

Von Braun: Dreamer of Space, Engineer of War and The Rocket and the Reich Research Files

2024

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Collection Overview

Repository: National Air and Space Museum Archives

Title: Von Braun: Dreamer of Space, Engineer of War and The Rocket and the

Reich Research Files

Date: (bulk 1850-1990s)

Identifier: NASM.2018.0026

Extent: 22.38 Cubic feet

Language: English , German , French .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Michael Neufeld, Gift, 2018, NASM.2018.0026

Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Sarah LeClaire, 2024.

Preferred Citation

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Restrictions

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Biographical / Historical

Dr. Michael Neufeld, a retired Senior Curator in the Space History Department at the National Air and Space Museum, published *The Rocket and The Reich: Peenemünde and the Coming of the Ballistic Missile Era* in 1995 and *Von Braun: Dreamer of Space, Engineer of War* in 2007. He is also the author of many articles based on his research. Neufeld's work covers both the development of rocketry in Germany in the Weimar and Nazi periods and the life and work of Wernher von Braun (1912-1977), including his period as the technical director of the German Army's V-2 rockets and his work after 1945 as a prominent engineering manager in the U.S. Army missile program and NASA's space programs, leading to the first U.S. satellite and the Apollo Moon landings. *The Rocket and the Reich* won the AlAA History Manuscript Award, 1995, and the Society for History of Technology's Dexter Prize, 1997. *Von Braun* won the Eugene M. Emme Astronautical Literature Award of the American Astronautical Society, 2008;

Richard W. Leopold Prize of the Organization of American Historians, 2008; and the Secretary of the Smithsonian's Research Prize, 2008.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of over 22 cubic feet of copies of source documents researched and used by Michael Neufeld in preparation for his books, *Von Braun: Dreamer of Space, Engineer of War* and *The Rocket and The Reich: Peenemünde and the Coming of the Ballistic Missle Era.*

Arrangement

This collection was processed into eight series in the order in which the files were received to reflect how they were created, maintained and organized during the writing of the books. All original file names were retained; any words appearing in brackets were added by the processing archivist for clarity. The word [German] appears next to files that are primarily or wholly in the German language.

Series 1: Early Rocketry, 1920s-1939

Series 2: World War II, 1939-1945

Series 3: Early Life, 1912-1945

Series 4: Post-War Period, 1945-1949

Series 5: Family, 1850-1977

Series 6: United States Army Work, 1945-1960

Series 7: NASA, 1960-1972

Series 8: Later Life, 1972-1977

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Aeronautics

Apollo Project

Astronautics

Gemini Project

Jupiter Missile

Mercury Project

Nazis -- Germany

Rocketry

Rockets (Aeronautics) -- History

Container Listing

Series 1: Early Rocketry, 1920s-1939

Scope and This series contains documents about the early advances of rocketry worldwide. Contents:

`	Somenis.	
	Box 1, Folder 1	"German Rocket and Space Travel Enthusiasm, 1890s to 1930s," dissertation, Daniel Brandau, 2009
	Box 1, Folder 2	Early German spaceflight - misc. articles [German]
	Box 1, Folder 3	Welteislehre [German]
	Box 1, Folder 4	[Robert] Goddard
	Box 1, Folder 5	Goddard and German Army [German]
	Box 1, Folder 6	Early non-German/non-Soviet space advocacy
	Box 1, Folder 7	Papers of space pioneers in Germany
	Box 1, Folder 8	Die Rakete ALS Weltfriedenstaube [German]
	Box 2, Folder 1	RFP [Raketenflugplatz]/[Rudolf] Nebel to 1934 [German]
	Box 2, Folder 2	Nebel/RFP publications and clippings [German]
	Box 2, Folder 3	Nebel after fall 1934, archival [German]
	Box 2, Folder 4	Walter Riedel, 1950 [German]
	Box 2, Folder 5	Early solid rockets, [Wilhelm] Unge [German]
	Box 2, Folder 6	Nebelwerfer [German]
	Box 2, Folder 7	Origins of the ballistic missile
	Box 2, Folder 8	Rudolph engine, 1932-1934 [German]
	Box 2, Folder 9	[Paul] Heylandt [German]
	Box 3, Folder 1	A2/early programs [German]

Series 1: Early Rocketry, 1920s-1939

Box 3, Folder 2 A3 [German]

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Series 2: World War II, 1939-1945

Scope and Contents: This series contains documents details Wernher von Braun's rocketry work in Nazi Germany during World War II. It also includes some biographical files related to his American period.

Box 3, Folder 3	Status reports of propulsion development, 1939-1942 [German]
Box 3, Folder 4	A9, A10, A7 and A8 to 1943 [German]
Box 3, Folder 5	Peenemünde operations and planning, 1942- [German]
Box 3, Folder 6	A9, 1944-1945 [German]
Box 3, Folder 7	1945 evacuation [German]
Box 3, Folder 8	Prüfstand XII (sub-launched A4)
Box 3, Folder 9	Peenemünde - purchase of land for center, 1936-1939 [German]
Box 3, Folder 10	Priorities battle to 1942 [German]
Box 4, Folder 1	Priorities battle/Sonderausschuss, October 1942-1944 [German]
Box 4, Folder 2	HVP/HAP Organization, 1936-1944 [German]
Box 4, Folder 3	Elektromechanischen Werke - organizational [German]
Box 4, Folder 4	German intelligence - Allied rocketry [German]
Box 4, Folder 5	V weapons - Allied intelligence
Box 4, Folder 6	British intelligence on V-2, 1945 (post-war)
Box 4, Folder 7	SS and Peenemünde [German]
Box 4, Folder 8	Hermann Kurzweg, Peenemünde tunnels and aerodynamics [German]
Box 5, Folder 1	Early G[uidance] and C[ontrol]/KG {Kreiselgeräate] and Siemens [German]
Box 5, Folder 2	Accelerometers [German]
Box 5, Folder 3	A5/A4 - secondary sources [German]
Box 5, Folder 4	A5/A4 guidance, 1938-1944 [German]
Box 5, Folder 5	Inertial guidance

Box 5, Folder 6	Guidebeam/computers [German]
Box 5, Folder 7	A4 warhead [German]
Box 5, Folder 8	Bunker/road-mobile [German]
Box 5, Folder 9	V-1 versus V-2 [German]
Box 5, Folder 10	V weapons, operations
Box 6, Folder 1	V-1, secondary sources
Box 6, Folder 2	"Raketenforschung in Deutschland" [German]
Box 6, Folder 3	"Die V Waffen" [German]
Box 6, Folder 4	A4 launches [German]
Box 6, Folder 5	Early propulsion to 1938 [German]
Box 6, Folder 6	A4 engine development [German]
Box 6, Folder 7	Nitric acid [German]
Box 6, Folder 8	P. [Peenemünde] and nuclear progress [German]
Box 6, Folder 9	Air raids
Box 6, Folder 10	Universities and P. [Peenemünde] [German]
Box 6, Folder 11	Führer conferences [German]
Box 6, Folder 12	Schmidt Strahlrohr (V-1 origins)
Box 7, Folder 1	Starthilfe [German]
Box 7, Folder 2	Army/Luftwaffe rocket a/c program [German]
Box 7, Folder 3	H2O2/[Hellmuth] Walter [German]
Box 7, Folder 4	Interceptor [German]
Box 7, Folder 5	Natter [German]
Box 7, Folder 6	[Heinkel] HE 176/HE 112 R [German]
Box 7, Folder 7	Rheintochter history [German]

Box 8, Folder 1	German AA missiles general and secondary [German]
Box 8, Folder 2	AA missiles - guidance and homing - secondary
Box 8, Folder 3	Wasserfall - guidance and prox. Fuses
Box 8, Folder 4	"Vom Geschoss zum Feuerpfeil" by Heinrich Klein
Box 8, Folder 5	Wasserfall - primary sources [German]
Box 8, Folder 6	R-4M and German air-to-air rockets and missiles [German]
Box 8, Folder 7	FSP/VW [German]
Box 8, Folder 8	FSP/VW chronicles [German]
Box 8, Folder 9	German chemical warfare
Box 9, Folder 1	German turbojet development [German]
Box 9, Folder 2	[Dr. Adolf] Baeumker, "Aviation Research in Germany"
Box 9, Folder 3	[Walter] Dornberger notebooks - Deutsches Museum [German] (1 of 2)
Box 9, Folder 4	[Walter] Domberger notebooks - Deutsches Museum [German] (2 of 2)
Box 9, Folder 5	Army ordnance [German]
Box 9, Folder 6	Nazi student organizations [German]
Box 10, Folder 1	Rolf Engel - primary sources [German]
Box 10, Folder 2	Alsace Lorraine occupation - WW II [German] [French]
Box 10, Folder 3	WvB interview backup file
Box 10, Folder 4	[Werner K.] Dahm - OHI [Oral History Interview] [1/25/90]
Box 10, Folder 5	[Konrad] Dannenberg - OHI [11/7/89]
Box 10, Folder 6	[Walter] Haeussermann [1/24/90]
Box 10, Folder 7	Karl Heimburg, 11/9/89
Box 10, Folder 8	[Dr. Helmut] Hoelzer - OHI [11/10/89]
Box 10, Folder 9	F. [Fritz] Mueller - OHI [11/6-8/89]

Box 10, Folder 10	[Dr. Hermann] Oberth - OHI [11/14-15/87]
Box 11, Folder 1	[Dr. William] Pickering - OHI [1/13/99]
Box 11, Folder 2	W. [Wilhelm] Raithel - OHI, Michael Neufeld, April 15, 1993, original
Box 11, Folder 3	H. [Herbert] Raabe - OHI, Michael Neufeld, April 15, 1993, original
Box 11, Folder 4	[Eberhard and Mrs.] Rees - OHI [11/8/89]
Box 11, Folder 5	Milton Rosen, 1998 - excerpts 1983 (Vanguard)
Box 11, Folder 6	[Arthur] Rudolph - OHI [8/4/89]
Box 11, Folder 7	[Homer] Stewart - OHI [1986]
Box 11, Folder 8	[Ernest] Stuhlinger - OHI [9/20/94]
Box 11, Folder 9	[Georg] von Tiesenhausen - OHI [1/22/90]
Box 11, Folder 10	[Bernhard] Tessman and [Karl] Heimburg, 1/23/90
Box 11, Folder 11	[Walter] Wiesman - OHI [1/24/90]
Box 12, Folder 1	OHI table of contents - Peenemünde interviews by MJN [Michael j. Neufeld]
Box 12, Folder 2	BDC [Berlin Document Center] and FOIA [Freedom of Information Act] biographical checks
Box 12, Folder 3	Biographical - misc.
Box 12, Folder 4	Herbert Axster
Box 12, Folder 5	Karl E. Becker [German]
Box 12, Folder 6	Ludwig Bölkow [German]
Box 12, Folder 7	Theo Croneiss [German]
Box 12, Folder 8	Werner Dahm
Box 12, Folder 9	Kurt Debus
Box 12, Folder 10	Walter Dornberger [German]
Box 12, Folder 11	Rolf Engel - early [German]

Box 13, Folder 1 F. [Frederick] Durant II Box 13, Folder 2 Krafft Ehricke Box 13, Folder 3 Rolf Engel "Beiträge" 1947, 1948 [German] Box 13, Folder 4 Hans R. Friedrich [German] Box 13, Folder 5 Ernst Geissler [German] Box 13, Folder 6 Gröttrup, Helmut [German] Box 13, Folder 7 [Walter] Haeussermann Box 13, Folder 8 Gunther Haukohl Box 13, Folder 9 Ernst Heinkel [German] Box 13, Folder 10 Hans Kammler [German] Box 13, Folder 11 Helmut Hoelzer Box 13, Folder 12 Hans Hüter Box 13, Folder 13 Herman Kurzweg [German] Box 14, Folder 14 Rudolf Hermann Box 14, Folder 1 Fritz von Krausser (SA) [German] Box 14, Folder 2 Willy Ley [German] Box 14, Folder 3 Robert Lusser [German] Box 14, Folder 4 George M. Low Box 14, Folder 5 Hans Maus Box 14, Folder 6 John Bruce Medaris Box 14, Folder 7 Willi Mrazek	Box 12, Folder 12	Rolf Engel - secondary and miscellaneous
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Box 14, Folder 11	Herbert P. Raabe [German]
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Box 14, Folder 13	Reisig, Gerhard [German]
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Box 14, Folder 15	Ludwig Roth
Box 15, Folder 1	Eugene Sänger [German]
Box 15, Folder 2	Martin Schilling
Box 15, Folder 3	Klaus Scheufelen
Box 15, Folder 4	Erich Schneider [German]
Box 15, Folder 5	Hubertus Strughold
Box 15, Folder 6	Ernst Stuhlinger
Box 15, Folder 7	Bernhard Tessmann
Box 15, Folder 8	Reinhold and Richard Tiling [German]
Box 15, Folder 9	Walter and Adolf Thiel
Box 15, Folder 10	Steinhoff, Ernst
Box 15, Folder 11	Holger Toftoy
Box 15, Folder 12	Max Valier [German]
Box 16, Folder 1	Helmuth Walter [German]
Box 16, Folder 2	Winkler, Johannes [German]
Box 16, Folder 3	James Webb
Box 16, Folder 4	Zanssen, Leo [German]
Box 16, Folder 5	Helmut Zborowski [German]
Box 16, Folder 6	N1085 M. [Magnus] von Braun Sr. Nachlasse [German]

Box 16, Folder 7	Magnus von Braun - Nachlass, Munich [German]
Box 16, Folder 8	NARA - WvB files, College Park
Box 16, Folder 9	von Braun school contacts [German]
Box 16, Folder 10	Nachlass Sigismund von Braun, Berlin
Box 16, Folder 11	WvB - research correspondence and misc. finding aids
Box 16, Folder 12	German rocketry, British Archives
Box 16, Folder 13	Sadron and other Dora memoirs [French]
Box 17, Folder 1	A4 manufacturing - problems and airbursts, 1944 [German]
Box 17, Folder 2	A4 manufacturers - secondary [German]
Box 17, Folder 3	Peenemünde KZs [German]
Box 17, Folder 4	Zeppelin, A4 manufacturing (including concentration camp) [German]
Box 17, Folder 5	V-1 production, KZ labor, Volkswagen, MW [German]
Box 17, Folder 6	Mittelwerk - primary sources [German]
Box 17, Folder 7	Rudolph, Arthur - bio and misc. [German]
Box 17, Folder 8	[Arthur] Rudolph case - US original documents
Box 17, Folder 9	[Arthur] Rudolph - Canadian case
Box 17, Folder 10	[Arthur] Rudolph correspondence
Box 18, Folder 1	[Arthur] Rudolph case - Duhn Report [German]
Box 18, Folder 2	[Arthur] Rudolph case - news clippings and media
Box 18, Folder 3	Mittelwerk/Dora war crimes trials [German]
Box 18, Folder 4	WvB/Dora trial, 1947
Box 18, Folder 5	French Dora survivors and WvB - La Coupole material [French]
Box 18, Folder 6	Nordhausen in US press, 1945-1983
Box 18, Folder 7	Mittelwerk/Dora - secondary sources [German]

Box 19, Folder 1	Dora trials, 1960s [German]
Box 19, Folder 2	[Georg] Warhof, Dora trial and DDR [Deutsche Demokratische Republik], 1967-1970 [German]
Box 19, Folder 3	[Frederick] Kaul and the Essen trial - primary documents [German]
Box 19, Folder 4	F. [Frederick] Kaul and GDR [German Democratic Republic] in the Essen Trial - secondary [German]
Box 19, Folder 5	[Heinz] Millinger memoirs - Peenemünde and Ft. Bliss [German]
Box 19, Folder 6	Nordhausen today [German] [French]
Box 19, Folder 7	La Coupole/Wizerres
Box 20, Folder 1	French Dora survivors newsletters, 1994-2015 [French] (1 of 2)
Box 20, Folder 2	French Dora survivors newsletters, 1994-2015 [French] (2 of 2)
Box 20, Folder 3	Memoir articles - Peenemünde [German] (1 of 2)
Box 20, Folder 4	Memoir articles - Peenemünde [German] (2 of 2)

Series 3: Early Life, 1912-1945

Scope and This series contains documents about Wernher von Braun's early life. Contents:

Box 20, Folder 5	Von Braun - childhood and youth/Raketenflugplatz [German]
Box 20, Folder 6	Memoirs/letters - childhood and rocketry [German]
Box 20, Folder 7	Von Braun family in Berlin
Box 21, Folder 1	WvB schools - secondary [German]
Box 21, Folder 2	Physics at U. [University] Berlin and Berlin institutions [German]
Box 21, Folder 3	WvB - universities and PhD [German]
Box 21, Folder 4	WvB schools - anecdotes and interviews [German]
Box 21, Folder 5	WvB - Kummersdorf and Peenemünde documents [German]
Box 21, Folder 6	WvB - SS and party record [German]
Box 21, Folder 7	Memories of others about WvB - Nazi period [German]
Box 22, Folder 1	Gestapo arrest, March 1944 [German]
Box 22, Folder 2	SS marriage file/Dorothee Brill engagement and "Fernande" [German] [French]
Box 22, Folder 3	WvB - German correspondence post-1945 relating to Nazi period [German]
Box 22, Folder 4	WvB - [Albin] Sawatzki letter and [Charles] Sadron [German] [French]
Box 22, Folder 5	WvB and concentration camp labor [German]
Box 22, Folder 6	WvB - pilot's logs and licenses - Germany [German]

Series 4: Post-War, 1945-1949

Scope and Contents:

This series contains documents detailing Wernher von Braun's life and work in the immediate aftermath of World War II's. Note that there is some overlap time-wise between this series and series six. This is due to maintaining the original order in which the collection was received from the author.

Box 22, Folder 7	ZDF [Zweites Deutsches Fernsehen] von Braun interviews [German]
Box 22, Folder 8	Interviews re: von Braun by BBC, 1998, German period
Box 22, Folder 9	[Operation] Paperclip - interviews, later correspondence, origins and [Robert] Staver material
Box 23, Folder 1	WvB - [Operation] Paperclip documents beginning 12/9/45 (1 of 2)
Box 23, Folder 2	WvB - [Operation] Paperclip documents beginning 12/9/45 (2 of 2)
Box 23, Folder 3	[Operation] Paperclip finding aids
Box 23, Folder 4	[Operation] Backfire
Box 23, Folder 5	WvB in Germany, UK, May 1945
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