

SMS 1250
PROC: 2020, CJS

CHIDLAW, BENJAMIN W., GENERAL
1944-1945

LINEAR FT.: 3
APPROX. NO. PGS. 7,000

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Benjamin Wiley Chidlaw was born in Cleves, Ohio, on December 18, 1900. He graduated from the United States Military Academy as a Second Lieutenant of the United States Army Air Service in June of 1922, and spent the first several years of his career in training and engineering positions. Chidlaw was promoted to Major in March 1940, to Lieutenant Colonel in September 1941, to Colonel in March 1942, and to Brigadier General in November 1942. In March 1943 he was assigned to the Office of the Assistant Chief of Air Staff for Materiel and represented the United States Army Air Force on several joint Royal Air Force technical missions in London. He served in the Mediterranean Theater of World War II in April 1944 as Deputy Commanding General of the XII Tactical Air Command. Following the invasion of southern France he organized and commanded the XXII Tactical Air Command in Italy, from which the materials in this collection (SMS 1250) were produced. In March 1945 he took command of the Mediterranean Allied Tactical Air Force and was promoted to the rank of Major General the following month. After the war he remained in senior command positions and finished his career with the United States Air Force in 1955 as Commander of the Continental Air Defense Command with the rank of General. General Chidlaw died in 1977 at the age of 76.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The XXII Tactical Air Command (TAC), under the direction of General Chidlaw, was formed to provide support to the Fifth Army's ground offensive in Italy during World War II, which had stalled in the summer of 1944 at the foot of the Apennine Mountains. The documents in this collection record in great detail the formation, objectives, and outcomes of the XXII TAC between September 1944 and May 1945. This information was written and assembled by General Chidlaw to document the history of the XXII TAC, and as such provides a very detailed narrative of the unit's activities as they unfolded.

In addition to the narrative written by Chidlaw, the collection contains a variety of primary source documents. Photographs depict officers, soldiers, training classes, airfields, aircraft, weather conditions, and bombing raids. Statistical summaries for each month are included, as are

daily ordnance and movement journals, operational and intelligence summaries, rosters, G-2 reports, general orders, and more.

These materials were received by Special Collections in 2012 as eight binders and an additional book, which was written by General Chidlaw. The binders were divided into two volumes, the first four covering September 20 to December 31, 1944, and the second four covering January 1 to May 9, 1945. Damage to some of the documents and photographs is present, primarily due to rusty clips and acidic paper, so materials were removed from their bindings and placed in folders to prevent further damage. Both halves of the narrative that was written by General Chidlaw have been combined to form Series One, which consists of a single box. Series Two contains all of the supplemental material that was included in these volume as annexes, and forms the final six boxes of the collection. Except for the combination of the narrative into a single box all of these materials are arranged in their original order, as General Chidlaw had organized them when he produced these volumes in 1950.

Names: Chidlaw, Benjamin W.; Darcy, Thomas C.; Israel, Robert S.

Topics: World War, 1939-1945; World War II; Italy; Apennine Mountains; Mediterranean Campaign; XXII Tactical Air Command; United States Army Air Forces; 1940s

ARRANGEMENT AND DESCRIPTION

SERIES ONE XXII Tactical Air Command, 1944-1945 Narrative

BOX 1 History: XXII Tactical Air Command, 1944-1945 Volumes 1 and 2

Folder 1	Front Matter to Volume 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supplemental Information • Forward 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photograph of Benjamin Chidlaw • Table of Contents
Folder 2	Vol. 1 Chapter I-Organization		
Folder 3	Vol. 1 Chapter II (Vol. 1)-Situation		
Folder 4	Vol. 1 Chapter III-Mission and Operational Procedures. Included media: photographs		
Folder 5	Vol. 1 Chapter IV-September, 1944. Included media: photographs		
Folder 6	Vol. 1 Chapter V-October, 1944. Included media: photographs and maps		

- Folder 7 Vol. 1 Chapter VI-November, 1944. Included media: photographs and maps
- Folder 8 Vol. 1 Chapter VII-December, 1944. Included media: photographs and maps
- Folder 9 Vol. 1 Chapter VIII-The 1st Brazilian Fighter Squadron. Included media, photographs
- Folder 10 Front Matter to Volume 2
- Supplemental Information
 - Forward
 - Photographs of commanding officers
 - Table of Contents
- Folder 11 Vol. 2 Chapter I-General Situation
- Folder 12 Vol. 2 Chapter II-Intentions
- Folder 13 Vol. 2 Chapter III-January, 1945
- Folder 14 Vol. 2 Chapter IV-February, 1945
- Folder 15 Vol. 2 Chapter V-March, 1945
- Folder 16 Vol. 2 Chapter VI-April, 1945
- Folder 17 Vol 2 Chapter VII-Administrative History
- Book Chidlaw, Benjamin W., *The 350th Fighter Group in the Mediterranean Campaign: 2 November 1942 to 2 May 1945.*

SERIES 2: XXII Tactical Air Command, 1944-1945 Sources

BOX 2 Volume 1 Annex (1)

- Folder 1 General Orders, 1944
- Folder 2 Special Orders, 1945
- Folder 3 Station Lists, 1944
- Folder 4 Attacks against Enemy Installations

- Folder 5 Statistical Summary Sept.-Dec., 1944
- Folder 6 Daily Intelligence Summary-September, 1944
- Folder 7 Daily Intelligence Summary-October, 1944
- Folder 8 Daily Intelligence Summary-November, 1944
- Folder 9 Daily Intelligence Summary-December, 1944
- Folder 10 Operational Summaries-October, 1944
- Folder 11 Operational Summaries-November, 1944
- Folder 12 Operational Summaries-December, 1944
- Folder 13 Daily Operations Directives-October, 1944
- Folder 14 Daily Operations Directives-November, 1944
- Folder 15 Daily Operations Directives- December, 1944

BOX 3 Volume 1 Annex (2)

- Folder 1 Operations Memoranda, 1944
- Folder 2 Operational Intelligence Analysis, 1944
- Folder 3 Operations Orders, 1944
- Folder 4 Roster of Personnel-October, 1944
- Folder 5 Roster of Personnel-November to December, 1944
- Folder 6 Test of 4.5 Aircraft Rockets against Locomotive. Included media: photographs
- Folder 7 Daily Ordnance Journal, 1944
- Folder 8 Daily Movement Journal, 1944

- Folder 9 Supply and Maintenance Journal, 1944
- Folder 10 Fifth Army G-2 Reports-November, 1944. Included media: maps
- Folder 11 Fifth Army G-2 Reports-December, 1944. Included media: maps

BOX 4 Volume 1 Annex (3), Volume 2 Annex (1)

- Folder 1 Photographs (1 of 2). Included media: photographs
- Folder 2 Photographs (2 of 2). Included media: photographs
- Folder 3 Gun Positions. Included media: photographs
- Folder 4 Supply Dump. Included media: photographs
- Folder 5 Buildings and Occupied Areas. Included media: photographs

Beginning of Volume 2 Annex (1)

- Folder 6 Railroad Bridge Campaign
- Folder 7 Operation Freeborn
- Folder 8 Statistical Summary-January, 1945
- Folder 9 Statistical Summary-February, 1945
- Folder 10 Statistical Summary-March, 1945
- Folder 11 Statistical Summary-April, 1945
- Folder 12 Statistical Bulletin-January-March, 1945
- Folder 13 Rail Intradiction
- Folder 14 Operations Orders, 1945
- Folder 15 Operations Memoranda, 1945

Folder 16 Planning Memoranda, 1945

BOX 5 Volume 2 Annex (2)

Folder 1 Directives-January, 1945

Folder 2 Directives-February-March, 1945

Folder 3 Directives-April-May, 1945

Folder 4 Directives-47th Bomber Group

Folder 5 Daily Intelligence Summaries-January, 1945

Folder 6 Daily Intelligence Summaries-February, 1945

Folder 7 Daily Intelligence Summaries-March, 1945

Folder 8 Daily Intelligence Summaries-April, 1945

BOX 6 Volume 2 Annex (3)

Folder 1 G-2 Reports: January, 1945. Included media: maps

Folder 2 G-2 Reports: February, 1945. Included media: maps

Folder 3 G-2 Reports: March, 1945. Included media: maps

Folder 4 G-2 Reports: April, 1945. Included media: maps

Folder 5 G-2 Reports: May, 1945

BOX 7 Volume 2 Annex (4)

Folder 1 General Orders: January-February, 1945

Folder 2 General Orders: March-May, 1945

Folder 3 Special Orders: January-February, 1945

Folder 4 Special Orders: March-May, 1945

Folder 5 Rosters-1945

Folder 6 Station Lists, 1945

Folder 7 Movement Orders, 1944-1945

Folder 8 Movement Journal, 1945

Folder 9 Ordnance Journal, 1945

Folder 10 Supply and Maintenance Journal, 1945

Binder Covers x 8