

SMS 322  
6 January 2022  
Schreck, Christopher J.  
(2010-KM, 2019-TLS)

**ARNOLD, HENRY H.**  
**1912-1945**  
**Linear Ft.: 5**  
**Approx. No. Pgs.: 4000**

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Henry H. "Hap" Arnold was a pioneer airman and the first Air Force General to receive a permanent five-star rank.

Arnold graduated with the class of 1907 from the U.S. Military Academy, after which he was assigned to the 29th Infantry where he served in the Philippine Islands for two years. He returned home for duty at Governors Island, N.Y. until April 1911, when he was detailed to the Signal Corps and sent to Dayton, OH for instructions in the Wright biplane. The Wright Brothers, who had made their first flight in 1903, personally instructed him for two months, and by June 1911 he became one of the earliest military aviators in American history.

Arnold was then assigned to teach other flyers at the Signal Corps aviation school at College Park, MD until April 1912. Later that year Arnold went to Fort Riley, KS to observe live-fire artillery drills from his plane, and was the first military aviator to use radio to report his observations. In November 1912 he was assigned to the Office of the Chief Signal Officer in Washington, where he was promoted to First Lieutenant in April 1913. In September he went back to the 13th Infantry where he remained until March 1916. In May 1916 he was promoted to Captain and was assigned to a new flying school in San Diego, CA.

In February 1917 Arnold went to Panama to organize an air service there, which he commanded until May 1917. As the U.S. entered World War I he was called back to Washington. He was promoted to Major in June, 1917, and by August was promoted again to Colonel. He was in charge of Information Service in the Aviation Division of the Signal Corps. When the Office of Military Aeronautics was created, Arnold became Assistant Executive Officer and in February 1918 was named Assistant Director. He went to France in November 1918 at war's end on an inspection tour of aviation activities. He returned in January 1919 as supervisor of the Air Service at Coronado, CA.

In June 1920 Arnold went back to Captain's grade, but was soon promoted to Major, where he remained until 1931. In October 1922 he became commanding officer of Rockwell Field, CA, where he served for two years. He graduated from the Army Industrial College in 1925 and became Chief of the Information Division in the Office of the Chief of Air Corps. He testified on behalf of General Billy Mitchell during the famed

courts-martial in the fall of 1925 when Mitchell was found guilty of insubordination. Arnold devotedly shared Mitchell's beliefs in the strategic capability of the airplane and urged an independent air arm, which he lived to see authorized in 1947. He next went back to Fort Riley, KS, where he commanded Air Corps troops at Marshall Field until 1928. In June 1929 he completed the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth and was assigned as commanding officer of the air depot at Fairfield, OH.

Arnold was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in February 1931 as commanding officer of March Field, CA. In February 1935 Arnold took command of the 1st Wing of General Headquarters Air Force at March Field. In January 1936 he became Assistant to the Chief of Air Corps in Washington and on September 29, 1938 was promoted to Major General and appointed Chief of Air Corps.

His title was changed to Chief of the Army Air Forces on June 30, 1941, and later that year he earned a third star. When the War Department General Staff was organized in March 1942 Arnold became Commanding General of Army Air Forces. During World War II he directed air activities for the nation's global war against Germany and Japan. Under his leadership the air arm grew from 22,000 officers and men with 3,900 planes to nearly 2,500,000 men and 75,000 aircraft. Early in 1943 Arnold made a 35,000-mile tour of North Africa, Middle East, India, and China, and attended the Casablanca Conferences. In March 1943 he was promoted to four-star General. He suffered a heart attack in 1945 as the war drew to a close, which was attributed to overwork.

He retired from the service on June 30, 1946, after earning numerous honors including three Distinguished Service Crosses, the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal, and decorations from Morocco, Brazil, Yugoslavia, Peru, France, Mexico and Great Britain. During his long career Arnold wrote a number of books, including children's books to create interest among youth in flying, and an autobiography titled "Global Mission." On May 7, 1949 Henry Arnold was appointed the first General of the Air Force and given a five-star rank by the U.S. Congress. He died at his home near Sonoma, CA on January 15, 1950.

(Source: U.S. Air Force Biographical Dictionary by Flint O. DuPre, Colonel, U.S. Air Force Reserve)

[Taken from the official U.S. Air Force biography website on 11 October 2019:  
<https://www.af.mil/AboutUs/Biographies/Display/Article/107811/general-henry-h-arnold/> ]

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

SMS 322 contains numerous handwritten notes between Henry H. “Hap” Arnold and his friends, family, and colleagues. The majority of these letters were written to his wife, Eleanor, whom he often addressed by the nickname, “Beadle.” They are arranged chronologically in Series Two, and date from 1906-1946.

Series One contains a variety of materials that were initially donated to Clark Special Collections prior to 2010. Series 3-5 are relatively small, and contain speeches, published material, oversized items, and artifacts that were produced or collected by General Arnold over his illustrious career. Of particular interest is a photo album (Series 5) that contains a collection of pictures that were taken during the search for a plane that went missing, along with its two passengers, in January 1923.

Some items in this collection are housed in the Gimbel Room of the Clark Special Collections Branch, which are noted within this finding aid. This collection was originally processed in 2010, and was updated in both 2019 and 2022 to include new materials and to incorporate updated processing policies.

**Keywords and Terms:** Generals; World War I; World War, 1914-1918; World War II; World War 1939-1945; Letters; Correspondence; Family; California; United States; Philippines;

**Names:** Arnold, Henry H.; Arnold, Eleanor; Arnold, Herbert A.

## ARRANGEMENT AND DESCRIPTION

### **SERIES ONE: ORIGINAL COLLECTION**

#### **BOX ONE**

Folder 1      Correspondence – Official and Personal:

General Arnold’s Collection, 1965-1973

Personal letter from Henry H. Arnold, Jr. to Henry Arnold, 1931

Letters from Orville Wright to Henry Arnold, 1911-1913

Memorandum for Lt. Arnold, June 1912

Copies of letters from Irving Berlin and W.C. Fields, January 1942

Copies of letters from President Truman and Bess, 1941; 1945-1946

Copies of letters from President Roosevelt, October 1943

- Copies of letters from various generals, friends, and acquaintances, 1942-1949
- Folder 2      Ledger, 1903. Ledger Folio of Cadet H.H. Arnold, 27 July 1903, accounting for his pay at United States Military Academy
- Folder 3      Pamphlet – “The H. H. Arnold Collection,” Library of Congress description of Arnold’s manuscript collection, undated
- Folder 4      Speech – Henry Arnold to graduating class of 1939, Air Corps Tactical School, 11 May 1939
- Folder 5      Photographs, 1910
- Folder 6      Miscellaneous: Organizational chart of Department of Military Aeronautics (undated), book cover for *Airmen and Aircraft* by H.H. Arnold (undated), identification card for H. H. Arnold, Air Corps, U.S. Regular Army, 15 June 1935

**SERIES TWO: CORRESPONDENCE**

**BOX ONE**

- Folder 7      Henry to Louisa Harley Arnold (his Mother). West Point. February 1906
- Henry to Dr. Herbert Arnold (his father). Washington DC. Description of flying out of College Park. 2 July 1911
- Henry to Elizabeth Arnold (his wife). Dayton OH. 5 January 1912
- Henry Arnold to Dr. Herbert Arnold, describes the Mackay Trophy Flight, 14 October 1912
- Henry to Dr. Herbert Arnold. Washington, DC. Death of his friends, the aviators Welsh and Hazelhurst, comments on funeral, accident, and possible causes. 18 June 1912
- Henry to Dr. Herbert Arnold. College Park. Description of the Burgess Wright seaplane crash affair. 22 August 1912
- Henry to Anna Louise Arnold (his mother). Ft. Riley Kansas. Description of artillery spotting from the air. 10 November 1912
- Folder 8      Henry to Dr. Herbert Arnold. San Francisco, California on the way to the Philippine Islands. 5 December 1913

Henry to Dr. Herbert Arnold. Washington DC. Describes flights out of College Park, MD. Flight accident of Towers (survived) and Billingsly. Self-funding his wedding by selling savings bonds. 22 June 1913

Folder 9 Henry to Miss Eleanor Pool (Eleanor Arnold), June 1913 (28 letters)

Folder 10 Henry to Miss Eleanor Pool (Eleanor Arnold), July 1913

Folder 11 Henry to Miss Eleanor Pool (Eleanor Arnold), August 1913

**BOX TWO**

Folder 1 T.D. Milling to Henry, Philippines. 25 January 1914

Folder 2 Henry to Mrs. Eleanor Arnold, Philippines. January - February 1914

Folder 3 Henry to Mrs. Eleanor Arnold, Philippines. October - November 1914

Folder 4 Henry to Dr. Herbert Arnold, Philippines. Comments on Mexico crisis, brass hat over staffing in the Philippine Islands. 14 June 1914

Henry to Dr. Herbert Arnold. Career updates from the Philippine Islands. Description of rebel unrest. 31 December 1914

Folder 5 Henry to Mrs. Eleanor Arnold, Philippines. April-May 1915

Folder 6 Henry to Mrs. Eleanor Arnold, Philippines. August 1915

Folder 7 Henry to Mrs. Eleanor Arnold, Philippines. September 1915

Folder 8 Henry to Mrs. Eleanor Arnold, March 1916.

Folder 9 Henry to Mrs. Eleanor Arnold, April 1916

Folder 10 "Dear Beadle & Early Stuff" – Letters and Telegraphs to Mrs. Eleanor Arnold, 1916, 1934, 1943, 1945, 1949, and undated

**BOX THREE**

Folder 1 Henry to Mrs. Eleanor Arnold, trip to Panama. February 1917

Folder 2 Henry to Mrs. Eleanor Arnold, letters from Panama. March 1917

Folder 3 Henry to Mrs. Eleanor Arnold, August 1917

Folder 4 Henry to Mrs. Eleanor Arnold, 1917

Folder 5 Henry to Mrs. Eleanor Arnold, trip to Europe. 1918

- Folder 6 Henry to Mrs. Eleanor Arnold, November 1918
- Folder 7 Letters to and from Mrs. Eleanor Arnold. Most from Mrs. Arnold but includes others, 1918
- Henry to Dr. Herbert Arnold, San Francisco, CA. 10 December 1921
- Henry to Dr. Arnold, Rockwell Field. Family notes and comments on poor personal experience with Army medicine. 20 October 1922
- Folder 8 Henry to Mrs. Eleanor Arnold, 1923
- Henry to Dr. Herbert Arnold, Rockwell Field. 19 December 1923
- Folder 9 Holiday Greetings from Henry Arnold, HQ, Rockwell Air Intermediate Depot. 21 December 1923
- Folder 10 Henry to Mrs. Eleanor Arnold. Possible reassignment to Washington, D.C., 10 January 1924
- Folder 11 Henry to Mrs. Eleanor Arnold, 1924
- Folder 12 Henry to Mrs. Eleanor Arnold, May 1924
- Folder 13 Henry to Mrs. Eleanor Arnold, June 1924
- Folder 14 Henry to Mrs. Eleanor Arnold, July 1924

**BOX FOUR**

- Folder 1 Henry to Mrs. Eleanor Arnold, May 1927
- Folder 2 Henry to Mrs. Eleanor Arnold, June 1927. Letters from Dayton, Arnold on Board
- Folder 3 Henry to Mrs. Eleanor Arnold, poem on back of letter, 1928 or 1929
- Folder 4 Henry to Mrs. Eleanor Arnold, March - April 1930
- Henry to Dr. Arnold. From Mather Field, California. Regrets on not attending his parents Golden Wedding anniversary. Career notes include problems with Air Corps Chief Fechet and other issues. 17 April 1930
- Folder 5 Henry to Mrs. Eleanor Arnold, 1931

Henry to Mrs. Eleanor Arnold. Trip to Ardmore, PA upon his mother's death. Flight problems and then description of death scene. 19 January 1931

- Folder 6 Henry to Mrs. Eleanor Arnold, Alaska. Includes some financial correspondence, 1934
- Folder 7 Henry to Mrs. Eleanor Arnold. Alaska flight, 1934
- Folder 8 Henry to Mrs. Eleanor Arnold, Air mail, 1934
- Folder 9 Henry to Mrs. Eleanor Arnold. Testimony to McSwain Committee on Department of Defense, April - September 1935

**BOX FIVE**

- Folder 1 Henry to Mrs. Eleanor Arnold, November-December 1935
- Folder 2 Henry to Mrs. Eleanor Arnold, 1939
- Folder 3 Henry from Air Marshall Portal, Gen. Eisenhower, Robert Lovett, Omar Bradley, and Lt. Gen Jacob Devers. 1941-1945
- Folder 4 Henry to Mrs. Eleanor Arnold, 1942
- Folder 5 Henry to Mrs. Eleanor Arnold, 1943
- Henry to Eleanor, Quebec, Canada. Wartime conference. Describes dangerous flight by Adm. King and others. 16 August 1943
- Folder 6 Typewritten notes on Henry travel in Germany and Western Europe. Includes handwritten note to Eleanor on back. Spring, 1945
- Henry to Eleanor, Cannes, France. Hotel Martinez brochure hand written note on it and signed. Spring, 1945
- Henry to Elizabeth Arnold (Sister). Washington D.C. 31 March 1945
- Henry to Eleanor, Manila. Philippines. 17 June 1945
- Henry to Eleanor, Guam. 13 June 1945
- Henry to Eleanor, Sabre Vista, Sonoma, CA. 8 June 1945
- Henry to Eleanor, Manila, Philippines. 17 June 1945
- Henry to Eleanor, Honolulu, HI. 8 July 1945

- Folder 7 Henry to Mrs. Eleanor Arnold. Recovery in Florida, February-May, 1945
- Folder 8 Correspondence, April 1945
- Folder 9 Ira Eaker to Henry Arnold, 22 June 1945
- Henry to Eleanor, Washington D.C. 3 June 1946
- Henry to Eleanor, 4 June 1946
- Henry to Eleanor, Hamilton Field, CA. 13 November 1946
- Henry to Eleanor, Sonoma, CA. October 1946
- Henry to Eleanor, Sonoma, CA. 23 October 1946
- Henry to Eleanor, Sonoma, CA. 28 October 1946
- Folder 10 Miscellaneous:
- “Part of A Bosch Plane, Aug 18 1918.” Sent to Miss Florence Grey from Sgt. F.H. Broadbent. 20 August 1918
- Memorandum for “Chief, Training & Operations Div.” From L.W. McIntosh. 13 October 1928
- Memorandum for “The Executive.” From J.C. McDonnell. 31 August 1928 (2 copies)
- Reply to “Corps Area and Department Commanders in the Chief of Air Corps.” From “The Adjustment General.” 24 August 1928
- Memorandum for “Chief, Personnel.” From L.W. McIntosh. 17 August 1928 (2 copies)
- Memorandum for “The Executive.” From B.D. Foulois. 14 August 1928 (2 copies)
- List: “Air-Res Officers on extended active duty 7/1/28 to 6/30/29.” 7 August 1928
- “Statement of Major H.H. Arnold, Air Service.” 17 February 1926
- Editorial, “An Indiscreet General,” *The New York Times*. 14 February 1925. Regarding General William Mitchell



Letter to A.F. Hagenberger from William Mitchell. 27 February 1934

Reply to Mitchell from Hagenberger. 14 March 1934

Flyer: Mechanic Arts High School Alumni Association Annual Get-together. 7 April 1928

**SERIES THREE: SPEECHES**

**BOX FIVE**

Folder 11      Speech, San Diego, honoring Secretary of War John W. Weeks, 3 May 1923 San Diego, and “Can We be Practical about Armed Forces for National Security?” 8 August 1949

**SERIES FOUR: PRINTED MATERIAL**

**BOX FIVE**

Folder 12      Arnold, H. H. Major, Air Service U.S. Army. *The History of Rockwell Field*. 1923

Folder 13      Printers draft of H.H. Arnold, General of the Air Force. *Global Mission*. Harper and Brothers, NY. 1949

**SERIES FIVE: OVERSIZED**

**BOX SIX**

Item 1          Photograph of Lt. Gen. H. H. Arnold (20” x 24”), undated

Item 2          Newspapers and news clippings, 1911-1967 (bulk 1950s)

Item 3          Scrapbook. “H. H. Arnold, General of the Air Force” – press coverage of Arnold’s funeral and biographical data, with photo negatives of the pages of the scrapbook.

**BOX SEVEN (GIMBEL ROOM VAULT)**

Photograph Album: “A Collection of Pictures selected from a series made by Captain Harry A. Erickson, A.S. during the search for a lost plane and the pilot and passenger Lieut. Charles L. Webber, A.S. and Col. F.C. Marshall, Cav.” Pictures were made during the months of January and February 1923

**SERIES SIX: ARTIFACTS (GIMBEL ROOM)**

Item 1          Photographs of officers who served with Arnold during his career. Housed in wooden case in Gimbel Room.

Item 1          Globe of the Earth, mounted on copper stand

**TRANSFERRED TO MUSEUM (CMA)**

- Item 1            Clock encased in silver metal case and housed in wooden box. Inscribed “  
To General of the Army Henry H. Arnold, from Women’s Air Force  
Service Pilots, 1946.”
  
- Item 2            Stars worn by General H. H. Arnold, housed in wooden box, depicting  
ranks held from Brigadier General through General of the Army.
  
- Item 3            General Arnold’s Wings (Metal). From SMS 608, Glen Martin  
Collection.

SMS 322-Addendum One  
1 February 2023  
Wilson, Aaron.

**ARNOLD, HENRY H.**  
**1905-1949**  
**LINEAR FT.: 0.1**  
**APPROX. NO. PGS. 40**

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This addendum consists of 21 letters written by General Henry H Arnold to his family members between September 1905 and September 1949. The materials are presented in one series and folder outlined in the Arrangement and Description section below.

General Arnold's grandson, Robert Bruce Arnold, donated these materials to Clark Special Collections, via the Friends of the Air Force Academy Library, on 9 December 2022.

This collection shares Box 5 with SMS 322.

**ARRANGEMENT AND DESCRIPTION**

**SERIES ONE: PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE**

Folder 1      Henry to Betty Arnold, Sonoma, California, 13 September 1949

Henry to Betty Arnold, Sonoma, California, 1 March 1949

Henry to Betty Arnold, Sonoma, California, 29 January 1949

Henry to Betty Arnold, Sonoma, California, 30 December 1948

Henry to Berry Arnold, Sonoma, California, 19 December 1948

Henry to Betty Arnold, Sonoma, California, 7 November 1948

Henry to Eleanor Arnold, Potsdam, Germany, 24 July 1945

Henry to Eleanor Arnold, Potsdam, Germany, 22 July 1945

Henry to Eleanor Arnold, Potsdam, Germany, 22 July 1945

Henry to Eleanor Arnold, Potsdam, Germany, 18 July 1945

This letter was written on and mailed in Adolf Hitler's personal stationery and envelope. .

Henry to Eleanor Arnold, Potsdam, Germany, 17 July 1945

Henry to Eleanor Arnold, Potsdam, Germany 16 July 1945

Henry to Eleanor Arnold, Potsdam, Germany, [Thursday] July 1945

Henry to Eleanor Arnold, Potsdam, Germany, [Sunday] July

Henry to Eleanor Arnold, Berchtesgaden, German, 14 July 1945 (first letter)

Henry to Eleanor Arnold, Berchtesgaden, German, 14 July 1945 (second letter)

Henry to Eleanor Arnold, Paris, France, 12 July 1945 (first letter)

Henry to Eleanor Arnold, Paris, France, 12 July 1945 (second letter)

Henry to Lois Arnold, March Field, California, 1934

Henry to Louisa Harley Arnold, 16 March 1910

Henry to Louisa Harley Arnold, West Point, New York, September 1905