

PURDUE

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FINDING AID TO THE JOHN C. FRANKS PAPERS ON THE CIVILIAN PILOT TRAINING PROGRAM, 1942- 1946

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Descriptive Summary

Creator Information	Franks, John C., 1913-1966
Title	John C. Franks papers on the Civilian Pilot Training Program
Collection Identifier	MSP 171
Date Span	1942-1946
Abstract	Photographs and a newspaper clipping documenting John C. Franks' time as chief flight instructor for the Civilian Pilot Training Program at Purdue University.
Extent	1 Mss box; 19 items; 15 photographs, 3 newspaper clippings, 1 magazine cover.
Finding Aid Author	Max Campbell
Languages	English
Repository	Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center, Purdue University Libraries

Administrative Information

Location Information:	ASC
Access Restrictions:	Collection is open for research
Acquisition Information:	Donated by David C. Franks December 18, 2013
Accession Number:	20131228.2
Preferred Citation:	MSP 171, John C. Franks papers on the Civilian Pilot Training Program, Karnes Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries
Copyright Notice:	Purdue University
Related	Emilio Salazar papers:

**Materials
Information:**

<http://www4.lib.purdue.edu/archon/index.php?p=collections/controlcard&id=6&q=Emilio+Salazar>

Subjects and Genres

Persons

Franks, John C., 1913-1966

Organizations

Purdue University
Flight Archives at Purdue University
Civilian Pilot Training Program
Civil Aeronautics Act
Civilian Aeronautics Administration

Topics

World War II
Flight training--Indiana
Purdue University
Civilian Pilot Training Program
Air pilots, Military

Form and Genre Types

Clippings (Information artifacts)
Black-and-white photographs

Occupations

Flight Instructor
Pilot

Biography of John C. Franks

John C. Franks (1913-1966) was chief flight instructor for the Civilian Pilot Training Program during World War II at Purdue University (Fall 1942-1945). He began his instruction in 1942 at Purdue as part of this Civilian Pilot Training Program to teach civilians how to become pilots. Franks was born in Ridgway, Colorado and learned how to fly at Ryan Field in Oakland, California and Phoenix, Arizona. He was a flight instructor at South West Airways, Inc, and also taught at Thunderbird Field in Phoenix, Arizona. Franks was certified as an instructor in primary, secondary, commercial, cross country, and instructor courses. He also held a Civil Aeronautics Administration examiner designation.

At Purdue, Franks trained American civilians and also individuals from Latin America sent to Purdue by the State Department to learn how to fly and repair aircraft. The new Latin American fliers also took courses in English, and in other aeronautical areas. Skilled instructors such as Franks trained hundreds of foreign and domestic student pilots during the school year, and approximately 80 during the summers. At this time, the Purdue Airport was referred to "one of the busiest departments in the University." Franks left Purdue in 1946 and became a corporate pilot for Schwitzer Corporation in Indianapolis and served as Chief Pilot until his death in 1966.

Sources:

Strickland, Patricia. *The Putt-Putt Air Force: The Story of the Civilian Pilot Training Program and the War Training Service (1939-1944)*. Washington D.C: Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, Aviation Education Staff. Print.

Purdue Alumni Association. "Purdue Students Lead Nation." *Purdue Alumnus* December 1940: 3. Print.

Purdue Alumni Association. "Purdue Honored As Pilot School." *Purdue Alumnus* December 1941: 19. Print.

Purdue Alumni Association. "Airport Laboratory Being Enlarged." *Purdue Alumnus* May 1941: 8. Print.

Purdue Alumni Association. "Starting Another Class In Civilian Aviation." *Purdue Alumnus* April 1942: 11. Print.

Purdue University. *Aviation At Purdue*. West Lafayette, IN: Purdue University. 1945.

Purdue University Directory. 1942-1943. p.19.

Purdue University Directory. 1944-1945. p.34.

Collection Description

Scope

The John C. Franks papers (1942-1945) include 15 photographs of Franks and a number of unidentified flight students. The subjects of the pictures are the Purdue University Airport, flight students, and airplanes, including Weaver Aircraft Company of Ohio (WACO) aircraft. Identifying information is included on the back of these photographs in the form of Post-It notes and this information has been compiled and included into the collection and this finding aid. (The Post-It notes have been removed from the pictures but are still in the collection.) Also included are 3 newspaper clippings about Franks and 1 magazine cover. These are all contained in 3 separate folders and located in 1 legal sized box.

Descriptive Rules Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, 2nd Edition / Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Processing Information

The photographs have been placed into protective sleeves and also the Post-It notes on the back sides of the pictures have been photocopied and removed. They are now attached to the photocopied paper clipped to the image. The newspaper clippings have been photocopied onto acid free paper and placed into protective sleeves.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Box 1 Photographs, Newsprint, and Magazine Cover, 1942-1946

Folder

1 Photographs, 1942-1946

Item

- 1 John Franks (on right) in front of a WACO UPF-7 aircraft with an unidentified person to his left. Winter 1942-1945
- 2 Unknown students standing in front of a WACO Cabin aircraft. They are doing cross-country training.
- 3 Picture of a group of aircraft. WACO UPF-7 aircraft and Stearmans aircraft."
- 4 Unidentified flight student at Purdue Airport.
- 5 Picture of the new hangar (Hangar 2) with 3 WACO UPF-7 aircraft in front. 1943
- 6 Franks (left) with Ensign Johnson (right) in front of a WACO UPF-7. "Eskimo Johnny and Ensign Johnson," is written on the reverse of this photograph.
- 7 Unidentified flight students and instructor in front of a WACO Cabin aircraft. 1943
- 8 Unidentified instructor and student in front of chalk board next to Hangar 1.
- 9 Picture taken while flying of the tail end of a plane. Location unknown
- 10 Portrait picture of John C. Franks in the Fall of 1942-1945.
- 11 Unidentified student suited up for a flight at the Purdue Airport in front of Hangar 1.
- 12 John C. Franks in front of a WACO UPF-7 aircraft
- 13 John C. Franks in front of a WACO UPF Cabin aircraft.
- 14 Portrait picture of John C. Franks with flight helmet on. 1942-1945.
- 15 Instructor Fairington and student from South America in a WACO Cabin. 1944.

2 Newspaper clippings, circa 1942-1946

Item

- 1 Newspaper clipping announcing Franks' new position at Purdue University training civilian pilots. Circa Fall of 1942
- 2 A duplicate clipping of item number 1 but this one is taped together, whereas number 1 is split. Circa Fall of 1942
- 3 Clipping of a picture of Lt. Karl H. Weaner (left) and John C. Franks (right) watching a flight of a student officer at the Purdue Airport. 1943.

3 Magazine Cover

Item

- 1 Cover of *Revista Aerea* magazine showing John C. Franks (right)

instructing a student pilot (left). January 1945