



Smithsonian
National Air and Space Museum

Lieutenant General George W. Read
Correspondence and Airline Ephemera

2017

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

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Lieutenant General George W. Read Correspondence and Airline Ephemera
Identifier:	NASM.2017.0053
Date:	(bulk 1941-1942)
Extent:	0.05 Cubic feet ((1 folder))
Creator:	Reed, George W., Lieutenant General
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Jenifer Renzel, Gift, 2017

Preferred Citation

Lieutenant General George W. Read Correspondence and Airline Ephemera, Accession 2017-0053, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

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Biographical / Historical

Lieutenant General George W. Read (1900-1974) was an Army officer who commanded armor units during World War II and became the U.S. Army's Chief of Armor. The son of Major General George Windle Read, one of World War I's top commanders in the American Expeditionary Forces, Read was raised on military posts throughout the United States. He enlisted in the Army in May, 1917, first serving with the 15th Cavalry Regiment and then the 30th and the 42nd Infantry Divisions during World War I. In 1919, Read completed officer candidate school and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant of Infantry. Reed then transferred to Cavalry, and during the interwar period he served throughout the United States and overseas. In 1937, Reed served in the Middle East as an observer in Palestine and a member of the Armored Force Board that was based in Cairo, Egypt. After graduating from the Command and General

Staff College in 1941, Read was assigned to the 6th Armored Division, where he served, in various assignments, throughout World War II. After the war, Read served in a number of assignments, including commanding general of the 1st Constabulary Brigade in Occupied Germany, commanding general of the 2nd Armored Division in Europe, chief of staff of Army Field Forces, commanding general of the Armor Center and commandant of the Armor School at Fort Knox, Kentucky. For two years Read served as commander of Allied Forces, Southeastern Europe before becoming the commanding general of the 2nd US Army. He retired in 1960. Read received multiple awards including the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the French Legion of Honor, the Croix de Guerre with Palm, the Belgian Croix de Guerre, and the Greek Grand Cross of the Royal Order of the Phoenix.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists mostly of materials gathered by George W. Read during his 1941 trip from Fort Knox, Kentucky, to Cairo, Egypt, to observe General Erwin Rommel and his troops in North Africa. The material includes the following: correspondence describing the flights to North Africa; Pan American World Airways (Pan Am) system map; Pan Am postcards; eight air mail envelopes; Pan Am System "Notes for Passengers by Air;" and miscellaneous ephemera such as a menu, tickets, receipts, a time table, a baggage label, and information cards. While most of the material relates to Pan Am, there is also material from United Air Lines, Trans-World Airlines (TWA), Qantas Empire Airways and British Airways.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Aeronautics
Airlines
World War, 1939-1945 -- Africa

Types of Materials:

Correspondence
Ephemera

Names:

Pan American World Airways, Inc.