

**Collection #
M 1040**

**ALLISON COMPANY
COLLECTION, 1915–1992**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 4 boxes; 3 folders photographs; 2 folders color photographs; 2 folders OVA photographs

COLLECTION DATES: 1915–1992

PROVENANCE: Wanda Lou Willis, Indianapolis, Indiana, February, 1993

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1993.0238

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Indianapolis industrialist James A. Allison established the Allison Speedway Team Company to produce race car components. With the entry of the United States in World War I, racing production and started manufacturing components for the Liberty aircraft engines and the firm's name was altered to the Allison Engineering Company. Allison received additional government contracts for the manufacturing of aircraft engines which continued after war.

When Allison died in 1928, the company was purchased by General Motors the following year. Allison continued manufacturing aircraft engines under GM ownership. The Second World War provided additional work for the facility. In 1943 Allison produced an average of 3,000 aircraft engines a month and had a work force of over 23,000.

After the war the company entered into the production of transmissions in 1946 in addition to maintaining its aircraft engine operation. In 1970 GM's Detroit Diesel Engine Division was consolidated with the Allison and the company was renamed Detroit Diesel-Allison and the facility started production of gas turbine engines. The merger was not financially successful and in 1983 the company was split into two separate divisions—the Detroit Diesel Allison Division and the Allison Gas Turbine Division.

In 1987 Allison Turbine formed a joint venture with Pratt and Whitney of East Hartford Connecticut to design and produce a new airplane engine. In 1988 Allison Transmission introduce its new automatic for trucks called World Transmission.

By the 1990s both Allisons looked to international markets because of spending cuts in defense, formerly sixty percent of Gas Turbine's business. New general manager F. Blake Wallace attempted to increase civilian but despite some production opportunities during the Persian Gulf War, the rumors of selling Allison pushed management to improve labor relations and offset the threat of lay-offs and downsizing. The expansion and modernization of DDAD led to the efficient production of Allison Gas Turbine engines in aircraft commuter planes while employing 10,000 people at both Allison plants.

Sources:

Encyclopedia of Indianapolis.

Information in collection.

A Brief History of Allison Transmission. Accessed 31 October 2012.

<http://www.allisontransmission.com/company/history/>

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Allison Company Collection comprises engine manuals, magazine articles, newsclippings, annual reports, *AllisoNews*, and other Allison materials. Also included are instructional booklets and operational handbooks concerning aircraft and automobile engine parts for the Indianapolis operations of Detroit Diesel Allison Division of General Motors Corporation.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Education and Training

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Management Progression Curriculum and Financial Management (1 of 2)	Box 1, Folder 1
Management Progression Curriculum and Financial Management (2 of 2)	Box 1, Folder 2
Detroit Diesel Allison Organization and Functions (1980 organization charts)	Box 1, Folder 3
Organization and Operation of Experimental Test (1 of 2)	Box 1, Folder 4
Organization and Operation of Experimental Test (2 of 2)	Box 1, Folder 5
Installation and Application Manual (1 of 2)	Box 1, Folder 6
Installation and Application Manual (2 of 2)	Box 1, Folder 7
V-3420 and DV-6840 Engine Arrangements	Box 1, Folder 8
Allison Instructional Charts, J33-A33 Turbo Jet Engines (1 of 3)	Box 1, Folder 9
Allison Instructional Charts, J33-A33 Turbo Jet Engines (2 of 3)	Box 1, Folder 10
Allison Instructional Charts, J33-A33 Turbo Jet Engines (3 of 3)	Box 1, Folder 11
Products, ca. 1950s	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 3
Product Summary Book, November, 1984 (1 of 2)	Color Photographs: Box 1, Folder 1
Product Summary Book, November, 1983 (2 of 2)	Color Photographs: Box 1, Folder 2

Series 2: Company History, Articles and Engine Manuals

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Department Functions and Individual Responsibilities, 1949 (1 of 2)	Box 2, Folder 1
Department Functions and Individual Responsibilities, 1949 (2 of 2)	Box 2, Folder 2
Historical Overview of Allison	Box 2, Folder 3
Engine and Personnel Histories	Box 2, Folder 4
Historical Dates, 1915–1963	Box 2, Folder 5
Early Newspaper and Magazine Articles on Allison	Box 2, Folder 6
<i>Allison and The Dirigible</i> , Allison Aircraft Engine Development, Special Open House Edition of <i>AllisoNews</i>	Box 2, Folder 7
Report of Explosion and Fire at Allison Division, 1951	Box 2, Folder 8
<i>GM Folks</i> ; “Bucket Bitchings;” “The Aeroplane;” unpublished PhD dissertation	Box 2, Folder 9
<i>Powernews</i> , February, 1979; Celebrating 75 Years, 1915–90; Memos, 1992; <i>AllisoNews</i> Issues, Unpublished Articles	Box 2, Folder 10
Aeronautical Engineering, 1933; Engine Blueprints	Box 2, Folder 11
James Allison, ca. 1920s	OVA Photographs: Box 1, Folder 1
Executive Meeting, Indianapolis, ca. 1942	OVA Photographs: Box 1, Folder 2
Indianapolis Motor Speedway, ca. 1910s	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 1
“Sea Horse” (Yacht)	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 2

Series 3: Engine Materials and Personal Papers

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
The Liberty and Other World War I Munitions; Spare Parts List, 1941	Box 3, Folder 1
Allison Commercial Parts Catalog for Model V-1710-C15 Engines	Box 3, Folder 2
Allison Service School Handbook, 1943	Box 3, Folder 3
Service Instructions for Aircraft Engines, 1947	Box 3, Folder 4
Operating report, April, 1949; History of J33 Turbo-Jet Aircraft Engine	Box 3, Folder 5
Newsclippings and Magazine Articles	Box 3, Folder 6
General Items and World War II Engine Data	Box 3, Folder 7

Series 4: Annual Reports, Pamphlets, *Allisonews*, Allison Histories

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
<i>Allison Motors; Allison War Album</i>	Box 4, Folder 1
<i>History of the Allison Gas Turbine Division</i> , 1982	Box 4, Folder 2
Electronics and Parts Test, 1988; Annual Report, 1989	Box 4, Folder 3
<i>AllisoNews</i>	Box 4, Folder 4
<i>Tale Spins</i> , 1943-1945	Box 4, Folder 5
<i>Allison History</i>	Box 4, Folder 6
Historical Dates, 1915-1983	Box 4, Folder 7
Allison Pamphlets	Box 4, Folder 8

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:
<http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 1040).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.