

Oveta Culp Hobby Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the
Library of Congress

Prepared by Laura J. Kells



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2009

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Finding aid encoded by Glenn R.
Gardner, 2009

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Collection Summary

Title: Oveta Culp Hobby Papers

Span Dates: 1941-1997

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1941-1945)

ID No.: MSS26146

Creator: Hobby, Oveta Culp, 1905-1995

Extent: 2,200 items; 11 containers plus 2 oversize; 4.4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Newspaper editor and publisher, director of the Women's Army Corps, secretary of health, education, and welfare, and businesswoman. Correspondence, printed matter, and other papers relating to Hobby's work during World War II as chief of the Women's Interest Section of the Bureau of Public Relations in the War Department and as the first director of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Hobby, Oveta Culp, 1905-

Organizations

United States. Army. Women's Army Auxiliary Corps.

United States. Army. Women's Army Corps.

United States. War Dept. Bureau of Public Relations. Women's Interest Section.

Subjects

Women in war--United States.

World War, 1939-1945--Participation, Female.

World War, 1939-1945--Women--United States.

Occupations

Businesswomen.

Cabinet officers.

Legislators--Texas.

Newspaper editors.

Publishers.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The paper of Oveta Culp Hobby, newspaper editor and publisher, director of the Women's Army Corps, secretary of health, education, and welfare, and businesswoman, were given to the Library of Congress by Hobby in 1969.

Processing History

The papers of Oveta Culp Hobby were housed in 1969. They were arranged and described in 2005.

Transfers

Some photographs have been transferred to the Library's Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of these papers.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Oveta Culp Hobby is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Oveta Culp Hobby are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript 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, Oveta Culp Hobby Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1905, Jan. 19	Born, Killeen, Tex.
circa 1922-circa 1925	Attended Mary Hardin-Baylor College, Belton, Tex. Reporter, <i>Austin Statesman</i>
1925-1931	Parliamentarian, Texas house of representatives, Austin, Tex.
1930	Candidate for Texas state legislature
1931	Married William Pettus Hobby (died 1964)
1933-1936	Book editor, <i>The Houston Post</i>
1936	Published <i>Mr. Chairman: Rules, and Examples in Story Form, of Parliamentary Procedure Written Expressly for Use in the Elementary Schools and the Junior High Schools</i> . Oklahoma City, Okla., and Fort Worth, Tex.: Economy Co.
1936-1938	Assistant editor, <i>Houston Post</i>
1938	Named executive vice president, <i>Houston Post</i>
1939-1941	Parliamentarian, Texas house of representatives, Austin, Tex.
1941-1942	Director, Women's Interest Section, War Department Bureau of Public Relations
1942-1945	Director and commanding officer, Women's Army Corps (originally called Women's Army Auxiliary Corps)

1945	Awarded Distinguished Service Medal Executive vice president, <i>Houston Post</i> Director, radio station KPRC, Houston, Tex.
1950	Director, television station KPRC-TV, Houston, Tex.
1953-1955	Secretary, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare
1955-1965	President and editor, <i>Houston Post</i>
1965-1983	Chair, board of directors, and editor, Houston Post Co.
1983-1995	Chair, executive committee, H & C Communications
1995, Aug. 16	Died, Houston, Tex.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Oveta Culp Hobby (1905-1995) span the years 1941-1997 with the bulk of the material dating from 1941 to 1945 and pertaining to Hobby's activities during World War II. Hobby served as chief of the Women's Interest Section of the War Department's Bureau of Public Relations (1941-1942) and as the first director of the Women's Army Corps (1942-1945). The papers are arranged in three series: [General Correspondence](#), [Miscellany](#), and [Oversize](#).

Letters in the [General Correspondence](#) series are grouped by year. Those from 1941 include congratulatory letters on Hobby's appointment in the War Department and inquiries about the Women's Interest Section. In 1942 Hobby became the first director of the newly-formed Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC), renamed the Women's Army Corps (WAC) in 1943. Correspondents from this period include prospective WAAC recruits; people recommending women for officer candidate school; Don C. Faith, commandant of the first WAAC training center at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, who reported on preparations for the first trainees; WACs recounting their experiences in training and working overseas; Hobby's counterparts in other service units and in other countries; military officers praising the work of WACs; journalists requesting access and information; and fellow Texans and colleagues in the newspaper business offering support and congratulations.

A topical file and press clippings in the [Miscellany](#) series pertain to Hobby's Women's Interest Section activities. Also in the series are her military personnel "201" file, schedules, and scrapbooks documenting her travel and speaking engagements as WAC director. A 1942 scrapbook contains press accounts of the establishment and early days of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. Included in the printed matter are 1943 WAAC regulations and a 1944 WAC handbook and recruiting material. Aspects of Hobby's life and accomplishments not documented in this collection are detailed in *Oveta Culp Hobby*, published in 1997 after her death, which is also in the printed matter file.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in three series:

- [General Correspondence, 1941-1945](#)
- [Miscellany, 1941-1997](#)
- [Oversize, 1942-1943](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-6	<u>General Correspondence, 1941-1945</u> Letters sent and received. Arranged by year and therein alphabetically by name of correspondent.
BOX 7-11	<u>Miscellany, 1941-1997</u> Printed matter, topical files, military records, invitations, memorabilia, and scrapbooks. Arranged by type of material and therein chronologically.
BOX OV 1-OV 2	<u>Oversize, 1942-1943</u> Sheet music, mock-up of a magazine article, printed matter, and scrapbook pages. Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-6	General Correspondence, 1941-1945 Letters sent and received. Arranged by year and therein alphabetically by name of correspondent.
BOX 1	1941 (2 folders)
BOX 1	1942
BOX 1	A-E (12 folders)
BOX 2	F-K (17 folders)
BOX 3	L-Z (17 folders)
BOX 4	1943
BOX 4	A-S (19 folders)
BOX 5	T-Y (2 folders)
BOX 5	1944 (18 folders)
BOX 6	1945 (19 folders)
BOX 7-11	Miscellany, 1941-1997 Printed matter, topical files, military records, invitations, memorabilia, and scrapbooks. Arranged by type of material and therein chronologically.
BOX 7	Interviews and statements, 1944-1945, undated
BOX 7	Invitations, 1942-1945, undated (4 folders)
BOX 7	Lists, 1943-1944, undated
BOX 7	Memorabilia, 1943-1945, undated <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 7	Military personnel "201" file
BOX 7	Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, 1942-1943
BOX 7	Women's Army Corps, 1943-1945 (3 folders)
BOX 7	Notes, circa 1943, undated
BOX 7	Photographs, 1942-1945
BOX 8	Printed matter
BOX 8	Miscellaneous
BOX 8	1941-1943 <i>See also Oversize</i> (5 folders)

Miscellany, 1941-1997

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 8	1944 (3 folders)
BOX 9	(1 folder)
BOX 9	1945, 1997, undated (4 folders)
BOX 9	Press clippings
BOX 9	1941-1944 (2 folders)
BOX 10	1945, undated (7 folders)
BOX 10	Programs, 1943-1945
BOX 10	Schedules, 1942-1944
BOX 10	Scrapbooks
BOX 10	Trip to England, 1944
BOX 10	Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, 1942 (unbound pages) <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 11	Topical files
BOX 11	American Society of Newspaper Editors, 1942-1943
BOX 11	Christmas messages, 1943, undated
BOX 11	Distinguished Service Medal, 1945
BOX 11	Resignation notes, 1945
BOX 11	Service Commanders Conference, New Orleans, La., 1942 (2 folders)
BOX 11	State Department, press briefing material, 1946, undated (2 folders)
BOX 11	Women's Interest Section, War Department Bureau of Public Relations, 1941-1943, undated (2 folders) <i>For additional material see Container 9, Press clippings</i>
BOX OV 1-OV 2	Oversize, 1942-1943 Sheet music, mock-up of a magazine article, printed matter, and scrapbook pages. Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.
BOX OV 1	Miscellany
BOX OV 1	Memorabilia, undated (Container 7)
BOX OV 1	Printed matter
BOX OV 1	Miscellaneous, 1942-1943 (Container 8)
BOX OV 2	Scrapbook
BOX OV 2	Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, 1942 (unbound pages) (Container 10)