

SMS 849  
2 December 2022  
Schreck, Christopher J.

**AUSTIN, GORDON H.**  
**1923-1944**  
**LINEAR FT.: 0.2**  
**APPROX. NO. PGS.: 400**

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Major General Gordon Harrison Austin (1913-2010), USAF, was a decorated Army and Air Force commander who began his military career as a fighter pilot in World War II. Following the war, he held multiple positions as a military diplomat in France before taking command positions with the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Central Air Defense Force, Allied Forces Central Europe (NATO), and the 26th Air Division at Stewart Air Force Base in New York. General Austin was awarded the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, and Air Medal with 13 oak leaf clusters for his distinguished service.

Among his many leadership roles, Austin served as commander of the 319th Bombardment Group, 42nd Bomb Wing, flying combat missions in Italy and southern France in 1943-1944. He flew 115 combat hours and dozens of missions in his B-26 aircraft before returning to the United States in December 1944 to assume duties in the Operations and Requirements Division of the US Army Air Forces in Washington, D.C.

His father, Major General Fred T. Austin (1866-1938), served in the Spanish-American War and in World War I, after which he rose to become the United States Army's Chief of Field Artillery.

This collection relates primarily to the 42nd Bomb Wing with which Gordon Austin served in World War II, though it also includes documents belonging to his father. It was donated to Clark Special collections by General Gordon H. Austin, through the Friends of the Air Force Academy Library, in November 1992.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection consists of five folders arranged in two series, outlined below.

**SERIES ONE: REPORTS**

Comprised of bombing reports that were produced by the 42nd Bomb Wing (A-2 Section, APO 650) between October 1943 and September 1944. These reports describe bombing activities of the 42nd Bomb Wing in detail, which includes the 17th, 31st, 319th, and 320th Bomb Groups. They also describe the activities of other units on those same dates. The reports have “Stinopsum” numbers, which is an acronym for “Statistics, Intelligence, and Operations

Summary” as each of these terms appear as fields in these reports. Over twenty missions are described, with photographs.

### **SERIES TWO: CORRESPONDENCE**

Includes correspondence between General Austin’s father, Fred T. Austin, and other military and political leaders in the 1920s.

**Names:** Austin, Gordon H.; Austin, Fred T.

**Keywords and terms:** Generals; World War II; World War, 1939-1945; European Theater; Pilots; Bombing Operations; 42nd Bombardment Wing; 17th Bombardment Group; 31st Bombardment Group; 319th Bombardment Group; 320th Bombardment Group; Italy; France; 1920s; 1940s

For information on how to cite the materials in this collection, see the Clark Special Collections Citation Guide at <https://usafa.libguides.com/spc>, or contact Clark Special Collections at (719) 333-4674.

## **ARRANGEMENT AND DESCRIPTION**

### **SERIES ONE: REPORTS**

#### **BOX 1**

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| Folder 1 | Bomb Assessment Reports, Stinopsum Nos. 218-225. 1-10 September 1944  |
| Folder 2 | Bomb Assessment Reports, Stinopsum Nos. 226-232. 11-17 September 1944   |
| Folder 3 | Bomb Assessment Reports, Stinopsum Nos. 233-240. 18-30 September 1944   |
| Folder 4 | “Bridge Busting: A Representative History of Bridge Attacks by the 42nd Bomb Wing 20 October 1943 – 16 August 1944.” Bomb Assessment Report covering bridge attacks by the 42nd Bomb Wing in an unpublished book format. Photos of the targets are included |

### **SERIES 2: CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **BOX 1**

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|----------|---|
| Folder 5 | Correspondence  |
|          | Letter from the War Department in Washington to Maj. Gen. Ernest Hinds, Commanding, Headquarters Second Division, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, 13 December 1923 |
|          | Letter from Lt. Col. Fred T. Austin, to Senator Frank Greene, 31 December 1923  |

Letter from the Army & Navy General Hospital, Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas, to Lt. Col. D. Foulois, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, signed by Fred T. Austin, 2 March 1925

Letter from the Army & Navy General Hospital, Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas, to Honorable Frank L. Greene, United States Senate, Washington, D.C., signed by Fred T. Austin, 3 March 1925

Letter from the U.S. Senate, Committee on Military Affairs, St. Albans, Vermont, to Lt. Col. Fred T. Austin, Army and Navy General Hospital, Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas, 16 September 1925

Letter from the War Department, office of the Chief of Air Corps, Washington, to Col. Fred T. Austin, signed by Mason M. Patrick, Maj. Gen., A.C., Chief of the Air Corps, 20 October 1926

Letter from Fred T. Austin, to Maj. Gen. Mason M. Patrick, 26 November 1926

Note from Maj. Gen. Gordon H. Austin, USAF (Ret.) to Bud, undated