan Douglass and Robert W. Douglass IV; and one great-grandchild, Christopher Douglass. He also leaves four sisters.

His decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star Medal and Air Medal.

Bob's devotion to his class and West Point was shown in his activity in the West Point Society of New York and by his participation in the sports and reunions at West Point.

In summation, Bob's life and service can best be described by the words of Alma Mater. "Well Done, Be Thou at Peace."

February 1, 1949, Maj. Gen Robert W. Douglass Jr. (L) and Lt. Gen. John K. Cannon (C) looking at contraband that was seized when smugglers were apprehended.



STARS AND STRIPES®

From the S&S archives: Acheson confers today with leaders in Bonn

Stars and Stripes

Published: November 13, 1949

FRANKFURT, Nov. 12 — Secretary of State Dean Acheson will journey by train to Bonn tomorrow to see firsthand the capital of the new West German Federal Republic and to visit President Theodor Heuss and Chancellor Konrad Adenauer.

Acheson will be accompanied by U.S. High Commissioner John J. McCloy, and other officials, on his one-day visit. He will return to Frankfurt the same evening.

Acheson spent today in Frankfurt and Heidelberg, engaging in a brisk round of conferences and social engagements.

He lunched at Heidelberg's Schloss Hotel with Gen Thomas T. Handy, EUCOM commander, and top members of Handy's staff.

Acheson was accompanied by McCloy, U.S. Ambassador to Britain Lewis Douglas; and Henry A. Byroade, chief of the State Department's office of German affairs, and members of their staffs.

Military leaders attending, besides Handy, were Lt Gen Clarence R. Huebner, CG, U.S. Army, Europe; Lt Gen John K. Cannon, CG, USAFE; Maj Gen Daniel Noce, vice-chief of staff, EUCOM; **Maj Gen Robert W. Douglass, Jr., USAFE chief of staff**; Capt Harold E. Duryea, Naval liaison officer assigned to EUCOM, and Maj Gen William E. Hall, EUCOM director of intelligence.



Gathered for a luncheon at Schloss Hotel in Heidelberg in November, 1949, are (left to right) Lt. Gen. Clarence Huebner, USAREUR commander; Capt. Harold Duryea, a naval liaison officer attached to EUCOM; John J. McCloy, U.S. High Commissioner for Germany; Secretary of State Dean Acheson; Lt. Gen. John K. Cannon, USAFE commander; Lewis Douglas, U.S. Ambassador to Britain; and Gen. Thomas T. Handy, EUCOM commander.

GEORGE PENN / ©STARS AND STRIPES

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Lieutenant General EDWARD H. UNDERHILL, USA
(June 1963 - July 1964)



Vice Admiral BERNARD L. AUSTIN, USA
(August 1964 - July 1967)



Lieutenant General JAMES D. ALGER, USA
(August 1967 - July 1970)



Bibliographical Note

This volume is based primarily upon available official public documents of the United States and Canada and upon the official files of the following U.S. Government agencies: the U.S. Section of the Permanent Joint Board on Defense, Canada-United States, the Department of State, the War Department, the Navy Department, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The public documents used in preparing the study are listed below under Published Works.

Official Records

Permanent Joint Board on Defense Papers

These papers were the most concentrated and fruitful source of material for this study. They include the official records of the Board itself, the extensive correspondence exchanged between the various members of the Canadian and U.S. Sections of the Board, and the similar but even more extensive correspondence between the members of the U.S. Section and agencies of the State, War, and Navy Departments.

In theory, the office of the U.S. secretary of the Board in the Department of State was the office of record for the U.S. Section. In fact, the office of the U.S. Army members of the Board was the repository of the most complete records on the subject of U.S.-Canadian wartime military co-operation. There appear to be two reasons for this. First, virtually all matters dealt with by the Board were also within the purview of the U.S. Army members, whereas many matters of narrower scope were worked out between the U.S. Army members and War Department agencies without reference to the secretary of the U.S. Section. Second, the U.S. Army members maintained a separate office of record, whereas the U.S. secretary did not keep distinctly separate records for Board matters. Instead, he incorporated Board papers with the files he maintained as the Canadian-desk officer or as officer in charge of Dominion affairs. In addition, the bulk of the World War II papers of the U.S. secretary has been retired to, and amalgamated with, the general Department of State records.

Where the State Department records have been used, they are identified by a Department of State file reference. Permanent Joint Board papers are located in the files of the U.S. Army members of the Board and references thereto are identifiable by the file index PDB.

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Department of State Papers

In addition to the papers of the U.S. secretary of the Board, important materials concerning politico-military co-operation in matters outside the area of co-operation through the Permanent Joint Board on Defense are to be found in the Department of State papers. References thereto are identifiable by the file index notation D/S. The papers, carefully classified and indexed, are to be found in the Division of Communications and Records.

War Department Papers

The responsibilities, of the War Plans Division, or Operations Division, as it was redesignated in March 1942, were such that the politico-military policy matters, and the major questions of command, strategy, supply, planning, and operations pertaining to U.S.-Canadian co-operation were within its purview. It was necessary to examine the records of those two divisions, particularly for the periods immediately preceding and following the establishment of the Board, in order to obtain materials on those joint problems and transactions that were handled outside the Board.

References to a portion of these papers are identifiable by the file indexes WPD and OPD. Papers relating to problems involving countries other than Canada and requiring consideration by the Combined and/or Joint Chiefs of Staff were maintained by the Operations Division in a separate file identified by the symbol ABC. Most of these records have been retired to the Departmental Records Branch, The Adjutant General's Office.

Navy Department Papers

By and large, the Permanent Joint Board on Defense papers provided adequate material on wartime naval co-operation. In a few instances it was necessary to refer to records of the Chief of Naval Operations on file in the Naval Records and History Division, Navy Department. Joint Chiefs of Staff Papers

A number of matters bearing on U.S.-Canadian co-operation were acted upon by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The scope of these matters was severely limited by virtue of the fact that, by the time of the establishment of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in January 1942, the basic U.S.-Canadian plans had been drafted, and the decisions had already been taken concerning the majority of the strategic and logistical measures in which the two countries collaborated.

Documentation from Joint Chiefs of Staff files is identifiable by indexes beginning with the letter "J," as, for example, JCS for Joint Chiefs of Staff, or JPS for Joint Staff Planners.

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Private Papers

Significant materials frequently covering matters not of record in the official U.S. Government files were found in the diaries of Henry L. Stimson and Henry Morgenthau, Jr., the World War II Secretaries of War and the Treasury, and of Jay Pierrepont Moffat, the U.S. Minister in Ottawa from 4 June 1940 to 24 January 1943. Messrs. McGeorge Bundy, Henry Morgenthau, Jr., and Joseph C. Grew, respectively, generously granted access to the pertinent data. The papers of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library at Hyde Park were an additional valuable source of materials that were not to be found elsewhere. Those papers relevant to this study were examined and, where cited, are identified as from the "Roosevelt Papers."

Interviews

A number of the principal American participants in the events recorded in this volume were interviewed by the author or were queried through correspondence. Their views or comments were sought on points obscure in the official records. In addition, appropriate portions of the draft of the volume were reviewed by the following officers who held positions in the State, War, and Navy Departments during World War II:

Brigadier General Milton W. Arnold, U.S. Air Force (retired)
Brigadier General Henry A. Barber, Jr., U.S. Army (retired)
Major General Gerald C. Brant, U.S. Army (retired)
Lieutenant General Edward H. Brooks, U.S. Army (retired)
Lieutenant Colonel Robert S. Burhans, U.S. Army
Colonel Albert H. Burton, U.S. Army (retired)

Mr. Lewis Clark, Department of State
Colonel C. M. Clifford, U.S. Army
Major General Robert W. Douglass, Jr., U.S. Air Force
Brigadier General Beverly C. Dunn, U.S. Army (retired)
Colonel Parmer W. Edwards, U.S. Army
Lieutenant General Stanley D. Embick, U.S. Army (retired)
Major General Robert T. Frederick, U.S. Army (retired)
Colonel Paul R. Goode, U.S. Army (retired)
Major General Guy V. Henry, U.S. Army (retired)
Vice Admiral H. W. Hill, U.S. Navy (retired)
Colonel E. W. Hockenberry, U.S. Air Force (retired)
Vice Admiral Alfred W. Johnson, U.S. Navy (retired)
Colonel Archibald King, U.S. Army (retired)
Mr. J. Graham Parsons, Department of State
Major General Thomas M. Robins, U.S. Army (retired)
Rear Admiral R. W. Ruble, U.S. Navy
Brigadier General F. S. Strong, Jr., U.S. Army (retired)

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Major General C. L. Sturdevant, U.S. Army (retired)
Rear Admiral Frank P. Thomas, U.S. Navy (retired)
Miss Margaret Joy Tibbetts, Department of State
Rear Admiral J. P. Whitney, U.S. Navy
Colonel Kenneth G. Wickham, U.S. Army
Brigadier General Robert J. Wood, U.S. Army
Brigadier General Ludson D. Worsham, U.S. Army (retired)

The comments of these individuals have been appropriately incorporated in this study. The records of the interviews and the correspondence involved are in the possession of the author.

Published Works

The student of the history of U.S.-Canadian relations will find the best collection of studies on the subject to be in the twenty-five volume series on *The Relations of Canada and the United States* sponsored by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Division of Economics and History. The only volume cited below, by John B. Brebner, is in part an over-all summary and provides excellent background reading for this study. It also contains a list of all the volumes in the series.



15 January 1953 - Donaldson AFB, SC - Pictured here are members of the first Air Force Pathfinder Team; the name was changed in March 1953 to Combat Control Team. The photo was taken shortly after the group completed the Army Pathfinder School. Note the Pathfinder badge on the sleeve of A2C Mazakowski (2nd from right). Information from CCT Book, Eye of the Storm, by Gene Adcock.



OFFICE OF THE HISTORIAN

FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES, 1955–1957, AMERICAN REPUBLICS: CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA, VOLUME VII

14. Letter From the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs (Hensel) to the Secretary of State²

Washington, January 12, 1955.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: Reference is made to a letter dated 2 December 1954, from the Deputy Under Secretary of State,³ regarding the role Guatemala might be requested to assume in the defense of the Western Hemisphere, as well as its participation in the Mutual Security Program.

In view of the recent military survey completed by the Chairman, U.S. Delegation, Inter-American Defense Board,⁴ the Joint Chiefs of Staff consider that the specific tasks which Guatemala could perform in furtherance of a Western Hemisphere defense role would be comparable to those assigned to Nicaragua and Honduras and, hence, of negligible value. However, in light of the views expressed in your letter of 27 October 1954,⁵ the Joint Chiefs of Staff recognize that political considerations will dictate that a Military Assistance Program be initiated for Guatemala as in the case of Nicaragua and Honduras. Since Guatemala is considered to have approximately the same military potential as both Nicaragua and Honduras, similar force bases and defense roles should be assigned to that country.

In keeping with national policy with respect to the problem of standardization in Latin America, and a recommendation contained in the survey report concerning non-U.S. equipment held by Guatemala, the Joint Chiefs of Staff consider it appropriate that the Department of State, in coordination with the Department of Defense ... make representation to the Guatemalan Government to encourage and assist that government to dispose of non-U.S. military equipment [Page 48] surplus to its normal needs.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff consider that, for the purpose of qualifying Guatemala for grant aid, the draft Bilateral Military Plan used in negotiation with Honduras and Nicaragua contains the necessary missions and plans for employment of forces for Western Hemisphere defense, and is appropriate for use in negotiations with that country.

The views of the Joint Chiefs of Staff are approved. Accordingly, the Department of State may wish to consider initiating a request that the President find that such military assistance as may be furnished Guatemala is in accordance with defense plans which require Guatemala to participate in missions important to the defense of the Western Hemisphere. Upon receipt of the Presidential Determination required by Section 105 (b) (4) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954,⁶ and notification that the country has agreed to conclude a Mutual Defense Assistance Agreement, the Chairman, U.S. Delegation, Inter-American Defense Board, will be prepared to participate in negotiations with Guatemala, in accordance with instructions already furnished.

It is emphasized that, in view of the limited military assistance funds available, the MDA Program for Guatemala can be implemented only by diversion of funds from other MDA programs world-wide. For example, funds are to be taken from the French and Italian MDA Programs to provide military assistance to Haiti in FY 1955. Since such diversion of funds affects

adversely the attainment of high priority military objectives in other areas, it is the opinion of the Department of Defense that programs in Latin America cannot be considered in isolation from other programs world-wide. In this connection, your attention is invited to a letter dated 31 December 1954 (file No. I-9060), to the Special Assistant to the Secretary of State for Mutual Security Affairs, from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs),⁷ which outlines the availability of funds from FY 1955 appropriations for MDA Matériel Programs. After deducting transfers to the Foreign Operations Administration, the yearly administrative and operating costs and losses due to Section 1311, Supplemental Appropriation Act of 1955, Public Law 663, the Department of Defense estimates it will have only \$53.4 million available for worldwide MDA matériel programs.

Copies of this letter are being furnished to the Secretaries of the Army, Navy and Air Force,⁸ the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Chairman, U.S. Delegation, Inter-American Defense Board, for their information. [Page 49]

Sincerely yours,

H. Strove Hensel

2. Source: Department of State, Central Files, 714.5-MSP/1-1255. Secret.☞

3. Not printed. (*Ibid.*, 714.5-MSP/11-2454)☞

4. Major General Robert W. Douglass, Jr.☞

5. See *Foreign Relations, 1952-1954*, vol. IV, p. 1234.☞

6. Reference is to the Mutual Security Act of 1954 (P.L. 665), enacted August 26, 1954; for text, see 68 Stat. 832.☞

7. Not found in Department of State files.☞

8. Robert T. Stevens, Charles S. Thomas, and Harold E. Talbott, respectively.☞



**Major
Peter S.
H. Ellis
USAF**

HALE'S HANDFUL... UP FROM THE ASHES:

**The Forging Of The
Seventh Air Force
From The Ashes Of
Pearl Harbor To The
Triumph Of V-J Day**





History

The Wings Club was born in New York City on May 15, 1942, in the early days of World War II, when a number of America's aviation leaders decided to band together to find a suitable meeting place where they could gather to help chart the future course of aeronautics.

Specifically, The Wings Club was founded to:

- Maintain a non-profit aviation meeting place in New York City to promote the advancement and development of aeronautics,
- Provide a center for discussion of matters pertaining to aviation and;
- Provide members services and facilities to aid them in their aeronautical activities.

Led by The Wings Club's first President, Caleb S. Bragg, prominent civil and military aviation leaders - including Eddie Rickenbacker and Juan Trippe - were named to the first board of directors.

To establish the club's leadership in civil and military aviation, a number of honorary members were elected, including:

- General Hap Arnold, the commander of the U.S. Army Air Forces;
- L. Welch Pogue, chairman of the Civil Aeronautics Board;
- Dr. Jerome Hunsaker, chairman of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, and
- Fiorello LaGuardia, the aviation-minded mayor of New York.

Initially using The Yale Club in midtown Manhattan as its headquarters, The Wings Club soon became a rallying place where aviation-minded people could discuss the latest aircraft and flying techniques.

Within a year, The Wings Club had attracted 500 members. Twelve months later the membership had swelled to nearly 1,000.

Gill Robb Wilson, President of the National Aeronautic Association and a leading aviation publisher, gave the first luncheon addresses at The Wings Club in 1943. The success of that program led to the establishment of monthly luncheon presentations at the club.

The Wings Club's first Annual Dinner was held on March 22, 1944 at the famous Waldorf Astoria Hotel. Noted military pilot and Eastern Air Lines executive Eddie Rickenbacker was the keynote speaker.

The hotel also was the site of a special meeting of The Wings Club in 1945, when a film showing the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki was aired publicly for the first time during a Wings Club dinner honoring returning U.S. military aviators.

By April 1, 1946, The Wings Club had moved to the Biltmore Hotel, where it remained until relocating to 52 Vanderbilt Avenue on March 15, 1983.

On August 20, 2002 The Wings Club closed that facility and maintained administrative offices in lower Manhattan through most of 2010.

On December 10, 2010, The Wings Club officially moved into its new office space in the former headquarters of Pan Am at 200 Park Avenue in Midtown Manhattan.

Throughout the years, virtually all aviation and aerospace leaders – U.S. and international – have been members or participated in programs at The Wings Club:

- Famous pilots who have visited the club have ranged from Eddie Rickenbacker and Roscoe Turner to Jeana Yeager and Dick Rutan.
- Astronauts from Buzz Aldrin to Frank Borman have been a part of The Wings Club tradition.
- Aeronautical inventors and innovators from Grover Loening and Vincent Bendix to Jerome Lederer and Dr. Wernher von Braun have made presentations at the club.
- Airlines executives have always been active in The Wings Club, beginning with Pan American World Airways founder Juan Trippe, C.R. Smith of American Airlines and Piedmont Airlines' Tom Davis to Frederick Smith of FedEx, Robert Crandall of American Airlines, Herb Kelleher of Southwest Airlines and Continental's Gordon Bethune.
- Military leaders have been involved in the club since its founding during World War II. Generals Tooev Spaatz, Curtiss LeMay, Dwight Eisenhower (who gave the Annual Dinner address in 1947) and Jimmie Doolittle (who won the first Distinguished Achievement Award from The Wings Club) have been some of the notable military men affiliated with the club.
- General aviation leaders, from William T. Piper Jr., Olive Ann Beech and Dwane Wallace, also have been active.
- Government leaders, from New York City Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, FAA Administrator Allan McArdor and U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Elizabeth Dole to U.S. Senator Barry Goldwater, President George Bush and King Olav V of Norway have appeared at the club.
- International personalities, from Frank Whittle and Claire Chennault to Freddie Laker and Jean Pierson have graced The Wings Club with their presence.
- Aviation editors and publishers, including Gill Robb Wilson, Wayne Parrish and Richard Witkin, also have played a role in the club.
- Consultants and analysts, such as R. Dixon Speas, have made significant contributions to the club.

ROBERT W.
DOUGLASS, JR.
PRESIDENT
1960-1961

AIR MOBILITY



A Brief History of the
American Experience

ROBERT C. OWEN



AIR COMMANDO ONE

HEINIE
ADERHOLT
AND
AMERICA'S
SECRET
AIR WARS

WARREN A. TREST

