



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Henry "Hap" Arnold Five Star
General Illuminated Certificate

2007

National Air and Space Museum Archives
14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway
Chantilly, VA 20151
NASMRefDesk@si.edu
<https://airandspace.si.edu/archives>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Scope and Contents.....	1
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Henry "Hap" Arnold Five Star General Illuminated Certificate
Date:	(bulk 1949)
Identifier:	NASM.2006.0032
Creator:	United States. Air Force
Extent:	0.1 Cubic feet ((1 folder))
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

NASM Aeronautics Division, Transfer, 2006

Preferred Citation

Henry "Hap" Arnold Five Star General Illuminated Certificate, Accession number 2006-0032, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

Conditions Governing Use

Material is subject to Smithsonian Terms of Use. Should you wish to use NASM material in any medium, please submit an Application for Permission to Reproduce NASM Material, available at [Permissions Requests](#)

Biographical / Historical

In December of 1944, the new five star officer rank was created, allowing generals and admirals to place a total of five stars on their uniforms and flags. In all, four Army generals, four Navy admirals and one Air Force general have held this rank. General Henry "Hap" Arnold was actually awarded this rank twice. In 1944, he received his fifth star while the air force was still part of the Army, known as the US Army Air Corps. After the Air Force separated from the Army, Arnold became the new service's only five star general on May 7, 1949.

Scope and Contents

This is the twenty by fourteen inch illuminated certificate that was presented to General Arnold at his award ceremony when he became the first and only five star general of the Air Force on May 7, 1949.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Aeronautics, Military

Types of Materials:

Certificates

Names:

Arnold, Henry Harley, 1886-1950