

SMSgt (Ret.) Rob Rosenberger

Twitter @rsnbrgr

This PDF / ZIP / folder / _____ contains first-generation scans and/or photographs of original UNCLASSIFIED historical papers in the public domain stored in the Air Force Historical Research Agency at Maxwell AFB, Alabama. SMSgt (Ret.) Rob Rosenberger accessioned the enclosed document(s) into his personal collection and he donates this effort to the PUBLIC DOMAIN.

EO 12958: N/A My accession: 24 OCT 2022 Initials: RR

Title: BIOGRAPHY (MULTIPLE PERSONNEL IN FILES)

Date(s): VARIOUSLY DATED

Call: K239.293

Volume: _____

ALL Selected Papers Except

NEWS REPRINTS



ACTS
1934-35

HOYT SANFORD VANDENBERG

Hoyt S. Vandenberg was born at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on January 24, 1899. He was graduated from the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York, and commissioned a second lieutenant in the Air Service on June 12, 1923.

PROMOTIONS

He was promoted to first lieutenant on August 19, 1928; to captain on August 1, 1935; to major (temporary) on March 11, 1940; to major (permanent) on July 1, 1940; to lieutenant colonel (temporary) on November 15, 1941; to colonel (temporary) on January 27, 1942; to brigadier general (temporary) on December 3, 1942; to major general (temporary) on March 13, 1944; to lieutenant general (temporary) on March 17, 1945.

SERVICE

In September 1923 he entered the Air Service Flying School at Brooks Field, Texas. Following graduation in February 1924, he entered the Air Service Advanced Flying School at Kelly Field, Texas. He was graduated in September 1924, and joined the 3rd Attack Group at Kelly Field.

He transferred to Fort Crockett, Texas, with that unit in August 1926. In October 1927 he became an instructor at the Air Corps Primary Flying School, March Field, California. He went to Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, in May 1929, and joined the 6th Pursuit Squadron, assuming command of that squadron in November 1929.

Upon his return to the United States in September 1931 he became an instructor in flying at Randolph Field, Texas. He became a Flight Commander there in March 1933. In August 1934 he entered the Air Corps Tactical School at Maxwell Field, Alabama. He was graduated in June 1935, and the following August he entered the Command and General Staff School, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Following graduation in June 1936, he became an instructor at the Air Corps Tactical School, Maxwell Field, Alabama. He enrolled in the Army War College, Washington, D. C., in September 1938, and was graduated in June 1939. He then went on duty in the Plans Division in the Office, Chief of the Air Corps, Washington, D. C. In March 1942 he became Operations and Training Officer, A-3, of the Air Staff, in Washington. He was assigned to the United Kingdom in June 1942, and assisted in the planning and organization of the Air Forces for Operations in North Africa. While in the United Kingdom General Vandenberg was appointed Chief of Staff of the Twelfth Air Force. He participated in the invasion of North Africa and in the Tunisian and Sicilian Campaigns.

Upon his return to the United States in August 1943, he was assigned to Headquarters, Army Air Forces, Washington, D. C., as a Deputy Chief of Air Staff. In March 1944 he was assigned to Headquarters, European Theater of Operations, and in April 1944 was designated Deputy Air Commander-in-Chief, Headquarters, American Component, Allied Expeditionary Force, European Theater of Operations. In August 1944 he assumed command of the 9th Air Force in the same theater. In July 1945, having returned to the United States, he was assigned to Headquarters, Army Air Forces, Washington, D. C., as Assistant Chief of Air Staff. In February 1946 he became Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, Intelligence, War Department General Staff. In June 1946 he was named by President Truman as Director of Central Intelligence, a new joint intelligence group inaugurated for the purpose of correlating foreign intelligence reports.

DECORATIONS

He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal in September 1942 with the following citation:

"For exceptionally meritorious and distinguished service in a position of great responsibility while serving in the Office of Chief of Air Corps from September 3, 1938, to June 30, 1941; and on the staff of the Commanding General Army Air Forces, from July 1, 1941, to July 30, 1942. Colonel Vandenberg displayed exceptional ability, energy, judgment, and brilliant professional knowledge in contributing to the formulation of strategic plans for the employment of the Army Air Forces in world-wide operations on a vast scale. Through wise evaluation of the situation created by the requirements of air power set against the national materiel and personnel resources he was enabled to render expert counsel in the creation of a balanced air force. Concurrently this officer formulated and supervised the execution of the program for the allotment of aircraft in coordination with the demands of the broad strategic plans and the requirements for essential defensive installations and training establishments."

In June 1943 he received the award of the Legion of Merit with the following citation:

"For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services. As Chief of Staff, he was largely responsible for the excellent organization of an Air Force. This was accomplished in the face of almost insuperable difficulties due to lack of time, experienced personnel, and equipment. The achievement of the Force in the initial and succeeding stages of operations is a tribute to his organization and administrative ability. Subsequently, as Chief of Staff of the Northwest African Strategic Air Force during operations in Tunisia, he was responsible for planning and carrying into effect, aerial operations which were instrumental in nullifying efforts of the enemy to bring in vital supplies and reinforcements. During the entire period General Vandenberg has displayed personal courage and coolness and unusual qualities of leadership."

In January 1943 he received the Silver Star with the following citation:

"For gallantry in action. Since February 18, 1943, when he assumed the duties of Chief of Staff of the Northwest African Strategic Air Force, this officer, by his untiring efforts, keen professional knowledge, and personal example has been an inspiration to the personnel of this command. During the recent operations many exceptional victories have been accredited to the Strategic Air Force. In no small measure these victories are attributable to the expert assistance rendered by General Vandenberg in the planning of these missions. The intrepidity he displayed in participating in many of the missions he had assisted in planning inspired the units of this command to renewed successful efforts against the enemy. By his display of gallantry and courageous leadership. General Vandenberg has upheld the highest traditions of the Air Forces of the United States Army."

The Distinguished Flying Cross was conferred upon him with the following citation in April 1943:

"For extraordinary achievement while participating in numerous aerial flights over Tunisia, Italy, Sardinia, Sicily and Pantelleria during the North African campaign. These missions were flown in all types of bombardment airplanes of the Strategic Air Force. Types of missions included attacks against shipping at minimum, intermediate and high altitude, and attacks against lines of communications, airports, and landing grounds. General Vandenberg has flown in various capacities, such as gunner, co-pilot and observer. By means of these flights, he has obtained first hand knowledge of operating conditions

Vandenberg, Hoyt S.

-3-

Vandenberg volunteered for these missions knowing full well the hazards involved. This achievement, far above and beyond the requirements of his position, reflects high credit on him and the military service of the United States.

He was awarded the Air Medal in 1943 "For participating in five (5) sorties against the enemy," and received three Oak Leaf Clusters to the Air Medal for participating in a number of other sorties.

WAR DEPARTMENT - Up to date as of 17 June 1946.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
PRESS BRANCH

GENERAL HOYT S. VANDENBERG, USAF

Hoyt S. Vandenberg was born at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, January 24, 1899. He was graduated from the United States Military Academy June 12, 1923, and commissioned a second lieutenant in the Air Service.

The following fall General Vandenberg entered the Air Service Flying School at Brooks Air Force Base, Texas, and was graduated in February, 1924. He then took the advanced course at the Air Service Advanced Flying School at Kelly AFB, Texas, and in September, 1924, received his first Air Force assignment with the Third Attack Group at Kelly AFB, with which he transferred to Fort Crockett, Texas, in August, 1926. After three years with this group, during which he took over the 90th Attack Squadron as his first command, he became an instructor at the Air Corps Primary Flying School at March AFB, California.

In May, 1929, General Vandenberg went to Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, to join the Sixth Pursuit Squadron, of which he assumed command the following November; in September, 1931, he began two years of service as a flying instructor at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, and became a flight commander and deputy stage commander there in March, 1933.

General Vandenberg entered the Air Corps Tactical School at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, in August, 1934, and was graduated the following June. Two months later he enrolled in the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and completed the course in June, 1936. He then became an instructor at the Air Corps Tactical School at Maxwell Air Force Base, where he taught until September, 1936, when he entered the Army War College.

After graduating from the War College in June, 1939, General Vandenberg was assigned to the Plans Division in the Office, Chief of Air Corps. A few months after the United States entered World War II, he became operations and training officer of the Air Staff. For his services in these two positions, he received the Distinguished Service Medal.

In June, 1942, General Vandenberg was assigned to the United Kingdom and assisted in the organization of the Air Forces in North Africa. While in Great Britain, he was appointed chief of staff of the 12th Air Force, which he helped organize.

On February 18, 1943, General Vandenberg became chief of staff of the Northwest African Strategic Air Force. With this air force the General flew on numerous missions over Tunisia, Italy, Sardinia, Sicily, and Pantelleria during the North African campaign. He was awarded both the Silver Star and the Distinguished Flying Cross for his services during this time. For his organization ability with the 12th Air Force and his work as chief of staff of the Northwest African Strategic Air Force, he was awarded the Legion of Merit.

General Vandenberg, in August, 1943, was assigned to Air Force Headquarters as a deputy chief of Air Staff. A month later he became head of an Air Mission to Russia, under Ambassador Harriman, and returned to the United States in January, 1944. Two months later he was transferred to the European theater and in April, 1944, was designated Deputy Air Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Expeditionary Forces and Commander of its American Air Component.

MORE

In August, 1944, General Vandenberg assumed command of the Ninth Air Force, and on November 28, 1944, received an Oak Leaf Cluster to the Distinguished Service Medal for his part in planning the Normandy invasion.

General Vandenberg was appointed Assistant Chief of Air Staff at Air Force Headquarters in July, 1945. The following January he became Director of Intelligence on the War Department General Staff where he served until his appointment in June, 1946, as Director of Central Intelligence. He returned to duty with the Air Force in April 1947, and in June 15, 1947, became Deputy Commander and Chief of Air Staff. On October 1, 1947, he was designated Vice Chief of Staff of the U. S. Air Force and promoted to the rank of General.

On April 30, 1948, General Vandenberg became Chief of Staff of the U. S. Air Force, succeeding General Carl Spaatz. On March 6, 1952, President Truman re-nominated him as Chief of Staff for a second term, to end June 30, 1953, and the nomination was confirmed by the Senate April 28, 1952.

General Vandenberg received the Air Medal in 1943 for participating in five sorties against the enemy, and was awarded four Oak Leaf Clusters to the Air Medal for flying in a number of other sorties. He is rated a command pilot, combat observer, aircraft observer and technical observer.

General Vandenberg's wife is the former Miss Gladys Rose. They have two children, a daughter, Gloria, who is married to an Air Force officer, and a son, Second Lieutenant Hoyt S. Vandenberg, Jr., USAF.

General Vandenberg has been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal with one Cluster; the Silver Star; the Legion of Merit; the Distinguished Flying Cross; the Air Medal with four Clusters; the Bronze Star; the Victory Medal; the American Campaign Ribbon; the American Defense Ribbon; and the European-African-Middle East Campaign Ribbon.

His Foreign Decorations include: Mexican Military Order of Merit; Netherlands Order of Orange-Nassau (Grand Officer w/Swords); Brazilian - Cruz del Sol (Grand Officer); Brazilian Medal of War; Luxemburg Order of Adolph von Nassau (Grand Cross); and Croix de Guerre; Belgium Order of Leopold I (Grand Officer w/Palms), and Croix de Guerre with Palms; British Order of the Bath, (Knight Commanders Cross); Polish Order of Polish Restoration (2nd Class); Portuguese Ordem de Avis, Cara Cruz; Egyptian L'Ordre Du Nil Grand Cordon; Chinese Order of Pao Ting (Tripod w/Grand Cordon); Chilean Medallia Militar de Primera Clase; Argentine General Staff Emblem and the Military Order of Italy.

PROMOTIONS

He was promoted to first lieutenant (permanent) August 19, 1928; to captain (permanent) August 1, 1935; to major (temporary) March 11, 1940; to major (permanent) July 1, 1940; lieutenant colonel (temporary) November 15, 1941; to colonel (temporary) January 27, 1942; to brigadier general (temporary) December 3, 1942; to major general (temporary) March 13, 1944; to lieutenant general (temporary) March 17, 1945; to lieutenant colonel (permanent) June 12, 1946; to brigadier general (permanent) June 22, 1946, with date of rank from April 30, 1946; to major general (permanent) August 1, 1947; to General (temporary) October 1, 1947.

E N D

Up to Date as of 6 May 1952