



The Urbana Free Library

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Chanute Collection:
Chanute Personnel Files
Years: 1929-1990s

Collection 200.017

Compiled by: Ani Karagianis
Creator/Corporate name: Chanute Air Force Base
Inclusive Dates: 1929-1990s, bulk 1940s-1950s
Physical Description: 3 boxes, 3 linear feet

Provenance:

The Chanute Air Force Base files were donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives after the Octave Chanute Air Museum closed. The files were curated and maintained by the History Office of the Chanute Air Force Base and later preserved by the museum.

Access:

The records are accessible to the public within applicable copyright restrictions and limited to use at the Champaign County Historical Archives of The Urbana Free Library.

Historical Note:

The Chanute Air Force Base had plenty of people involved and contributing in different ways. Much of their work and influence was recognized in different ways and published throughout the base. Some individuals held the position of Chief or designated as Civilian Employees while others were a part of the national group the Civil Air Patrol. These materials are papers of people associated with the base, including (but not limited to) faculty, staff, students, and visitors.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection consists of biographies, papers, correspondence, and other materials from specific individuals associated with the Chanute Air Force Base and the Chanute Air Museum as well as general information about the roles that people would fill at Chanute. The general information consists of rosters, minutes, correspondence, and information about distinguished visitors.

Arrangement:

This collection is arranged into two series: Chanute Personnel Files and the General Faculty, Staff, and Student Papers. Series 1 is arranged alphabetically by last name and series 2 is arranged alphabetically by subject area. Series 1 includes one bound book, noted as "Bound Book" in the finding aid. Series 1 also has one subseries: distinguished visitors to the base, which is arranged alphabetically by last name with official titles in parentheses after the name.

Related materials are in the Certificates Collection and the Photograph Collection.

Subjects Terms:

Chanute Air Force Base (Ill.)
Military History, Modern—20th Century
United States. Air Force—History
Military Education
Personnel



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Container List:

Box 1:

Series 1: Chanute Personnel Files

- Folder 1: Airkin, Charles, 1964
 - Mess Hall Card
- Folder 2: Avner, Laura M., 1939
 - Invoices
- Folder 3: Beall, Robert M., 2005
 - One Soldier's Tour of Duty (1941-1945) Book
- Folder 4: Bechetti, Fred, 1929-1934
 - Photographs
 - Notes
 - Certificate
- Folder 5: Bray, Kit, 1945-1947
 - Letter
 - Photographs
 - Newspaper Clippings
- Folder 6: Buck, Charles M., (1/4), ca. 1950s
 - Adult Sunday School Class Attendance Records
- Folder 7: Buck, Charles M., (2/4), 1951-1954
 - Chaplain's Morning Reports
- Folder 8: Buck, Charles M., (3/4), 1953-1957
 - Correspondence
- Folder 9: Buck, Charles M., (4/4), 1956
 - Newspaper Clippings and Scrapbook with Index
- Folder 10: Christian, Robert J., 1948
 - Soldier's Permanent Pass
- Folder 11: Clark, James N., 2003
 - Correspondence
- Folder 12: Coble, Harry M., 1987
 - Biography
 - Newspaper Clippings
- Folder 13: Dean, Tilman, undated
 - Biography
- Folder 14: Dyess, William E., 1940s-1990s
 - Biography
 - Newspaper Clippings
 - Correspondence
- Folder 15: Emord, Ernest A., 1969-2006
 - Correspondence



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Chanute Collection:

Chanute Personnel Files

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- Articles
- Biographical Sketch
- Speeches
- Obituary
- Folder 16: Frasca, Rudy, 1987-1992
 - Business Cards
 - Newspaper Clippings
 - Annual Air Fair Flyer
 - Military Aviation Hall of Fame Induction
 - Photographs
- Folder 17: Garst, Theodore R., 1929-1945
 - Religious Materials—Bible School Certificates, church certificates
 - Envelope
- Folder 18: Gibson, Harold M., 1955-1964
 - Flight Records
- Folder 19: Greer, Lylburn A., 1957-1973
 - Selective Service Registration
 - Medical Certificate
- Folder 20: Hanley, Thomas J., 1917-1969
 - Photograph copies
 - Newspaper Clippings
- Folder 21: Hanson, Glenn E., 1989
 - Base Closure Correspondence
- Folder 22: Havener, William L., (1/2), 1947
 - Correspondence
- Folder 23: Havener, William L., (2/2), undated
 - History
- Folder 24: Heckert, Fred W., 1973
 - “The Story of the Loening Biplane” Excerpt
- Folder 25: Heider, Louis H., 1942-1943
 - ID Card
 - Enlisted Man’s Pass
- Folder 26: Hynan, Gerald E., 1942, 1964
 - Open Mess Card
 - ID Card
- Folder 27: Krueger, Fred, ca. 1950s-1960s, 1990s
 - Pamphlets
 - Standards, Procedures, Policies
 - Correspondence
 - Biographies/Histories
 - Publications
- Folder 28: Kucera, Emil C., 1956-1963



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Correspondence about Rewards, Promotions, and Transfers

Folder 29: Lee, Ethel J., undated

Application for a Date with a Soldier

Folder 30: Lee, Hershall E. (1/4), 1986-1993

Commemoration of the Korean War

Korean War Veterans Association

Newspaper Clippings

Medals/Awards

Air Force 50th Anniversary

40th Anniversary Ceasefire Announcement Program

The Korean Monitor Newsletter

Folder 31: Lee, Hershall E., (2/4), 1986-2006

Profile Summary

Illinois Korean War Veterans Association

Newspaper Clippings

Correspondence

Folder 32: Lee, Hershall E., (3/4), 1990-1997

Newsletter

VFW Honoring Chanute Day

Ground Breaking Ceremonies

Korean War History

Future Site Dedication

Folder 33: Lee, Hershall E., (4/4), 1994-2006

Pamphlets

Correspondence

Korean War Materials

Newsletters

Korean War Museum Materials

Box 2:

Series 1: Chanute Personnel Files, ctd.

Folder 1: Marvin, Richard D., 1982-1985

Parade Ceremony Program

Oral History Transcript

Biography

CMSGT List

Air Training Command Address

Newspaper Clippings

Folder 2: McLaren, Raymond A., 1975

Correspondence

Folder 3: Melton, Ava W. C. (1/4), 1940-1957

Job Applications



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- Payroll Slips
- Leave Applications
- Folder 4: Melton, Ava W. C. (2/4), 1940-1966
 - Memos
 - Correspondence
- Folder 5: Melton, Ava W.C. (3/4), 1941-1966
 - Training Papers
 - Notes
 - Position Descriptions
 - Instructor Record Card
- Folder 6: Melton, Ava W.C. (4/4), 1953
 - Interview Transcript
- Folder 7: Morris, Joseph C., 1972-1990
 - Correspondence
 - Photo Copy
 - Temporary Form
- Folder 8: O'Connell, Eugene F., 1971-1992
 - Correspondence
 - Newspaper Clippings
 - Portrait Copy
 - Biographical Sketch
- Folder 9: Powers, Frank, 2011
 - Personal Narrative
- Folder 10: Rigoulot, Alfred C., 1943
 - Letter
- Folder 11: Ripley, Dwane A., 1954, 1958
 - Correspondence
 - Daily Evaluation
 - Performance Rating
- Folder 12: Seymour, Lewis A., 1985
 - Biography
 - Newsletter
- Folder 13: Siper, John R. Jr., 1989
 - News Clippings
- Folder 14: Smith, Theodore E., 1940-1945
 - Service Papers
 - Correspondence
 - GI Love Finds a Way Article
 - Newspaper Clippings
 - Radio Interview
- Folder 15: Stells, William, 1971-1973



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- Display Aircraft Notes
- Instructions
- Photographs
- Combat Crew Copy (1958)
- Folder 16: Stewart, Raymond B., ca. 1988-1989, undated
 - Biography
 - News Release
 - Air Training Command Job Description
- Folder 17: Storm, Henry, 2011
 - "I Love Lucy" Narrative
- Folder 18: Streff, Leo W., 1942-2001
 - Donation Letter
 - Communication Technical Information Letter
 - Scrapbook Pages
 - Correspondence
- Folder 19: Thomason, Benjamin W., 1952-1975
 - Record of Training
 - Chanute Field Pass
- Folder 20: Turner, Claude L., 1942-1943
 - Correspondence
 - Postcard
- Folder 21: Vosler, Forrest L., (1/2) ca. 1980s
 - Biography
- Folder 22: Vosler, Forrest L., (2/2), 1989-1992
- Folder 23: Wade, Donald E., 1946
 - Soldier's Permanent Pass
- Folder 24: Weckhorst, Donald O., 1950-2005
 - Correspondence
 - Pamphlets
 - Invitations
 - Newsletters
- Folder 25: Widener, Guy (1/5), 1941-1946
 - Correspondence
 - Poems
 - Comics
 - Newspaper Clippings
- Folder 26: Widener, Guy (2/5), ca. 1942
 - Cigarette Ration Books
 - Gas Ration Books
 - War Ration Book



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- Folder 27: Widener, Guy (3/5), 1943
 - Historian Officer Daily Diary
- Folder 28: Widener, Guy (4/5), 1944
 - Interview with Captain Frye
- Folder 29: Widener, Guy (5/5), 1945
 - Monthly Diary of Personnel Office, Feb. 1945
- Folder 30: Wright, Henry I., (1/2), 1944-1962
 - Service Record Scrapbook
- Folder 31: Wright, Henry I., (2/2), 1948-1961
 - Correspondence
 - Newspaper Clippings
 - Passes
 - Telegrams

Subseries 1: Distinguished Visitors on the Base

- Folder 32: Allen, Lew. Jr., (General, Air Force Chief of Staff), 1980
 - Correspondence
 - Speech Transcript
 - Media Activities
- Folder 33: Bush, George W. (President), 2006
 - Correspondence
 - Sticker
- Folder 34: Chayes, Antonia (Assistant Secretary of the Air Force), 1978
 - Press Conference Transcripts
 - Itinerary
 - Biography
 - Correspondence
- Folder 35: Johnson, Lyndon B. (President), 1965
 - Memos
 - Slides
- Folder 36: Lord, Lance W. (General), 2005
 - Biography
- Folder 37: Orr, Verne (Secretary of the Air Force), 1982-1983
 - Itinerary
 - Guest List
 - Invitation
 - Press Release
 - Memos
- Folder 38: Rumsfeld, Donald E. (Secretary of Defense), 1976
 - Correspondence
 - Speech Scripts



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Itinerary
Guest Lists

Folder 39: Stetson, John C. (Secretary of the Air Force), 1978

Itinerary
Guest List
Anticipated Media Questions
Correspondence
Speech Scripts
Press Conference Transcript
Biographies
Newspaper Clippings

Box 3:

Series 2: General Faculty, Staff, and Student Papers

Folder 1: Chanute Commander Roster, 1920s-1990s

Commander List and Descriptions
Commander History
Biographies

Folder 2: Chiefs, 1973-1997

Newsletters
Newspaper Clippings
Pamphlets
Correspondence
List of Individuals

Folder 3: Chiefs Group Meeting Minutes, 1988-1990

Flyer
Contact List
Meeting Minutes

Folder 4: Chief Master Sergeant and Senior Airmen Advisors Correspondence, 1970-1975

Folder 5: Class Rosters, 1972-1980

Folder 6: First Sergeant Data, 1983-1987

Directory
Correspondence
Stats
Minutes

Carl R. Meidl Funeral Services Program

Folder 7: Instructor of the Month Winners (1/2), 1958-1976

Newspaper Clippings

Folder 8: Instructor of the Month Winners (2/2), 1970-1973

Newspaper Clippings



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Folder 9: Interviews, 1990

Major General Lawrence E. Day
William C. Willis

Folder 10: Medal of Honor Information, 1958-1992

Biographies
Newspaper Clippings
Magazine Articles
List of Winners
Medal of Honor History
Visitor Information

Folder 11: Senior Enlisted Advisors (1/2), 1970-1992

Correspondence
Photo Negatives
Senior Enlisted Advisors List

Folder 12: Senior Enlisted Advisors (2/2), 1971-1981

Newsletters
Correspondence
Training and Personnel Documentation
Conference Agenda
Senior Enlisted Advisors List

Folder 13: Senior Officers, 1981-2006

Biographies
News Clippings
Magazine Article
List of Colonels
List of Lieutenant Colonels

Folder 14: Wing Commanders, 1983-1988

Biographies
Chronological List of Commanders

Bound Book: Gates, Byron E.: Generals of the Army and the Air Force