

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER LIBRARY  
ABILENE, KANSAS

SAYLER, HENRY B.: Papers, 1911-70

Accessions 72-18 and 92-2  
Processed by: JSK, KMB & TB  
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The papers of Henry Benton Sayler were deposited in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library by his wife Jessie D. Sayler on June 21, 1971. An accretion was received in September 1991 from General Saylor's granddaughter Mrs. Diane Hammond.

Linear feet:	3.5
Approximate number of pages:	4,000
Approximate number of items:	2,000

Mrs. Sayler signed an instrument of gift for the papers on January 1, 1971. Literary rights in the unpublished writings of General Sayler in this collection and in all other collections of papers at the Eisenhower Library were retained by Mrs. Sayler until her death on December 24, 1987, and then passed to the United States. Under terms of the instrument of gift the following classes of documents will be withheld from research use:

1. Papers relating to the family and private business affairs of Henry B. Sayler.
2. Papers relating to the family and private business affairs of other persons who have corresponded with Henry B. Sayler.
3. Papers relating to investigations of individuals or to appointments and personnel matters.
4. Papers containing statements made by or to Henry B. Sayler in confidence unless in the judgment of the Director of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library the reason for the confidentiality no longer exists.
5. All other papers which contain information or statements that might be used to injure, harass or damage any living person.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers of Major General Henry B. Saylor date from 1911, when he entered West Point, until his death in 1970. They deal primarily with his associations with members of the Military Academy Class of 1915, and his army duties in the Ordnance Department during and after World War II. The majority of the documents are from the period 1942 to 1949 when General Saylor did his most notable work in the Ordnance Department. Many of the items from the period before 1942 were printed West Point mementos, which were turned over to the Eisenhower Library book collection. The papers are divided into three series.

The first series, approximately one-fourth of the total collection, is a subject file. The items in this series were received unarranged. They were placed in folders by subject, titles were devised, and the folders were arranged alphabetically. Included are both personal and official matters: (1) biographical information, awards, citations, various forms of articles and speeches, and Citizens for Eisenhower material; (2) information on ordnance-related topics such as inspection trips, statistics, research and development data, maps, graphs, memos, reports and photos; (3) correspondence, both personal and official; and (4) miscellaneous memorabilia such as clippings, souvenir booklets, programs, special letters and so forth.

The second series, approximately one-fourth of the collection, consists of material related to the USMA Class of 1915. It is primarily correspondence, newsletters, etc., dealing with the Class Gift Committee (Saylor was chairman), the Class History, or plans for and reports on Class Reunions. Several printed items (yearbooks, West Point periodicals, etc.) were turned over to the Eisenhower Library book collection.

The third series, making up approximately one-half of the collection, could be called General Saylor's official file. This is a series of folders maintained by his secretary. The first few folders are titled by subject and deal with administrative matters – travel, awards, promotions, invitations, speeches, congratulatory letters, etc. The remainder of the series consists of a chronological arrangement of incoming and outgoing correspondence (forms, letters, orders, memos, etc.) in numbered folders. This correspondence is of an official nature, dealing with General Saylor's work in the Ordnance Department of the Army during and after World War II. Major correspondents include General John C.H. Lee and General Levin Campbell, under whom General Saylor served during World War II.

It is worth noting that this third series, General Saylor's official file, contains material on a wide variety of subjects of interest to the modern military historian. These subjects fall into two chronological categories: the period from 1942 to 1945 when General Saylor was Chief Ordnance Officer, ETO, and the period from 1945 to 1949 when he was Chief of Research and Development in the Ordnance Department. The most fully documented matters for the 1942-1945 period are the administration of the ordnance supply system in the ETO, the administration of ordnance maintenance and repair, the operation of French firms producing artillery parts and repairing U.S. tanks, the alleged ammunition shortage in the ETO of November 1944, the production of overall survey reports of ordnance supply in the ETO, the returning of ordnance

from the ETO to the U.S., the transfer of officer personnel between the U.S. and ETO ordnance assignments, and the negotiations between Saylor and Swiss firms to effect the repair of U.S. automotive and tank parts. The treatment of subjects for the 1945-1949 period is less detailed, but there are significant references to the reduction of tank and automotive production for the army's Detroit arsenal, the development of the U.S. rocket and missile program, the increased hiring of civilian personnel for ordnance projects to gain continuity in long-range projects, the Ordnance Department's relations with contractors and civilian employees, the British proposals for Anglo-American cooperation in ordnance development, the development of the Brandt-Rifle Grenade and its testing in Switzerland, the problems of promotions for officers in the post-war army, and Saylor's reflections on the operations of ordnance in the ETO and the organization of the Communications Zone (Com Z).

Oversize items: The half-suit box at the end of the collection contains oversize items (appointments, certificates, diplomas, and other memorabilia) from all three series.

Seven items, parts of uniforms, were turned over to the Eisenhower Museum. A total of 178 photographs were turned over to the Eisenhower Library Audiovisual Collection. Sixteen books and one magazine were turned over to the Eisenhower Library Book Collection.

## CHRONOLOGY

- Nov. 4, 1893      Born in Huntington, Indiana
- 1910-11          Student at Braden's Preparatory School, Highland Falls, NY
- 1915              B.S., United States Military Academy; commissioned 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in Coast Artillery Corps
- Oct. 6, 1917      Married Jessie Dale Dixon
- 1921              Transferred to Ordnance Department
- 1922-23          Student, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- 1931-33          Student, Command and General Staff School
- 1942-45          Chief Ordnance Officer, European Theater of Operations
- 1945-49          Director of Research and Development, Ordnance Department, U.S. Army
- 1949              Retired from Army after being promoted through grades to Major General
- May 7, 1970      Died in Savannah, Georgia, age 77

## SERIES DESCRIPTION

Box Nos. Series

1-2 Subject Series. 1930-70. 2 boxes

Trip plans, articles, speeches, awards, biographical information, obituaries, Citizens for Eisenhower material, letters of congratulations, general and personal correspondence, background information on Ordnance projects, newspaper clippings, "Service Reminiscences of Lt. Gen. John C.H. Lee," and other miscellaneous memorabilia. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

3 USMA Class of 1915 Series. 1935-69. ½ box.

Correspondence, newsletters, rosters, periodicals, etc., dealing with the Class Gift, the Class History, and the various Class Reunions. Arranged alphabetically by subject with miscellaneous material at the end of the series.

3-5 Official Files. 1942-49. 2 ½ boxes.

Correspondence, forms, orders, memos, reports, etc. dealing with General Saylor's official duties during the period. Original order and titles of the numbered folders was maintained.

6 One half-suit box containing oversized items (appointment certificates, diplomas, and other memorabilia) from all three series.

## CONTAINER LIST

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	List of museum items, printed matters, and photographs removed from the collection  Subject Series  Alaska Trip – August 1947 (with DDE)  American Ordnance Association 1969 Life Members and Medalists  Articles, Speeches, Presentations re Ordnance Department, 1944-48  Awards, Commendations, Citations (to General Sayler)  H.B. Sayler - Biographical  Citizens for Eisenhower 1952 and 1956  Letters of Congratulations to General Sayler on His Promotion to Major General, June 1944  Correspondence - 1950-57  Personal Correspondence, 1930-68  Semi-Official Correspondence, 1933-58  “Dope on England” (Supply depots and ordnance shops, 1942)  Miscellaneous Memorabilia  The Most Honorable Order of the Bath (Certificates and explanation)  Newspaper Clippings – Miscellaneous
2	Ordnance – Statistics, Lists, Memos, etc., 1940-69  “Operation Greaseball” 1948 [30,000 mile convoy testing experimental lubricants for Army trucks]  Performance Report – U.S. Ordnance Material in the European Theater, 15 August 1945

“Proposal for Ordnance Department Rocket Arsenal” Redstone Arsenal, 25 October 1948

“Services Reminiscences of Lt. Gen. John C.H. Lee, U.S. Army, Rtd.” Copy for Gen. Henry B. Sayler

Visit to American Bridge Company, Pittsburgh to see “canning” process for storing surplus weapons, 11/14/45

3 USMA Class of 1915 Series

USMA Class of 1915, Class Gift - Fountain

USMA Class of 1915, Class History

USMA Class of 1915, Class Reunions

USMA Class of 1915, Miscellaneous – Rosters, etc.

Official Files Series

Notes for General Sayler’s Secretary

File No. 1, Travel

File No. 2, 201, Special Orders, Promotions, Awards, Who’s Who, etc. (1) (2)

File No. 3, Invitations October 1945-December 1947

4 File No. 4, Addresses and Speeches

File No. 5, Congratulations to General Sayler on his appointment as Deputy Chief of Ordnance

File No. 6, Congratulations sent by General Sayler

File No. 7, ETO, October 1943-May 1944 [there is overlap of 1944 correspondence with that of File No. 8]

File No. 8, ETO, 1944 [File No. 7 also has some 1944 correspondence]

File No. 9, ETO, January-August 1945

- File No. 10, OCO, August (after return to U.S.)-December 1945
- File No. 11, January, February, March 1946
- File No. 12, April, May, June 1946
- File No. 13, July, August, September 1946
- 5 File No. 14, October, November, December 1946
- File No. 15, January, February, March 1947
- File No. 16, April, May, June 1947
- File No. 17, July, August and September [1947]
- File No. 18, October, November and December 1947
- File No. 19, January, February, March 1948
- File No. 20, April, May, June 1948
- File No. 21, July, August, September 1948
- File No. 22, October, November, December 1948
- File No. 23, January, February, March, April 1949
- File No. 24, May, June, July, August 1949
- File No. 25, September, October, November 1949
- 6 Oversize material (half-suit box)

END OF CONTAINER LIST