

MS 26

**WHISENAND, JAMES FRANKLIN, MAJOR GENERAL
USAF, (DECEASED)
1911-1967**

**Papers, 1941-1967
Three rolls of 16mm microfilm**

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

James Franklin Whisenand was born in Bloomington, Indiana, on 9 February 1911. In 1932, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers Reserve. He received his BS degree in Architectural Engineering from the University of Illinois in 1933. In 1935, he graduated from the Advanced Flying School at Kelly Field.

On 9 February 1936, Whisenand married Hazel Waxler, and seven months later was appointed second lieutenant, Air Reserve. In April 1940, Whisenand was called to active duty, and for the next four years he held various pilot and engineering assignments in the United States.

In 1945, Whisenand was asked to serve as the Chief of Staff, Tenth Air Force. After the war until 1946, he worked as a member of the Strategic Bombing Survey based in Tokyo, Japan. From 1946 to 1950, Whisenand was a faculty member at the Air War College. In 1950, he was assigned to the Office of the Director of Plans, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, HQ USAF, where he remained for the next four years.

In 1954, Whisenand accepted command of the 388th Fighter - Bomber Wing at Clovis AFB, New Mexico. Later, he oversaw the movement of this wing to its new base in Etain, France. In 1955, he became Commander of the 49th Air Division, based in the United Kingdom. In 1956 he was selected as Deputy Commander, Third Air Force, again in England. In 1957, Whisenand became Special Assistant to the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, where he remained until 1960. Next, he served as Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans, Air Research, and Development/Air Force Systems Command. Whisenand's final assignment began in 1962, when he became the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, Research and Technology, HQ USAF. In May 1963, Major General Whisenand retired from the Air Force. He died in April 1967 in Washington, D.C.

General Whisenand's decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, Air Medal, Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, and Order of the Cloud and Banner (China).

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains personal and official papers relating to Maj. Gen. Whisenand's Air Force career (1940-1963). Included are official correspondence, memoranda, studies, and transcripts of speeches and addresses. Materials relate to the legislative history of the Air Corps (1908-1941), Tenth Air Force activities in World War II, Air Operations in China-Burma-India, and the United

States Strategic Bombing Survey for the Pacific War. Writings and speeches presented by Whisenand and others pertain to various topics including the concept of air power, strategic bombing, nuclear energy, national security, research and technology, and the military's use of space. Also included are materials pertaining to Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg, Gen. Thomas D. White, Gen. Nathan F. Twining, Chiang Kai-Shek, and Nelson A. Rockefeller.

This collection consists of three rolls of 16mm microfilm arranged in five series: Series 1) Miscellaneous, 1945-1963; Series 2) Air Corps, 1908-1941; Series 3) Air Operations and Testimony, 1941-1946; Series 4) Studies and Reports, 1946-1947; Series 5) Writings and presentations, 1946-1964. The collection was accessioned through the Albert F. Simpson Historical Research Center, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama.

SERIES ONE: MISCELLANEOUS, consists of a fragmented file of personal and official correspondence, articles, memoranda, and topical outlines, 1945-1963. Correspondence pertains to such subjects as a turbojet/ramjet propulsion system, a ramming-type aircraft, the transfer of the 388th Fighter-Bomber Wing to France, and the grading system at the Air War College. Articles include "Scientists, Seers, and Strategy" by Albert Wohlstetter (1963), and "Cold War, Atomic War, or Legion of Liberation" by Frank R. Barnett. Memoranda pertains to such topics as a space program supported by the Defense Department and Navy "Propaganda" efforts. Also included is a series of topical outlines to lectures given by Whisenand as Commander, 388th Fighter-Bomber Wing. The series is generally arranged in reverse chronological order, beginning with 1963 and tracing back to 1945.

SERIES TWO: AIR CORPS, consists of a paper entitled "Legislative History of the Air Corps as it pertains to the Establishment of a Separate Service," 1941. The paper provides a detailed study of the development of the Air Corps, 1908-1941, and is indexed.

SERIES THREE: AIR OPERATIONS AND TESTIMONY, consists of reports, memoranda, photographs, and maps relating to Tenth Air Force activities in China during World War II. The activities include aerial mining operations, fighter control, support of the Carbonado and Fort Bayard operations, transport operations, and the movement of POWs and evacuees. Included is a chronology, June 1941-December 1945, of India-Burma Theater activities, monthly statistical reviews of Tenth Air Force operations, and two detailed reports: "India-Burma Air Operations" as written by Col. Whisenand, Chief of Staff, Tenth Air Force, 1946, and "Air Operations in China," as written by Lt. Col. Murphy, Fourteenth Air Force 1946. Also included in this series is an extract from the U.S. Strategic Bombing Survey, entitled "Speer Testimony before a British Commission." The subject of this report is a questionnaire submitted by a British Commission to Albert Speer in 1945, with answers supplied by Speer while he was at Dustbin.

SERIES FOUR: STUDIES AND REPORTS, consists of the paper entitled Air Campaigns of the Pacific War, a study undertaken as part of the United States Strategic Bombing Survey, Pacific. Included are two drafts (initial and final) of the study and letters and memoranda which comment upon the study, 1946-1947. Also included is an indexed "Map and Chronological Appendix" to Air Campaigns of the Pacific War.

SERIES FIVE: WRITINGS AND PRESENTATIONS, consists of letters, papers, and addresses written and/or given by Whisenand throughout his career, 1946-1964. Presentations and papers pertaining to others, include Colonel Francis X. Kane, Dr. Stefan T. Possony, Chiang Kai-Shek, Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg, Gen. Thomas D. White, Col. Charles J.V. Murphy, Gen. Nathan F. Twining, and Nelson A. Rockefeller. The entries in this series pertain to a wide range of topics, including concepts of air power, the national military establishment, aircraft carrier operations, role controversies between the services, strategic bombing, a universal military grid referencing system, communism and the Soviet Union, research and development in the Air Force, tactical air employment, and national security policy. Other subjects include nuclear energy, technology and the military, military planning and organization, the B-36 and CA-58 programs, the reliability of scientific forecast, and the military's use of space. This series has been calendared within the Arrangement and Description section of this collection.

ARRANGEMENT AND DESCRIPTION

ROLL ONE

SERIES ONE **MISCELLANEOUS, 1945-1963**

SERIES TWO **AIR CORPS, 1908-1941**

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SERIES FOUR **STUDIES AND REPORTS, 1946-1947**

SERIES FIVE **WRITINGS AND PRESENTATIONS, 1946-1964**

"Basic Concepts of Air Power;" presentation by Col. Whisenand, Randolph Field, TX, 10 Nov 1947.

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"The United States Air Force in a Possible Future War," presentation by Colonel Whisenand, Pensacola, Florida, 14 Dec 1949.

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"Disagreements between the armed services," paper prepared for the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force by Col. Whisenand, 9 Jun 1948.

"Air Force film projects," letters to the Director of Training and Requirements, HQ USAF, August-Sep 1948.

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"The Super-Carrier Decision," paper by Col. Whisenand, Apr 1950.

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