

NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE ARCHIVES

Edgar S. Gorrell Collection

Accession No. XXXX-0057



National Air and Space Museum
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, DC

Amy Lewellen

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Edgar S. Gorrell Collection (1936-1940)
3.59 cubic feet (9 boxes)

Biographical Note

Colonel Edgar S. Gorrell (1891-1945) was a pilot and an advocate for aviation safety. He graduated from West Point in 1912 and then spent two years as an infantryman in Alaska before transferring to the Signal Corps, where he joined the 1st Aero Squadron, serving under Gen. John J. Pershing in Mexico. On one of his flying missions in Mexico, Gorrell ran out of gas and was stranded in the desert for several days before being rescued. Upon returning to his unit, he began to criticize the poor equipment US pilots were forced to use, both in terms of actual aircraft components and the signals and communication equipment used on land. In 1917 he was promoted to Captain, and in World War I he became the Chief Engineering Officer for the Air Service, and eventually the Chief of Staff for the Air Service, with the rank of Colonel. After the war, Gorrell remained in Europe representing the US at conferences and peace talks.

In March 1920, he resigned his commission in the Army and joined the automobile business. He served as the vice president of Marmon Motor Car Company until 1925. Then he became vice president, director, and general manager, and later president, of the Stutz Motor Car company of America. In January 1936, Gorrell again switched fields when he was elected the first president of the Air Transport Association of America, shortly after its conception. It was with this organization that he was known for his role in promoting safety in civil aeronautics. He was a strong advocate for the Civil Aeronautics Act of 1938 which provided government control and regulation of civil aeronautics, and he provided testimony before congressional committees several times. Gorrell continued to support civil aeronautics, especially through his role as president of the Air Transport Association of America, until his death, in 1945.

Scope and Content Note

The Edgar S. Gorrell Collection is largely comprised of material relating to Gorrell's career as president of the Air Transport Association of America. The material includes his correspondence and speeches, the Congressional hearings and reports for the bills he advocated, and publications and newspaper articles about him and his career. Also in the collection are several photographs and photograph albums from World War I and other miscellaneous material. These are all divided into the following two series:

Series 1: GENERAL. This series contains correspondence, addresses delivered by E.S. Gorrell, and publications and newspaper articles, some written by Gorrell. There are also Congressional hearings and reports, and some miscellaneous material. The documents are arranged in chronological order.

Series 2: PHOTOGRAPHS/ALBUMS. This series contains photographs and photo albums. Many of these are aerial photographs of trenches taken c. 1916 – 1918, but there are also many photographs of aerial and land transport equipment.

CONTAINER LIST

SERIES 1: GENERAL

This series contains correspondence, addresses delivered by Gorrell, and publications and newspaper articles, some written by Gorrell. There are also Congressional hearings and reports, and some miscellaneous material. The documents are arranged in chronological order.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
1	1	Correspondence Correspondence 1936
	2	Speeches, 1936 <i>Current Trends in Air Transportation</i> , Address delivered at the Conference on Transportation, Cambridge, MA, June 8, 1936 <i>Air Transportation in Foreign Commerce</i> , Address delivered before the National Foreign Trade Convention, Chicago, IL, Nov. 19, 1936 (2 copies) <i>The Airline Industry Today</i> , Address delivered at the National Aeronautic Association Conference, Chicago, IL, Nov. 30 & Dec. 1, 1936
	3	Speeches, 1937 Address delivered before the Boston Chamber of Commerce at the Transportation Conference, Boston, MA, Jan. 14, 1937 <i>The Future of Transportation in the United States from the Viewpoint of: Air</i> , Address delivered before the Chamber of Commerce of the United States at their 25 th Annual Meeting, Apr. 28, 1937 <i>Standing Upon the Threshold of a Profession</i> , Address delivered at the graduation exercises of Norwich University, Northfield, VT, June 7, 1937 (2 copies) <i>America's National Policy on Aeronautics</i> , Address delivered at Western Aviation Planning Conference, Sacramento, CA, Sept. 23, 1937 (2 copies) <i>Aviation, Yesterday and Today</i> , Address delivered at the 8 th Annual Mountain State Forest Festival, Elkins, WV, Oct. 9, 1937 <i>Rationalization of Air Transport</i> , Address delivered before the 7 th Annual Convention of the National Association of State Aviation Officials, Miami, FL, Dec. 3, 1937 (2 copies) <i>The Why of S.2 and H.R. 7273</i> , Address delivered at the 7 th Annual Convention of the National Association of State Aviation Officials, Miami, FL, Dec. 3, 1937 (2 copies)
	4	Speeches, 1938 <i>Will History Repeat Itself?</i> , Address delivered before the First National Aviation Planning Conference during the Annual Convention of the National Aeronautics Assn., Cleveland, OH, Jan. 10, 1938 (2 copies)

Box Folder

- 1 4 *Shall Air Transport be Stifled?*, Address delivered at the National Aviation Forum, Washington, DC, Feb. 21, 1939 (2 copies)
- The Civil Aeronautics Act of 1938 And The Air Carrier Traffic Man*, Address delivered at the Conference of Air Line Traffic Men, Chicago, IL, July 12, 1938 (2 copies)
- The Civil Aeronautics Act of 1938 And Air Carrier Maintenance*, Address delivered at the Air Line Engineering and Maintenance Conference, Chicago, IL, Jul. 14, 1938 (2 copies)
- The Civil Aeronautics Act of 1938 And The Aircraft Manufacturer*, Address delivered at the Air Line Engineering and Maintenance Conference, Chicago, IL, July 15, 1938 (2 copies)
- The Civil Aeronautics Act of 1938 And The Private Flier*, Address delivered at the Air Line Engineering and Maintenance Conference, Chicago, IL, July 16, 1938 (2 copies)
- The Civil Aeronautics Act of 1938 And The Air Line Feeder*, Address delivered at the National Airmail Feeder Conference, Kansas City, MO, Oct. 7, 1938 (2 copies)
- The Civil Aeronautics Act of 1938 And Democratic Government*, Address delivered at the 8th Annual Convention of the National Association of State Aviation Officials, Omaha, NE, Oct. 15, 1938 (2 copies)
- Speeches, 1939**
- 5 *The Civil Aeronautics Act of 1938 And Self Government in the Industries*, Address delivered at the Annual Convention of the National Aeronautic Association, St. Louis, MO, Jan. 17, 1939 (2 copies)
- The Civil Aeronautics Act of 1938 And The Postal Service*, Address delivered before the Young Men's Business Club, New Orleans, LA, Mar. 8, 1939 (2 copies)
- Shall America's Aviation Set the Pace?*, Address delivered before the National Petroleum Association, Cleveland, OH, Apr. 14, 1939 (2 copies)
- Aeronautical Research and Air Transportation*, Address delivered before the students at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, May 4, 1939 (2 copies)
- Address delivered at the ceremony of the opening of the Aviation Exhibit in the New York World's Fair, May 20, 1939
- Progress Ratified; Lethargy Rejected*, Address delivered at the dedication of the Civil Aeronautics Authority's Experimental Station, Indianapolis, IN, May 29, 1939 (2 copies)
- The Civil Aeronautics Authority – A Vital Part of Our National Life*, Address delivered before the Kiwanis Club of Dallas, Dallas, TX, July 18, 1939
- The Civil Aeronautics Authority: A Successful Agency of Government*, Address delivered before the Southwest Chamber of Commerce Secretaries' School, Dallas, TX, July 19, 1939 (2 copies)

Box Folder

- Speeches, 1940**
- 1 6 *The Civil Aeronautics Act of 1938 And Airport Development*, Address delivered at the Annual Convention of the American Road Builders Association, Chicago, IL, Jan. 31, 1940 (2 copies)
- Government and Private Management in Air Transportation*, Address delivered at the Engineering and Maintenance Conference, Kansas City, MO, Feb. 5, 1940
- The Measure of America's World War Aeronautical Effort*, Lecture delivered under the James Jackson Cabot Professorship of Air Transportation at Norwich University, Northfield, VT, Nov. 26, 1940
- Congressional Hearings**
- 7 U.S. Congress. Senate. Committee on Military Affairs. *Aircraft Production*, Vol. II. 65th Cong., 2nd Sess., 1918
- 8 U.S. Congress. Senate. Committee on Appropriations. *First Deficiency Appropriation Bill for 1936*. 74th Cong., 2nd Sess., 1936. H.R. 12624
- 2 1 U.S. Congress. Senate. Committee on Commerce. *Safety in the Air*, Part 3. 75th Cong., 1st Sess., Jan. 13, Feb. 2 and 16, 1937. S. Res. 146
- 2 U.S. Congress. House. Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. *Aviation*. 75th Cong., 1st Sess., Mar. 30, 31, Apr. 1, 2, 6, 7, and 8, 1937. H.R. 5234 and H.R. 4652
- 3 U.S. Congress. Senate. Committee on Interstate Commerce. *Regulation of Transportation of Passenger and Property by Aircraft*. 75th Cong., 1st Sess., Mar. 8 to Apr. 12, 1937. S. 2 and S. 1760
- 4,5 U.S. Congress. House. Committee on Appropriation. *Department of Commerce Appropriation Bill for 1938*. 75th Cong., 1st Sess., 1937 (2 copies)
- 3 1 U.S. Congress. House. Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. *To Create a Civil Aeronautics Authority*. 75th Cong., 3rd Sess., Mar. 10, 11, 22, 23, 24, 25, 29, 30, 31 and Apr. 1, 1938. H.R. 9738
- 2 U.S. Congress. House. Committee on Appropriation. *Department of Commerce Appropriation Bill for 1939*. 75th Cong., 3rd Sess., 1938
- 3 U.S. Congress. House. Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. *Omnibus Transportation Bill*, (excerpt). 76th Cong., 1st Sess., Mar. 23, 1939. H.R. 2531 and H.R. 4862 (2 copies)
- 4 U.S. Congress. Senate. Committee on Interstate Commerce. *Transportation Act of 1939*. 76th Cong., 1st Sess., Apr. 3 to 14, 1939. S. 1310, S. 2016, S. 1869, and S. 2009
- 5 U.S. Congress. Senate. Committee on Appropriations. *Agricultural Appropriation Bill for 1940*. 76th Cong., 1st Sess., 1939. H.R. 5269
- 4 1 U.S. Congress. House. Committee on Appropriations. *Supplemental Military Appropriation Bill for 1940*. 76th Cong., 1st Sess., 1939

Box Folder

- Congressional Reports**
- 4 2 U.S. Congress. Senate. *Report of the Committee on Military Affairs on Aircraft Production in the United States*. 65th Cong., 2nd Sess., Aug. 22, 1918. No. 555
- 3 *Report of the President's Aircraft Board*, Nov. 30, 1925
- 4 U.S. Congress. Senate. *Preliminary report of the Committee on Commerce on Safety in the Air*. 74th Cong., 2nd Sess., Jun. 15, 1936. No. 2455 (2 copies)
- U.S. Congress. Senate. *Report of the Committee on Commerce on Safety in the Air*. 75th Cong., 1st Sess., Mar. 17, 1937. No. 185 (2 copies)
- 5 U.S. Congress. *Civil Aeronautics Act of 1938*. 75th Cong., 3rd Sess. S. 3845
- U.S. Congress. House. *Report of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce on the Civil Aeronautics Bill*, part 1. 75th Cong., 3rd Sess., Apr. 28, 1938. No. 2254 (2 copies)
- U.S. Congress. House. *Report of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce on the Civil Aeronautics Bill*, part 2. 75th Cong., 3rd Sess., May 5, 1938. No. 2254, Part 2
- U.S. Congress. Senate. *Congressional Records*. 75th Cong., 3rd Sess., May 7, 1938. No. 94
- U.S. Congress. Senate. *Congressional Records*. 75th Cong., 3rd Sess., May 9, 1938. No. 95
- U.S. Congress. *Congressional Records – Appendix*, (missing pages). Feb. 13, 1938
- U.S. Congress. Senate. *Congressional Records*, (missing pages). Aug. 18, 1938
- 6 U.S. Congress. *Congressional Questions*, June 29 1939. No. 130
- 7 U.S. Congress. House. *Report of the Committee to Investigate Air Accidents*. 78th Cong., 1st Sess., Jan. 7, 1943. H. Res. 125 and 403
- Bills/Laws**
- 8 U.S. Congress. Senate. *First Bill Introduced for an Appropriation for Aeronautics*. 53rd Cong., 2nd Sess., Dec. 20, 1893. S. 1344
- 9 *Criticisms and Suggestions for the Proposed Law of Airflight*, Sept. 3 1937
- 10 U.S. Congress. House. *Civil Aeronautics Authority Bill*. 75th Cong., 3rd Sess., Mar. 4 and Apr. 28, 1938. H.R. 9738 [Report No. 2254]
- General**
- 11 Publications, articles by E.S. Gorrell, 1932-1939
- 12 Testimonies and Statements, E.S. Gorrell, 1936-1939
- 13 *What! No Airplanes*, E.S. Gorrell, no date
- 5 1 *Weather Bureau "Gaps" and Inadequacies In Our System of Federal Airways*, E.S. Gorrell. Preprinted from *The Journal of Air Law and Commerce*, April 1939 (2 copies)

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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
5	2	Newspaper Articles, 1936-1939 -- E. S. Gorrell -- the <i>Yankee Clipper</i>
		Miscellaneous
	3	Kelly, Clyde. <i>United States Postal Policy</i> . D. Appleton and Co.: New York, 1931
	4	National Aviation Forum invitation, Feb. 20-21, 1939 Tintype, subject unknown Postcards of London and New Brunswick Government Evacuation Scheme pamphlet Building and Grounds map of West Point, NY
	5	Miscellaneous Newspaper Articles
		Oversize Items
9		<i>Fortune</i> (Magazine), April 1937, Vol. 15 No. 4 ("Air Safety" p. 75) <i>The Times War Atlas</i> . Times Publishing Company Ltd: London Newspaper Articles, 1939 -- E. S. Gorrell -- the <i>Yankee Clipper</i>

SERIES 2: PHOTOGRAPHS/ALBUMS

This series contains photographs and photo albums. Many of these are aerial photographs of trenches taken c. 1916 – 1918, but there are also many photographs of aerial and land transport equipment.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
		Photographs
5	6	Photos of Nieuport airplane at Washington D.C. Navy Yard
	7	Photos of Transport Park at Bourq and French farmland in Cote d'Or, c. 1919
	8	Photos of truck and aircraft dump from War Department
	9	Aerial Photos of trenches
		Albums
6		Photos of Signal Corps depicting aircraft engines, lifejackets, parachutes, trucks, pilots, tool chest, wireless, etc
7		Aviation – training base [?], c. 1916-1917
8		Aerial Photography, France; bombed areas, trenches, aircraft, c. June 1918
		Oversize Items
9		Photo, unknown source Aerial Photos [album] – Cantigny, May 28 1918 Aerial Photos [album] – Chateau-Thierry Sector, July 1918