

Charles Lee Burwell Collection of Materials Related to World War II
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Geography & Map Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2020

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/gmd.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/2020589170>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/eadgmd.gm020002>

Prepared by Mike Klein

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Collection Summary

Title: The Charles Lee Burwell Collection of Materials Related to World War II

Span Dates: 1944

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1944)

Call No.: G5833.N7S7 coll .B8 Burwell

Creator: Burwell, Charles Lee

Extent: 1 model in two sections, both 120 x 120 cm.; plan and miscellany, .5 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Geography & Map Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2020589170>

Summary: The Charles Lee Burwell Collection consists of one model, consisting of rubber on foam backing, prepared for "Operation Overlord," the Allied invasion of Utah Beach, Normandy, France; and an operational plan, maps, aerial photography, and photographs assembled by Burwell in preparation for "Operation Anvil," an amphibious landing of Allied troops on the southern coast of France in August 1944.

Provenance

Gift; Charles Lee Burwell

Processing History

The collection was processed and arranged by Mike Klein in 2020.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright of the Charles Lee Burwell collection is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The Charles Lee Burwell collection is open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the [Geography & Map Reading Room](#) prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Charles Lee Burwell Collection, Geography & Map Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Charles Lee Burwell was born in 1917 in Millwood, Virginia. After graduating from Harvard in 1939, he moved to Paris, France, with plans of pursuing graduate studies in history and literature at the Sorbonne. With the breakout of war in Europe in 1939, he briefly drove an ambulance for the Comité Americaine de Secours Civil until departing for an oil industry job in Haiphong, then French Indochina. He returned to the United States in the summer of 1941, and age 27 enlisted in the Navy, joining Naval Intelligence. In summer 1944 he assisted in planning the amphibious assault on Normandy beaches. With the aid of a large foam rubber map of Utah Beach made at the last minute in Camp Bradford, Virginia, he briefed General Eisenhower, Field Marshall Montgomery, and other Allied leaders in Plymouth, England, on the timing and feasibility of launching "Operation Neptune," the naval and amphibious operations that launched and

supported the D-Day invasions on Normandy, otherwise known as "Operation Overlord," on June 6, 1944. After Normandy, Burwell participated in planning other amphibious assaults as part of "Operation Anvil" in southern France, in the Lingayen Gulf on the island of Luzon in the Philippines (January 1945), and on the Japanese island of Okinawa in April 1945. He returned to San Francisco to begin planning for "Operation Olympic," the invasion of the Japanese home island of Kyushu slated for November 1945. Discharged from the Navy in January 1946, he eventually returned to the Far East with his own import-export business and subsequently a fabric company. He retired to "The Vineyard," formerly a part of the Carter Hall plantation in Virginia's upper Shenandoah Valley.

Scope and Content Note

The collection of Charles Lee Burwell (1917-) is dated 1944 and consists of a rubber model depicting Utah Beach used in planning "Operation Overlord" for the Allied invasion of Normandy, France, and the operational plan for the Allied invasion of southern France known as "Operation Bigot-Anvil."

Arrangement of the Collection

The Charles Burwell collection is organized in two series:

- Map, Utah Beach, 1944
- Materials related to "Operation Anvil"

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Burwell, Charles Lee, 1917- collector.

Subjects

World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns--France--Normandy.

Places

Normandy (France)--Maps.

Form/Genre

Maps.

Relief models.

Remote-sensing images.

Description of Series

Container

Series

[Map of Utah Beach, Normandy, France], 1944

Materials pertaining to Operation Bigot-Anvil, 1944

Container List

Container	Contents
	[Map of Utah Beach, Normandy, France], 1944
	<u>Digitized image</u>
	1 model in two sections : col., rubber on foam backing ; both 120 x 120 cm
BOX 1	Map, 1944
	Materials pertaining to Operation Bigot-Anvil, 1944
BOX-FOLDER 2-1	Operation Plan Commander Task Force 87 no. 1-44, 1944
BOX-FOLDER 2-2	Operation Plan Commander Task Force 87 no. 1-44, 1944 Plan
BOX-FOLDER 2-3	Operation Plan Commander Task Force 87 no. 1-44, 1944 Plan
BOX-FOLDER 2-4	Operation Plan Commander Task Force 87 no. 1-44, 1944 Plan
BOX-FOLDER 2-5	Operation Plan Commander Task Force 87 no. 1-44, 1944 Plan
BOX-FOLDER 2-6	Operation Plan Commander Task Force 87 no. 1-44, 1944 Plan
BOX-FOLDER 2-7	Operation Plan Commander Task Force 87 no. 1-44, 1944 Plan
BOX-FOLDER 2-8	Operation Plan Commander Task Force 87 no. 1-44, 1944 Plan
BOX-FOLDER 2-9	Operation Plan Commander Task Force 87 no. 1-44, 1944 Plan
BOX-FOLDER 2-10	Operation Plan Commander Task Force 87 no. 1-44, 1944 Plan
BOX-FOLDER 2-11	Operation Plan Commander Task Force 87 no. 1-44, 1944 Plan
BOX-FOLDER 2-12	Operation Plan Commander Task Force 87 no. 1-44, 1944 Plan
BOX-FOLDER 2-13	Operation Plan Commander Task Force 87 no. 1-44, 1944 Plan
BOX-FOLDER 2-14	Operation Plan Commander Task Force 87 no. 1-44, 1944 Plan
BOX-FOLDER 2-15	Operation Plan Commander Task Force 87 no. 1-44, 1944 Plan
BOX-FOLDER 2-16	Operation Plan Commander Task Force 87 no. 1-44, 1944 Plan
BOX-FOLDER 2-17	Operation Plan Commander Task Force 87 no. 1-44, 1944 Plan
BOX-FOLDER 2-18	Operation Plan Commander Task Force 87 no. 1-44, 1944 Six aerial photographs of the southern coast of France, dated June 16, June 19, and July 5, 1944; Map, recto depicts the Gulf of Frejus, with German obstructions and defenses, as

well as directions for landing, while verso includes a panoramic beach sketch, an oblique of the assault area, and water level silhouettes of close and distant approaches