

ALPA Headquarters Communications (HQC) Library
Bound Volumes, 1931-1954
17 storage boxes
21 linear feet

Accession Number 247

The Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA) designated Wayne State University as its official records repository in 1967. These eighty-nine bound volumes were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs by the President's Department of ALPA. These materials were deposited in the late 1960s, and the records were opened for research in the fall of 2005.

The ALPA Headquarters Communications (HQC) materials represent a chronological compilation—a bound library—of correspondence, informational bulletins to pilot councils and pilot members, membership questionnaires, reports, collective bargaining agreements, and ALPA governing bodies materials. Essentially it is a chronological file of various items created and kept by ALPA Headquarters (then located in Chicago, Illinois) and circulated to ALPA membership. The HQC Library is arranged in a single series of bound volumes in date order.

In 1930, the Association formed in secret and was composed of “key men,” pilots whose names were omitted in ALPA’s early records for risk of detection by the airline for which each Key Man flew. Each airline whose pilots ALPA represented had a Key Man. ALPA’s existence as a secret organization ended when union credentials were discovered on the body of a dead ALPA pilot member on a crash site in California.

Of particular importance is the first bound volume in the collection, *First Publication and Organization Material, Vol. 1 No. 1*. Though the volume is labeled “1931” materials within range in date from April 1931 to January 1932. This volume contains the first *de facto* publication of the Association, the *ALPA News and Progress Bulletin*. The bulletin debuted October 1, 1931, at which time ALPA was still operating under an air of anonymity—no mention of pilot names—although ALPA’s secrecy had been compromised due to earlier circumstances.

On Sunday, October 4, 1931, ALPA went public when it announced to the world via press release that it had formed as an organization. The *ALPA News and Progress Bulletin*, which is effectively the precursor of ALPA’s official newspaper (and later magazine), *The Air Line Pilot*, ran two additional issues (November, 1931 and January, 1932) until the *The Air Line Pilot’s* first publication on April 5, 1932 replaced it. These issues can also be found in volume one.

The next installment, i.e. second volume, in the HQC chronology ranges in date from August 1931 to July 1932. The first usage of the term "Headquarters Communications" or HQC appears in this volume. HQC #1 was issued on October 23, 1931. The third volume in the HQC set, date range July 1932 to December 1933, reveals some of the history of the HQC usage.

HQC 732-1 (dated July 23, 1932 in the August 1931-July 1932 volume) revealed a new HQC numbering convention. "7" stood for the seventh month of the year, July, "32" the last two digits of the calendar year 1932, and "1" the first communication of that particular month. HQC 732-1 also explained that the last installment of the then "old" headquarters communications—the final one numbered HQC #50—was issued in July 1932.

The HQC numbering scheme was used from 1931 to 1935 in two distinct incarnations. The old chronological system (numbered 1-50) was used from August 1931 to July 1932. The new coded system was used from July 1932 through 1935. By 1935 the newer designation was not widely used, and information in the bound volumes was filed and identified apparently just with respect to the dates on the various items. Later, in the 1950s, some documents within the bound volumes are coded, for example, as "53-11" (for November 1953) but this coding appears to be of limited use and was likely just for ALPA internal purposes, possibly only as a placeholder for compiling individual documents prior to binding.

The fourth volume in this compilation is noteworthy as well. *Councilmen's Confidential Bulletins December 1932 to July 1933, Volume 1, Number 1*, is a one-of-a-kind compilation. Other than this one instance, ALPA apparently never again utilized a dedicated volume format with respect to any other HQC topical area. Confidential bulletins were issued by ALPA beyond mid-year 1933, and may be found within post-1933 HQC volumes as included documents without specific reference on volume labels.

The HQC Library covers a variety of topics important to the early history of the Association.

Important subjects include:

- Aeromedical subjects
- ALPA conventions and convention materials
- Air safety
- Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB)
- Collective bargaining agreements
- Early ALPA history
- Election of local officers
- Flying time
- Grievances
- Interstate and foreign commerce

Important subjects (cont'd.):

Local Executive Councils (LECs)
Master Executive Councils (MECs)
Pilot delegates to convention
Pilot Executive Councils (PECs)
Pilot pay
Route transfers
Strikes
Wage disputes
Working conditions

Important correspondents include:

William Green
David L. Behncke

The contents listing of each box follows.

Note: For the sake of brevity in individual volume identification, part of the official title has been deliberately omitted in listing each publication, namely *Air Line Pilots Association, International* or *A.L.P.A.* Similarly, ALPA did not use the HQC designation in labeling these bound volumes. The identifier "HQC" has been included here—albeit artificially—to illustrate the differences in volume labeling between the first four volumes in the set and the majority of the volumes compiled from 1933 to 1954.

Box 1

1. *First Publication and Organization Material, Vol. 1, No. 1, 1931, Apr 1931-Jan 1932*
2. HQC Aug 1931-Jul 1932
3. HQC Jul 1932-Dec 1933
4. *Councilmen's Confidential Bulletins, Vol. 1, No. 1, Dec 1932-Jul 1933*
5. HQC Jan-May 1933
6. HQC Jun-Aug 1933
7. HQC Sep-Dec 1933
8. HQC Jan-Mar 1934
9. HQC Apr-Jun 1934

Box 2

1. HQC Jul-Sep 1934
2. HQC Oct-Dec 1934

Box 2 (cont'd.)

3. HQC Jan-Mar 1935
4. HQC Apr-Jun 1935
5. HQC Jul-Sep 1935
6. HQC Oct-Dec 1935
7. HQC Jan-Mar 1936
8. HQC Apr-Jun 1936
9. HQC Jul-Sep 1936
10. HQC Oct-Dec 1936
11. HQC Jan-Mar 1937
12. HQC Apr-Jun 1937
13. HQC Jul-Sep 1937

Box 3

1. HQC Oct-Dec 1937
2. HQC Jan-Mar 1938
3. HQC Apr-Jun 1938
4. HQC Jul-Sep 1938
5. HQC Oct-Dec 1938
6. HQC Jan-Mar 1939
7. HQC Apr-Jun 1939
8. HQC Jul-Sep 1939
9. HQC Oct-Dec 1939

Box 4

1. HQC Jan-Mar 1940
2. HQC Apr-Jun 1940
3. HQC Jul-Sep 1940
4. HQC Oct-Dec 1940
5. HQC Jan-Mar 1941
6. HQC Apr-Jun 1941

Box 5

1. HQC Jul-Sep 1941
2. HQC Oct-Dec 1941
3. HQC Jan-Mar 1942
4. HQC Apr-Jun 1942
5. HQC Jul-Sep 1942
6. HQC Oct-Dec 1942
7. HQC Jan-Mar 1943
8. HQC Apr-Jun 1943

Box 6

1. HQC Jul-Sep 1943
2. HQC Oct-Dec 1943
3. HQC Jan-Mar 1944
4. HQC Apr-Jun 1944
5. HQC Jul-Sep 1944
6. HQC Oct-Dec 1944
7. HQC Jan-Mar 1945
8. HQC Apr-Jun 1945

Box 7

1. HQC Jul-Sep 1945
2. HQC Oct-Dec 1945
3. HQC Jan-Mar 1946
4. HQC Apr-Jun 1946
5. HQC Jul-Sep 1946
6. HQC Oct-Dec 1946
7. HQC Jan-Mar 1947

Box 8

1. HQC Apr-Jun 1947
2. HQC Jul-Sep 1947
3. HQC Oct-Dec 1947
4. HQC Jan-Mar 1948

Box 9

1. HQC Apr-Jun 1948
2. HQC Jul-Sep 1948
3. HQC Oct-Dec 1948
4. HQC Jan-Mar 1949

Box 10

1. HQC Apr-Jun 1949
2. HQC Jul-Sep 1949

Box 11

1. HQC Oct-Dec 1949
2. HQC Jan-Feb 1950
3. HQC Mar 1950

Box 12

1. HQC Apr-Jun 1950
2. HQC Jul-Sep 1950
3. HQC Oct-Dec 1950

Box 13

1. HQC Jan-Mar 1951
2. HQC Apr-Jun 1951
3. HQC Jul-Sep 1951

Box 14

1. HQC Oct-Dec 1951
2. HQC Jan-Mar 1952
3. HQC Apr-Jun 1952
4. HQC Jul-Sep 1952

Box 15

1. HQC Oct-Dec 1952
2. HQC Jan-Mar 1953

Box 16

1. HQC Apr-Jun 1953
2. HQC Jul-Sep 1953

Box 17

1. HQC Oct-Dec 1953
2. HQC Jan-Mar 1954