



Finding Aid for

**CHARLES C. LA CROIX RECORDS, 1941-1956**  
**Accession 435**

Finding Aid Published: February 2011



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## **OVERVIEW**

- Quantity: 17.6 cubic ft. and 15 oversize boxes
- Access: The collection is open to research.
- Acquisition: The collection was donated to Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village by Ford Motor Company.
- Processed by: Terry Hoover and Trent Boggess, July 1999
- Description: The collection finding aid was revised and republished in February 2011 by staff of The Henry Ford.

## **ABSTRACT**

During the early 1950's Charles A. La Croix of the Ford Motor Company's Advertising Department undertook the task of collecting, documenting, and assembling a narrative of the production efforts of the Ford Motor Company during World War II. This task was completed in early 1956. The completed project consists of sixty-one volumes. The first eight volumes summarize and provide an overview to the extensive war time production activities of Ford. The bulk of the project consists of the next fifty-five volumes that provide a detailed description, chronology, significant aspects and extensive photographs of each war time production activity.

In addition to the sixty-one volumes described above, the collection also includes Charles La Croix's subject file. This file consists of notes, draft versions of the volumes, supplementary photographs, books and reports used to draft the final sixty-three volume output.

Each of the volumes of series I and II have been microfilmed. These films are located in the Research Center's Reading Room.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The La Croix World War II Production collection is composed of manuscript material, company documents, photographs and contracts. The bulk of the collection consists of manuscript materials bound into loose ring binders.

The World War II Production collection is divided into four series;

- Ford and the War Effort – Summary Volumes
- Ford and the War Effort – Detail Volumes
- La Croix Subject File
- Duplicate Volumes from series I and II

Ford and the War Effort – Summary Volumes consists of eight bound volumes located in boxes 1 and 2 of this accession. These volumes present a broad overview of the contributions the Ford Motor Company made to World War II production effort. Each volume contains one or more summaries of Ford war effort projects. These summaries include a description of the project, lists of product and manufacturing improvements that originated at Ford, production and cost figures, and a limited number of photographs.

Ford and the War Effort – Detailed Volumes consists of 55 bound volumes located in boxes 3 through 23 of this accession. The bound volumes contain detailed narratives describing the Ford Motor Company's efforts during World War II on each of the projects summarized in Ford and the War Effort volumes 1 – 8. Much more information in greater detail is given on each of these projects and an extensive number of photographs are used to illustrate production techniques and product features of the products.

The La Croix Subject File consists of source material for the volumes found in Series I and II. It consists of 20 document boxes organized alphabetically by subject title. Within the subject file can be found draft versions of the final volumes, additional photographs, contract information, manuals, and company documents not included in the bound volumes.

The Duplicate Volumes series consists of duplicates of the volumes found in series I and II. These are contained in 15 paper boxes and are in the same arrangement as the original volumes in Series I and II. The former Accession #1071, the Personal Papers of Charles La Croix, consisted of two transfer cases holding Volumes 1 through 18 of the Willow Run Bomber Plant. This accession was merged into Accession 435 by placing each of the volumes together with the other duplicate volumes of the same number.

## **Series I: Ford and the War Effort – Summary Volumes**

The Ford and the War Effort – Summary Volume series contains narrative and photographs of all of the war production projects that Ford Motor Company was involved in.

### **BOX 1**

#### Ford and the War Effort

##### Volume I

- Forward
- Resources & Facilities
- Ford Assists other Manufacturers
- P&W Aircraft Engine
- Jeep
- Amphibian

##### Volume II

- Tanks & Tank Destroyers
- Aircraft Engine – Forerunner of Present Tank Engine
- Ford Tank Engines
- Original Design & Engineering
- Armor Plate Production
- Universal Carrier
- Armored Car

##### Volume III

- Sale of Ford Tire Plant
- Reconversion of Tire Plant
- Job Improvement
- Ford Branch Plants
- Miscellaneous Military Vehicles
- Patents
- Patents & Licenses

##### Volume IV

- Village Industries
- Aircraft Generators
- Special Tools & Fixtures
- Termination of Contracts
- Industrial Education

### **BOX 2**

#### Ford and the War Effort

##### Volume V

- Turbo-Super Charger
- Gliders

##### Volume VI

- BOX 2** (cont.)
- Intermittent Jet Type Engines
  - Sales and Service Facilities
  - Jettison Fuel Tanks
  - Aluminum Foundry Termination

Volume VII

- Willow Run Bomber Plant

Volume VIII

- Aviation Ignition
- Altitude Chamber
- Flight Testing the Distributor & Magneto
- Magnesium Smelter
- Magnesium Foundry
- Anti-Aircraft Director

**Series II: World War II Production – Detail Volumes**

This series contains the detail volumes behind Ford and the War Effort. Within these volumes can be found detailed information regarding each of the war time production projects Ford was involved in. The volumes include project chronologies, product and production improvements that originated with Ford Motor Company, production data, cost data, production schematics and large numbers of photographs.

- BOX 3** Ford and the War Effort – Detail Volumes  
Aircraft Engineering Manufacture  
Forward  
Volume I  
Volume II

- BOX 4** Ford and the War Effort – Detail Volumes  
Aircraft Engineering Manufacture  
Volume III  
Volume IV  
Volume V

- BOX 5** Ford and the War Effort – Detail Volumes  
Aircraft Engine Plant  
Volume I  
Volume II  
Volume III

- BOX 6** Ford and the War Effort – Detail Volumes  
Aircraft Engine Plant  
Volume IV  
Volume V  
Aluminum Foundry
- BOX 7** Ford and the War Effort – Detail Volumes  
Amphibian  
Volume I  
Parts List Model GPA Amphibian  
Ford Motor Operations under GPW and GPA Contracts  
Armored Car  
Volume I  
Volume II
- BOX 8** Ford and the War Effort – Detail Volumes  
Director Manufacture  
M-5 and M-7 Director  
“Director” refers to an anti-aircraft artillery guidance system that was manufactured by Ford Motor Company. It essentially is an analog computer designed to guide the aiming of the gun at a high altitude moving aircraft.  
Generator Plant
- BOX 9** Ford and the War Effort – Detail Volumes  
Glider  
Volume I  
Volume II  
Industrial Education
- BOX 10** Ford and the War Effort – Detail Volumes  
Jet Engine  
Magnesium Plant
- BOX 11** Ford and the War Effort – Detail Volumes  
Navy Service School  
Rate of Climb Indicator  
Reconnaissance Car (Jeep)
- BOX 12** Ford and the War Effort – Detail Volumes  
Squad Tents  
Super Charger  
Tank  
Volume I

- BOX 13** Ford and the War Effort – Detail Volumes  
Tank  
Volume II  
Universal Carrier
- BOX 14** Ford and the War Effort – Detail Volumes  
Village Industries  
Volume I  
Volume II
- BOX 15** Ford and the War Effort – Detail Volumes  
Willow Run Bomber Plant  
Volume I  
Volume II  
Volume III
- BOX 16** Ford and the War Effort – Detail Volumes  
Willow Run Bomber Plant  
Volume IV  
Volume V  
Volume VI
- BOX 17** Ford and the War Effort – Detail Volumes  
Willow Run Bomber Plant  
Volume VII  
Volume VIII  
Volume IX
- BOX 18** Ford and the War Effort – Detail Volumes  
Willow Run Bomber Plant  
Volume X  
Volume XI  
Volume XII
- BOX 19** Ford and the War Effort – Detail Volumes  
Willow Run Bomber Plant  
Volume XIII  
Volume XIV  
Volume XV
- BOX 20** Ford and the War Effort – Detail Volumes  
Willow Run Bomber Plant  
Volume XVI  
Volume XVII  
Volume XVIII

**BOX 21** Ford and the War Effort – Detail Volumes  
Willow Run Bomber Plant  
Volume XIX  
Volume XX  
Volume XXI

**BOX 22** Ford and the War Effort – Detail Volumes  
Willow Run Bomber Plant  
Volume XXII  
Summarization  
General – Miscellaneous

**Series III: La Croix Subject File**

This series contains earlier drafts of the volumes in series I and II, clippings, company documents, contracts, additional unpublished information and additional photographs.

Of particular interest is the guest register from the Willow Run bomber plant at the end of this series. It contains the signatures of many significant visitors to Willow Run including Charles A. Lindberg and General H. Arnold.

**BOX 23** Subject File  
Index Sheets  
Aircraft Engine  
Flow Chart and Floor Plan  
Ford V-12 Engine  
Ignition  
Photographs

**BOX 24** Subject File  
Aircraft Engine  
Pratt – Whitney  
Contract Summary  
Renegotiation – 1946  
Revised Notes

**BOX 25** Subject File  
Aluminum Foundry  
Amphibian (G.P.A.)  
Anti-Aircraft Director



**BOX 26**

Subject File  
Armored Cars  
    Experimental  
    M-20  
    Patent Drawings  
    Photographs

**BOX 27**

Subject File  
Armored Cars  
    T-17  
    T-22  
Auditing Summary – All Contracts  
Automotive Council for War Production  
Bergen Norman  
Branch Plants  
    Chicago Reconversion  
    Chester Plant  
    Somerville

**BOX 28**

Subject File  
B-24 Bombers  
    Landing Gears  
    Trailers & Trucks  
Cost Accounting – All Contracts  
Field Organization – 1946  
“Ford of Canada in Wartime”  
Generator Plant

**BOX 29**

Subject File  
Glider  
    GAG  
    GBG

**BOX 30**

Subject File  
Jeep  
    GPW Truck  
    Midget Jeep  
    Reconnaissance Car  
    Trailer  
Jet Gas Tank

- BOX 31**            Subject File  
                          La Croix (Personal) – Missing  
                          Magnesium Foundry  
                          Military Vehicles  
                          Miscellaneous  
                          Ordnance (News Releases)
- BOX 32**            Subject File  
                          Passenger Car  
                          Photographs – All War Products  
                          Production – Village Industries  
                          Production Chart – All Contracts  
                          Rate of Climb Indicator
- BOX 33**            Subject File  
                          Rejected Data  
                          Salvage Practice  
                          Squad Tents  
                          Super-Charger
- BOX 34**            Subject File  
                          Photographs (General)
- BOX 35**            Subject File  
                          Tanks  
                                  Contracts  
                                  Notes  
                                  Photographs
- BOX 36**            Subject File  
                          Tanks  
                                  Photographs (continued)  
                          Tests (Civilian Production)  
                          Tire Plant (Clippings)  
                          Tractor  
                                  Ford-Ferguson Moto-Tug
- BOX 37**            Subject File  
                          Training Schools  
                                  Airplane Apprentice School  
                                  Industrial Education  
                                  Naval Training School  
                          Transit Buses  
                          Trucks  
                          War-Time Advertising

**BOX 38**

Subject File  
War Department Price Adjustment Board Reports  
Volume 3, 1944  
Supplement #1, 1944  
Volume 1, 1945

**BOX 39**

Subject File  
War Department Price Adjustment Board Reports  
Volume 2, 1945  
Volume 3, 1945

**BOX 40**

Subject File  
Willow Run  
Bomber Plant  
Camp Willow Run  
Ceremony, 1941  
Chronology and Plant Data

**BOX 41**

Subject File  
Willow Run  
Clippings (Newspaper)  
Press Information  
J. Walter Thompson "How to Utilize Willow Run" - 1944  
Woman Power Movie  
World Transportation Fair - Santa Anna 1951  
Publicity Activities for Ford Defense Projects - 1941  
Prescription for Prefabrication - William Rausch  
Prefabricated Housing - Holt - Fairchild Co.  
A Cylindrical Bathroom - Randolph Evans

**BOX 42**

Subject File  
Willow Run Bomber Plant Dining Room  
Guest Book  
Index of Guests by Name  
Index of Guests by Place

## **Series IV: Duplicate Volumes**

The materials in the following series are duplicates of the volumes in series I and II. With the exception of tissue copies kept in document boxes 43 and 44, all materials are stored in Paige boxes. Note that there is only one complete set of duplicate detail volumes of the Willow Run Bomber Plant project. These are kept together as a set in boxes 51 and 52. The boxes 53 through 58 contain the all other duplicate detail volumes from the Willow Run Bomber Plant series.

### **BOX 43**

#### Duplicate Volumes

Director Manufacture – Tissue copy with photographs

Glider – Tissue copy with photographs

Intermittent Jet Type Engine – Tissue copy with photographs

Jeep – Missing

Jettison Fuel Tank – Tissue copy with photographs

### **BOX 44**

#### Duplicate Volumes

Rate of Climb Indicator – Tissue copy with photographs

Squad Tents – Tissue copy with photographs

Turbo-Super Charger – Tissue copy with photographs

Universal Carrier – Tissue copy with photographs

Ypsilanti Generator Plant – Tissue copy with photographs

### **BOX 45**

#### Duplicate Volumes

Ford Aircraft Engine Manufacture

Volume I – 2 copies

Volume II – 2 copies

Volume III – 2 copies

Volume IV – 2 copies

Volume V – 2 copies

Aluminum Foundry

Volume I

### **BOX 46**

#### Duplicate Volumes

Airplane Engine Plant

Volume I – 2 copies

Volume II – 2 copies

Volume III – 2 copies

Volume IV – 1 copy

Volume V – 2 copies

Amphibian

**BOX 47**

Duplicate Volumes  
Armored Cars  
    Volume I – 4 copies  
    Volume II – 4 copies  
    Volume III – 4 copies  
    Volume IV – 4 copies  
Director Manufacture – 2 copies  
M5 and M7 Manufacture – 2 copies  
Generator Plant – 2 copies  
Miscellaneous Empty Binders

**BOX 48**

Duplicate Volumes  
Glider  
    Volume I – 4 copies  
    Volume II – 5 copies  
Industrial Education – 2 copies  
Jet Engine – 2 copies

**BOX 49**

Duplicate Volumes  
Magnesium Plant  
    Volume I – 2 copies  
    Volume II – 2 copies  
Navy School – 2 copies  
Rate of Climb Indicators – 2 copies  
Reconnaissance Car – 2 copies  
Squad Tent – 2 copies

**BOX 50**

Duplicate Volumes  
Super Charger – 3 copies  
Tank Manufacture  
    Volume I – 2 copies  
    Volume II – 3 copies  
    Several empty binders  
Village Industries  
    Volume I  
    Volume II

**BOX 51**

Duplicate Volumes  
Willow Run Bomber Plant  
Volume I  
Volume II  
Volume III  
Volume IV  
Volume V  
Volume VI  
Volume VII  
Volume VIII  
Volume IX  
Volume X  
Volume XI

**BOX 52**

Duplicate Volumes  
Willow Run Bomber Plant  
Volume XII  
Volume XIII  
Volume XIV  
Volume XV  
Volume XVI  
Volume XVII  
Volume XVIII  
Volume XIX  
Volume XX  
Volume XXI  
Summation

**BOX 53**

Duplicate Volumes  
Willow Run Bomber Plant  
Volume I – 3 copies  
Volume II – 3 copies  
Volume III – 3 copies  
Volume IV – 3 copies

**BOX 54**

Duplicate Volumes  
Willow Run Bomber Plant  
Volume V – 3 copies  
Volume VI – 2 copies  
Volume VII – 3 copies  
Volume VIII – 4 copies

**BOX 55**

Duplicate Volumes  
Willow Run Bomber Plant  
Volume XI – 3 copies  
Volume X – 3 copies  
Volume XI – 3 copies  
Volume XII – 2 copies  
Volume XIII – 2 copies

**BOX 56**

Duplicate Volumes  
Willow Run Bomber Plant  
Volume XIII – 2 copies  
Volume XIV – 3 copies  
Volume XV – 3 copies  
Volume XVI – 2 copies  
Volume XVII – 3 copies

**BOX 57**

Duplicate Volumes  
Willow Run Bomber Plant  
Volume XVIII – 3 copies  
Willow Run Bomber Plant Facilities  
Willow Run Bomber Plant Summation  
Universal Carrier – 2 copies  
Ford General – 2 copies  
Magnesium Plant  
Volume 2 – 2 copies

**BOX 58**

Duplicate Volumes  
Ford War and the War Effort (Individual Summary  
Volumes Combined)  
Volume I – 2 copies  
Volume II – 2 copies  
Volume III – 3 copies  
Volume IV – 3 copies  
Ford and the War Effort (Individual Summary Volumes)  
Volume I – 2 copies  
Volume II – 2 copies  
Volume III – 2 copies  
Volume IV – 2 copies

**BOX 59**

Duplicate Volumes  
Ford and the War Effort (Individual Summary Volumes)  
Volume V – 3 copies  
Volume VI – 1 copy  
Volume VII – 2 copies  
Volume VII – 2 copies  
Volume V & VI Spare Binders