



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

James Parton Photographs

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2021

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	James Parton Photographs
Date:	1936-1986 (bulk 1942-1944)
Identifier:	NASM.1986.0041
Extent:	0.05 Cubic feet (1 folder; 31 photographs)
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection consists of 31 black and white photographs documenting American editor and writer James Parton's involvement with the Allied Air Forces during World War II, and touching on his pre- and post-war editorial career.
Digital Content:	Image(s): James Parton, 1936 [NASM 86-5661]

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

James Parton, gift, 1986, NASM.1986.0041

Processing Information

Arranged and described by Harry Heiss, 1986; revised and encoded by Melissa A. N. Keiser, 2021.

Preferred Citation

James Parton Photographs, Acc. NASM.1986.0041, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

James Parton was born December 10, 1912, in Newburyport, Massachusetts; he attended Harvard University. From 1935 to 1942, Parton held various editorial and management positions with *Time* magazine, including aviation editor. During World War II, Parton served in the United States Army Air Forces (USAAF) as Aide-de-Camp to General Ira C. Eaker of the VIII Bomber Command, Eighth Air Force, and as Chief Air

Historian of the Mediterranean Allied Air Forces (MAAF). After the war, Parton resumed his journalism career as promotional and editorial director of Time-Life International (1945-1947), editor and publisher of the *Los Angeles Independent* (1948-1949) and promotional director of the *New York Herald Tribune* (1950-1953). Parton was also a founder and president of the American Heritage Publishing Company (1954-1970), and president of the Encyclopaedia Britannica Educational Corporation (1970-1972). Parton authored a number of publications on the history of the U.S. Air Force, particularly during World War II, and in 1986 wrote a well-received biography of General Eaker, *Air Force Spoken Here*. Parton died April 20, 2001, in White River Junction, Vermont, at the age of 88.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of 31 black and white photographs documenting Parton's involvement with the Allied Air Forces and touching on his pre- and post-WWII editorial career.

Arrangement

Photographs are in original order.

In 1986, the photographs were copied and assigned Smithsonian Institution negative numbers SI 86-5660 to 86-5690. In 1990, all items in this collection were reproduced in the same order on the second side (Side B) of *National Air and Space Museum Archival Videodisc 7*, a LaserDisc CAV format 12-inch (30 cm) optical disc published by the Smithsonian Institution. Print numbers applied during videodisc production are used as item-level image numbers (print numbers NASM 7B05427 to 7B05458, videodisc frame capture numbers VD-7B05427 to VD-7B05458) and the images are stored in videodisc number order.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Aeronautics, Military
World War, 1939-1945

Names:

Eaker, Ira Clarence (General)
Parton, James, 1912-

Container Listing

Photographs [NASM 7B05427 to NASM 7B05458]

Scope and Contents: This series contains the original black and white photographs which make up the collection. Item records with attached digital images will be added as materials are scanned and catalogued.

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Videodisc Frame Captures [VD-7B05427 to VD-7B05458]

See Also: [Videodisc Frame Captures \[VD-7B05427 to VD-7B05458\]; PARTON, JAMES \(COL\) \(1986-0033, -0041\) \[James Parton Photographs, NASM.1986.0041\]](#)

Arrangement: In 1990, the photographs in this collection were photographed for reproduction on *NASM Archival Videodisc 7*. The "videodisc frame capture" images reproduced in this section are small 100 ppi RGB JPEG image files, 624 x 480 pixels each, created 2001-2003 by NASM Archives as still video frame captures of the NTSC video format output from an original copy of the videodisc. Each videodisc frame capture displays a black-edged white number in the upper left quadrant; the first two digits (00) are the videodisc chapter (not used on NASM videodiscs), the second set of five digits are the videodisc frame number. These numbers are an artifact produced by the videodisc player and do not appear on the original archival materials.

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