

MS-594: Laurence P. Richmond Papers

Collection Number: MS-594

Title: Laurence P. Richmond Papers

Dates: 1918-1974 (bulk 1930-1960)

Creator: Richmond, Laurence Palmer, 1900-1988

Summary/Abstract:

The collection consists primarily of information on the development of radio technologies at General Electric in the 1920s and of radio and radar technologies at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base from the 1930s through 1950s. Some information on the WPAFB Quarter Century Club is also included.

Quantity/Physical Description: 0.84 linear foot

Language(s): English

Repository:

Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435-0001, (937) 775-2092

Restrictions on Access: There are no restrictions on accessing material in this collection.

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Preferred Citation:

[Description of item, Date, Box #, Folder #], MS-594, Laurence P. Richmond Papers, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio

Separated Material:

Printed publications, including several pertaining specifically to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, have been separated to the cataloged materials in the Special Collections Reading Room.

Other Finding Aid:

The finding aid is available on the Special Collections & Archives, Wright State University Libraries web site at <https://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/collectionguides/files/ms594.pdf>. It is also available in the OhioLINK Finding Aid Repository at <http://ead.ohiolink.edu/xtf-ead/>.

Related Material:

[MS-350: Quarter Century Club Records, WPAFB](#)

Processing Information:

A small amount of material in this collection was originally processed as collection number SC-40, Laurence Richmond Papers, 1948-1949. All material from that collection has been incorporated into this collection. Items that were included in the former SC-40 are identified at the file level in this finding aid, and the item-level descriptions previously provided in SC-40 are included in this finding aid as well.

Processed by:

Finding aid written according to DACS standards by Lisa Rickey, September 2019.

Arrangement:

The collection is intellectually arranged in a single series chronologically, except for a resume, which has been placed first in the collection due to summary importance. Physically, the collection is arranged with larger items at the end (Box 2, Files 16-25).

Biographical/Historical Note:

Laurence Palmer Richmond was born September 19, 1900, in Lodi, Wisconsin, to Albert E. Richmond and Minnie (Palmer) Richmond. He attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison, graduating in 1923 with a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering. Following graduation, Laurence worked for 5 years at General Electric Company, Schenectady, New York, in the Test Course and Engineering Laboratory of the Radio Department.

In 1929, Laurence Richmond started working as a Radio Engineer for the U.S. Army at Wright Field near Dayton, Ohio. He specialized in engineering problems connected with installation of radio and radar equipment in service aircraft. By 1949, he held the position of Assistant Chief of the Components and Systems (Radio) Laboratory in the Engineering Division of Air Materiel Command at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. He appears to have retired sometime prior to 1960. Additionally, he enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1942 and remained in the service thereafter, eventually achieving the rank of Colonel.

Laurence Richmond was married twice. He married his first wife Dorothy Andrews, about 1928, and she died in January 1938. He married his second wife, widow Minnie Belle (Porter) Trace, sometime prior to 1940. Laurence does not appear to have had any children, though he had two step-daughters, Susan and Patricia Trace. During his time at Wright Field, Laurence resided in Dayton and later Oakwood. Eventually, Laurence and Minnie moved to Irvine, Orange County, California, where Minnie died in 1985, and Laurence died on January 30, 1988. Laurence is buried with his wives in Garden Bluff Cemetery, in his hometown of Lodi, Wisconsin.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection consists primarily of information on the development of radio technologies at General Electric in the 1920s and of radio and radar technologies at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base from the 1930s through 1950s. Materials related to Richmond's work at General Electric include mainly notes, diagrams, and test data concerning various radio models, including the

Radiola, from about 1925-1928. Materials related to Richmond's work at Wright Field include blueprints and schematic diagrams, test data and notes; administrative documents such as correspondence, memos, personnel lists, and reports; and a small amount of public relations information such as press releases and clippings. Most Wright Field materials date from 1930 to 1960, although a few documents date to as early as 1918 (preceding Richmond's time there). Some information on the WPAFB Quarter Century Club is also included and dates from between 1954 and 1974.

Subject Terms

Persons/Families

Richmond, Laurence Palmer, 1900-1988

Organizations/Corporate Names

United States. Army. Air Corps. Materiel Division

Places

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (Ohio) -- History

Subjects (General)

Airplanes -- Radar equipment

Models and modelmaking -- Radio control systems

Radio in aeronautics

Material Types

Blueprints

Correspondence

Design drawings

Diagrams

Engineering drawings

Occupations

Engineers

Collection Inventory

Box	File	Description	Date
1	1	Biographical information (resume)	1949
University of Wisconsin and General Electric			
1	2	“Abstractive and Selective Properties of Radio Antenna Circuits” by Edward Bennett (U. Wisconsin electrical engineering textbook in 1923)	1920
1	3	Philosophy course notes: “Man and Nature,” Professor Otto	1923
1	4	“Relations of Carrier and Side Bands in Radio Transmission”	Circa 1925-1929
1	5	“Vacuum Tube Oscillators: A Graphical Method of Analysis”	Circa 1925-1929
1	6	“Permalloy, A New Magnetic Material of Very High Permeability” by H. D. Arnold and G. W. Elmen	Circa 1925-1929
1	7	General Electric (GE): Radiola schematics and notes	1925-1927
1	8	General Electric (GE): UX-171 test data	1925
1	9	General Electric (GE): R28/R28A diagrams and notes	1926
1	10	General Electric (GE): Other or Unidentified schematics and notes	1926-1927
1	11	General Electric (GE): Notes and diagrams	1926-1928
1	12	Standards Tables: Vacuum tubes, radio frequencies, etc.	1926-1938, undated
1	13	General Electric (GE): Broadcast Radio Receives and Associated Apparatus Sold by G. E. Company	Circa 1926
1	14	“Tentative Theory of the Effect of Weather on Radio Reception (from an article in the July “Tycos-Rochester”), R. H. Langley	Circa 1926?
1	15	Certificate of Completion, L. P. Richmond, in Radio Theory course, General Electric Company, Schenectady Works, Evening Vocational School	1927 July 15
1	16	General Electric (GE): Engineering Memo #280 re: Special Capacity Fixed Mica Condensers, M2652922	1927 July 30
1	17	General Electric (GE): Test data and graphs	1927, undated
2	16	General Electric (GE): Potentiometer blueprint (oversize)	1927
Wright Field			
2	17	U.S. Army Signal Corps, Air Service Engineering Division, McCook Field: Flame Proof Key Type J-5	1918, 1922

Box	File	Description	Date
		blueprint (oversize)	
1	18	Radio Laboratory Building floor plan (now part of Building 17), Wright Field	1930
1	19	Wright Field: Civilian Leave Regulations	1930
2	18	U.S. Army Air Corps: Kite Radio Antenna (Emergency) – Low wind and high wind assembly, kite fabric specifications, blueprint (oversize)	1930
1	20	“The Signal Corps Aircraft Radio Laboratory and Recent Developments in Radio for Military Aircraft” by L. P. Richmond (from SC-40)	1931
1	21	Automatic Direction-finder: Purpose, Method, and Schematic	1931 Sept.
1	22	Blueprints and notes on various topics: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstration for the Liaison Committee on Aeronautical Radio Research; 2. System of Landing in Fog by Means of Electric Cables; 3. Loth System of Landing Cables, Miniature Installation at Patterson Field; 4. Ultra Short Wave Boundary Marker; 5. Automatic Direction Finder; 6. Pointer Type Course Indicator for Visual Beacon Reception; 7. Circuit Arrangement used with the Tuned Reed Converter; 8. Bell Telephone Aircraft Radio Receiver Type 9-D (Long Wave); 9. Automatic Gain Control of Weston Electric Receiver Type 9-D; 10. Instrument Boards and Instrument Arrangement; 11. Type G-1 Sonic Altimeter; 12. Type A-1 Gyro Pilot; 13. Type A-1 Directional Gyro; 14. Type C-1 Gyro Horizon 	1931 Sept.
1	23	“The Effects of Geometrical Variations in Triodes with Plane, Parallel Electrodes,” by W. L. Krahl, Chief Engineer, Arcturus Radio Tube Company, Inc. (delivered October 13, 1931, before the Cincinnati Section of I.R.E., Engineer’s Club, Dayton, Ohio)	1931 Oct. 8
1	24	Speech made by Mr. Harold Gatty at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio	1931 Oct. 28
1	25	“Characteristics of Electromagnetic Radiation from Aircraft in Flight” by Tom C. Rives and James C. Coe, War Department Signal Corps, Wright Field,	1932 June

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
		presented at the Summer Convention of the A.I.E.E., Cleveland, Ohio, June 20-24, 1932	
1	26	Miscellaneous schematics and notes	1932, undated
1	27	News clipping: "Great Strides made in Development of Blind Flying at Wright Field during Year," <i>Dayton News</i>	1933 Jan. 15
2	19	U.S. Army Air Corps, Materiel Division: Chart #1 First Provisional Wing Net (groups connected by radio network), blueprint (oversize)	1933 May
2	20	U.S. Army Signal Corps, Aircraft Radio Lab, Wright Field: Interphone Set Type SCR-205 blueprint (oversize)	1934 Apr.
2	21	U.S. Army Air Corps, Materiel Division: Wiring Diagram for Type E-4 Radio Compass General, blueprint (oversize)	1934 June
2	22	U.S. Army Air Corps, Materiel Division: Circuit Diagram SCR-AC-183 blueprint (oversize)	1934 Aug.
2	23	U.S. Army Signal Corps, Aircraft Radio Lab, Wright Field: Cording Assembly and Connection Details (oversize)	1934 Sept.
2	24	U.S. Army Aircraft Radio Lab, Wright Field: Radio Transmitter Type BC-AA-191 blueprint (oversize)	1934 Dec.
2	25	U.S. Army Air Corps, Materiel Division: Marker Beacon A-1, Radio Compass SCR-242 blueprint (oversize)	1936
1	28	First Army CPX, Fort Devens, Mass., Officer Personnel Roster	1937
1	29	Trip Report: V. G. Huston and E. A. Post to South Pacific	1944 Feb.
1	30	Photographs (reproductions) of Signal operations in South Pacific, World War II	1944 May
1	31	Handbook on Pressure-Breathing Demand Oxygen Equipment, T.O. No. 03-50-31	1944 July 30
1	32	Wright Field Press Releases	1945, undated
1	33	Wright Field Press Release photographs	1945, 1953, undated
1	34	List of Representatives to Training Conference, Army Air Force	1945 Nov.
1	35	Report on Built-in Antennas for Fighter Aircraft	1946 July 1
1	36	List of Officers, Personnel, Committees (from SC-40), including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. List of Reserve Officers dated January 1949. 2. "A True Copy" Original of a Memo from John W. 	1946-1949

Box	File	Description	Date
		<p>Hannan, Jr. CWO, USAF Adjutant indicating people who were transferred. Dated February 9, 1949.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Committee, list of people. Dated June 17, 1949. 4. Handwritten list of people with rank titled Radar Lab undated. 5. Handwritten list of people with rank titled communication and navigation lab. Undated 6. Handwritten list of people with rank titled Electronic Sub Hgs. Undated. 7. Handwritten chart entitled C & S Reserve Officers. Undated. 8. Page with two handwritten carts, one entitled Civil Service Pay Rates the other entitled Annual Pay & Allowance – Offices effective July 1, 1946. Undated 9. Organizational Structure of an AMC Air Force Reserve Training Unit chart with handwritten notes dated February 8, 1949. 10. List of soldiers with their name, rank, serial number, home address, and assignment. Undated. 	
1	37	Installation Engineering subject file	1946-1953
1	38	General Field of Activities of Components and Systems Laboratory	Circa 1947?
1	39	Army Air Forces Technical Base Headquarters, Dayton, Ohio: <i>Daily Bulletin</i> newsletter No. 61	1947 Mar. 27
1	40	Memo re: Electronic Equipment, Form Factors, and Mounting Provisions of	1948 Feb. 11
1	41	Guide for Air Reserve Officers, Holloman Air Force Base	1948 May
1	42	“Radar and Radio Antenna Housings for Air Force Aircraft” by Fred H. Behrens, Components Laboratory, Electronic Subdivision, MCREES31 Air Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (presented before a seminar of the Society of Plastics Industries Low-Pressure Industries Division held in Washington, DC, 29 June 1948)	1948 June 29
1	43	<i>Strictly Personnel</i> newsletter (vol. 1, no. 14), official publication of the Civilian Personal Division, for employees of Headquarters AMC and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base to provide current information on personnel programs, plans, and procedures	1948 Oct.
1	44	Correspondence (from SC-40), including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Letter to Colonel Richmond from Major General J.M. Bevan. Bevan is congratulating Richmond on his appointment to the Air Material Command Air Force Reserve Training Unit. Dated April 4, 1948. 2. Copy of the above letter. 3. Copy of a letter to the Secretary of the Army 	1948-1949

Box	File	Description	Date
		<p>(unnamed) by Lindsay C. Warren the Comptroller General of the United States. The letter pertains to the people who are the Army of the United States Retired List but has Federal Civilian jobs and what the rule are on this. Dated December 17, 1948.</p> <p>4. Copy of a memo to Commanding Generals, All Major Air Commands in the Zone of Interior from L.L. Judge Colonel, USAF Air Adjutant General about Benefits of Title III, Public Law 810, 80th Congress, as pertains to Federal Civilian Employees. Dated Feb. 7, 1949.</p> <p>5. Copy of a letter to Major General J.M. Bevans from Col. Richmond, thanking him for his favorable policy towards Air Force Reserve Officer training. Dated April 22, 1949.</p>	
2	1	“Miniaturization of Airborne Electronic Equipment” by L. P. Richmond, presented at 8 th Convention Society of Aeronautical Weigh Engineers, Dayton, Ohio, May 24, 1949	1949 May
2	2	Research and Development in the U.S. Air Force, Air University Study	1949-1951
2	3	Wright Air Development Center (WADC) Organization	1951 June-Aug.
2	4	Address by Lt. Gen. E. W. Rawlings, Commanding General, Headquarters, Air Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, to the Personnel of Directorate, Procurement and Industrial Planning, 13 September 1951	1951 Sept. 13
2	5	WADC Components and Systems Laboratory: Procurement Practices	1951 Dec.
2	6	Key Personnel Roster: Offices, Departments, Divisions, Laboratories, and Squadrons, Wright Air Development Center (WADC), Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio	1952 Jan. 1
2	7	Staff Study: Installation Organizations within the Directorate of Laboratories, WADC, WPAFB	1952 Dec.
2	8	Installation Engineering Branch Transfer: Semi-Annual History of the Electronic Components Laboratory	1953 Jan.-Aug.
2	9	Research and Development Coordination	1953 Nov.-1954
2	10	Riehlman Report and Comments (House Report No. 2618: Organization and Administration of the Military Research and Development Programs, 24 th Intermediate Report of the Committee on Government Operations)	1954
2	11	U.S. Air Force Weapon System Concept	1958

Box	File	Description	Date
		(presentation slide pages)	
2	12	“Some Historical Aspects of the Military Reliability Problem” by Ray J. Nordlund	1959 Feb. 27
2	13	Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Quarter Century Club (Old Timers’ Club): Constitution	1960
2	14	WPAFB Quarter Century Club: Member Lists	1954-1963
2	15	WPAFB Quarter Century Club: Programs	1954-1974