



# Smithsonian

## *National Air and Space Museum*

### Dean B. Yount Fifteenth Air Force Photo Albums

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Air and Space Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Dean B. Yount Fifteenth Air Force Photo Albums
<b>Date:</b>	1944-1950
<b>Identifier:</b>	NASM.2025.0016
<b>Creator:</b>	United States. Army Air Forces Bachrach, Fabian, 1917-2010 Bachrach Studio
<b>Extent:</b>	0.23 Cubic feet (1 flat box, 10 x 13 x 3 inches)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	This collection consists of two small photo albums created by the 1st Combat Camera Unit, US Army Air Forces, probably for Major General Nathan F. Twining, Commanding General Fifteenth Air Force, and his staff: one relates to General Henry H. "Hap" Arnold's visit to Fifteenth Air Force commanders in Italy in April 1945; the other is a memory book possibly created as a present for Twining circa June 1945 at the conclusion of his command of the Fifteenth Air Force. Also included is a portrait photograph by Fabian Bachrach of Major Dean B. Yount, Aide to General Twining, and a certificate for crossing the Arctic Circle issued to Yount in May 1950.
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Image(s): NASM-9A20957-001: Composite photograph, Fifteenth Air Force insignia surrounded by aircraft flown by its units; 1945.</a>

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## Administrative Information

<b>Acquisition Information</b>
Joseph Dean Yount, gift, 2024, NASM.2025.0016
<b>Processing Information</b>
Arranged, described, and encoded by Melissa A. N. Keiser, 2025.
<b>Preferred Citation</b>
Dean B. Yount Fifteenth Air Force Photo Albums, NASM.2025.0016, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.
<b>Restrictions</b>
No restrictions on access

## Conditions Governing Use

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## Biographical / Historical

During World War II, most of the US Army Air Forces' combat units were assigned to numbered air forces. The Fifteenth Air Force, activated in the Mediterranean theater of operations on November 1, 1943, under the command of Major General James H. "Jimmy" Doolittle, was primarily engaged in strategic bombardment of targets in Italy, France, Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Hungary, and the Balkans. In January 1944, Doolittle was assigned command of the Eighth Air Force in England, relinquishing command of the Fifteenth Air Force (15AF), based in Bari, Italy, to Major General Nathan F. Twining (1897–1982). In addition to his duties as commander of 15AF, Twining soon became head of the Mediterranean Allied Strategic Air Forces. Major Dean Burdette Yount, born in Tonkawa, Oklahoma, in 1910, served as an aide to General Twining throughout the war. Yount, later promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, was a relative of Lt. General Barton K. Yount, wartime head of the US Army Air Forces Training Command. General Twining served as Commander in Chief of the Alaskan Air Command from October 1947 to July 1950.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection consists of two small photo albums created by the 1st Combat Camera Unit, US Army Air Forces, probably for Major General Nathan F. Twining, Commanding General Fifteenth Air Force, and his staff: one relates to General Henry H. "Hap" Arnold's visit to Fifteenth Air Force commanders in central Italy in April 1945 (30 pages); the other is a memory book possibly created as a present for Twining circa June 1945 at the conclusion of his command of the Fifteenth Air Force (75 pages). Also included is a portrait photograph by Fabian Bachrach of Major Dean B. Yount, Aide to General Twining, and a certificate for crossing the Arctic Circle issued to Yount in May 1950.

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## Arrangement

Items are arranged in chronological order.

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## Bibliography

Mauer Mauer, *Air Force Combat Units of World War II*, Office of Air Force History, Washington, D.C., 1983.

Biography, "General Nathan F. Twining"; Official US Air Force website; <https://www.af.mil/About-Us/Biographies/Display/article/105367/general-nathan-f-twining/>

Major General John W. Huston (USAF Ret) ed., *American Airpower Comes of Age: General Henry H. "Hap" Arnold's World War II Diaries, Volume II*, Air University Press (Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama), January 2002; pages 254-257; 285. [https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/Portals/10/AUPress/Books/B\\_0085\\_HUSTON\\_AMERICAN\\_AIRPOWER\\_DIARIES.pdf](https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/Portals/10/AUPress/Books/B_0085_HUSTON_AMERICAN_AIRPOWER_DIARIES.pdf)

"Fifteenth Air Force Key Personnel, 1 November 1944," [https://15thaf.org/Roster/PDFs/Roster\\_11-1-1944.pdf](https://15thaf.org/Roster/PDFs/Roster_11-1-1944.pdf)

"Mary L. Cosgrove, Officer's Fiancee: Instructor at Trinity College to Be Bride of Lieut. Col. Dean B. Yount of Army," *The New York Times*, December 28, 1947, page 39. <https://nyti.ms/3EpDnlm>

## Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Aeronautics, Military
- Airplanes
- Fifteenth Air Force
- World War, 1939-1945

Names:

- Arnold, Henry Harley, 1886-1950

## Container Listing

### Box 1, Folder 1

NASM-9A20956: [Photograph, studio portrait of Major Dean B. Yount by Fabian Bachrach, circa 1944-1945](#)

Borderless 9.2 x 7.3 inch brown toned gelatin silver print photograph with gold embossed photographer name at lower right corner, mounted on 11.5 x 9 inch studio mount with gold fillet band and embossed oval at lower left corner of mount. Reverse has slight brown staining and scuffing.

Notes: Formal half-length studio portrait photograph of Major Dean B. Yount in US Army Air Forces uniform; circa 1944-1945. Yount is posed half-sitting on a ledge, wearing an "Eisenhower" ("Ike") style field jacket, and holding his folded garrison (flight) cap in his left hand.

Louis Fabian Bachrach Jr. (1917--2010), known professionally as Fabian Bachrach (Bachrach Studios), was an American photographer best known for his portraits of celebrities, politicians, and other prominent individuals.

### Box 1, Folder 2

NASM-9A20957: [Photo album, General Henry H. "Hap" Arnold's visit to Fifteenth Air Force command in Italy, April 26-27, 1945](#)

Photo album, 4 x 6.5 x 0.3 inches. Thirty 3.5 x 4.5 inch black and white images printed as 4 x 6.5 inch gelatin silver print photographs (one sided), moderately yellowed overall, moderately curled, each with two binder holes punched through the wide left border; held together with two-prong green metal document clip.

Notes: Photo album, 30 pages, General Henry H. "Hap" Arnold's visit to Fifteenth Air Force command in Bari, Italy, April 26-27, 1945, produced by 1st Combat Camera Unit, US Army Air Forces. Front cover is a composite photograph featuring 15AF insignia at center surrounded by aircraft flown by 15AF units: North American P-51 Mustang, Consolidated B-24 Liberator, Lockheed P-38 Lightning, Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress. Views include exterior and interior views of Arnold's Douglas C-54E Skymaster "Argonaut III" (s/n 44-9060), Arnold with Major General Nathan F. Twining, Commanding General Fifteenth Air Force, and his staff; and interior and exterior views of Arnold touring base at Giulia (home of 459th Bomb Group, including 757th Bomb Squadron).

Visual clues suggest that these photographs were taken during General Henry H. "Hap" Arnold's visit to Fifteenth Air Force headquarters at Bari, Italy, on April 26 and 27, 1945. On April 27, Arnold made a side trip to the Foggia area to visit the 456th Bombardment Group based at Stornara airfield and the 459th Bombardment Group based at Giulia airfield. Note the 757th Bombardment Squadron (459BG) sign at left background on page 22; Arnold (second from right) is seen walking with Colonel Henry K. Mooney (far right), then commander of 459BG. Mooney is also seen with Arnold and others on pages 23-26.

### Box 1, Folder 3

NASM-9A20958: Photo album, Fifteenth Air Force memory book, circa June 1945  
Photo album, 6.25 x 10.5 x 1.2 inches. Approximately 75 black and white 5 x 7 inch images printed as 5.6 x 10 inch gelatin silver print photographs (one sided),

moderately yellowed overall, each with two binder holes punched through the wide left border; contained in custom cover made of quarter-inch-thick clear acrylic plastic with two metal screw-post fasteners; front cover is hinged at left side with metal piano hinge.

Notes: Photo album, Fifteenth Air Force memory book, possibly created for General Nathan F. Twining at the conclusion of his command of 15AF circa June 1945, produced by 1st Combat Camera Unit, US Army Air Forces. Inside front cover is a composite photograph featuring 15AF insignia at center surrounded by aircraft flown by 15AF units: North American P-51 Mustang, Consolidated B-24 Liberator, Lockheed P-38 Lightning, Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress. Views include USAAF and foreign senior officers and men, with a large section of photographs taken at a banquet dinner event featuring 15AF personnel; USAAF officers inspecting Italian troops; Women's Air Corps (WAC) personnel and nurses; routine base life (fumigating clothing, visit from "Santa Claus," open air religious service); captured German aircraft; aircraft nose art; bomb damage including firefighting and providing aid to injured Italian civilians; USAAF personnel receiving medals; and wreath laying at an American cemetery in Italy. Of note are a view of General Ira C. Eaker, Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean Allied Air Forces, looking through a small photo album in the same type of thick clear acrylic plastic binding as this one; and a full-length view of Major Dean B. Yount speaking at a microphone.

This photo album has not yet been digitized.

Box 1, Folder 4

NASM-9A20959: [Certificate, Arctic Circle crossing, issued to Major Dean B. Yount, May 4, 1950](#)

Photograph, 10 x 8 inch gelatin silver print with applied color highlights and black ink additions and signature; slight silver mirroring in dense areas.

Notes: Certificate for crossing the Arctic Circle issued to Major Dean B. Yount, for crossing on 4 May 1950; signed by Lt. General Nathan F. Twining, Commander-in-Chief, Alaska (US Air Force Alaskan Air Command). Hand-colored black and white illustration includes a pictorial map of the state of Alaska featuring small illustrations of local wildlife (bear, moose, seal, whale), sights (kayak, dog sled, totem poles, man panning for gold), a Boeing-B-17 type aircraft in flight, a rising or setting sun, and a fanciful striped "North Pole" at top center.