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STEEL, William Arthur

MG 30, A 42

Finding Aid No. 688 / Instrument de recherche no 688

Economic and Scientific Archives  
Revised in 1985

Archives économiques et  
scientifiques. Révisé en 1985

Canada

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MG 30  
A 42

STEEL, William Arthur (1890-1968). Engineer.

Originals, 1911-1968. 5.6 m. Finding Aid No. 688.

Lieutenant Colonel William Arthur Steel graduated from the University of Toronto in 1915 with a degree in electrical engineering. He served in World War I with the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals from 1916-1918. In the 1920s he served with the Canadian Permanent Force, holding the position of Chief Engineer in the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals. During this period he was responsible for the planning and construction of the North West Territories radio system and for the air navigation radio system for Canadian civil aviation. He was Director of the Radio Division of the National Research Council, 1931-1933, and Commissioner in charge of technical operations of the Canadian Radio Broadcasting Commission, 1933-1936. From 1936 on, he worked as a consulting engineer on such projects as air navigation equipment for the R.C.A.F. and site surveys for the early warning radar lines. He was involved in producing such motion picture films as "To the Arctic" covering Lord Byng's trip to the North West Territories in 1925. In the late 1930s he served as secretary-treasurer of W.D. Herridge's New Democracy Movement.

Presented in 1969 by Vera I. Steel of Ottawa, Ont. Photographs, maps, and books have been transferred to the appropriate divisions. A number of manuscript items were received in 1983 from the National Photography Collection.

Finding Aid No. 688 is a descriptive file list.

World War I, 1916-1968. 40 cm (volumes 1-4).

Canadian Permanent Force, 1911-1966. 1.2 m (volumes 5-16).

Commissioner of the Canadian Radio Broadcasting Corporation, 1925-1966. 1.6 m (volumes 17-32).

Consulting Engineer, 1931-1968. 1.6 m (volumes 34-38).

Movie Scripts, Associations, and Political Activities, 1920-1968. 80 cm (volumes 49-56).

September 1983      7-5367  
Economic/Scientific

William Arthur Steel

MG 30, A 42

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<u>World War I</u>			
1	.1	Technical data: listening set posts	
	2	German document: disguise of signal traffic	1918
	3	German document on the Signal Service	
	.4	General report on wireless communication in the Canadian Corps	1919
	5	Transmission and reception tests on field set 120 Watt, C.W. Ottawa and Camp Borden	
	6	Instructions on the use of the Durable Rectifier and other notes on Technical instructions	
2	7	World War I diary for 1916, film notes, data on transmitters	
	8	World War I, 50th Anniversary, 1968 invitations, programmes, etc.	
	9	Copy of manuscript "Wireless Telegraphy in the Canadian Corps in France" by W. A. Steel	
	10	Addresses of 4th Canadian Division at Bramshott and miscellaneous memoranda and data on radios	
	11	Canadian Corps Championships	1918
	12	Personnel, transfers, etc.	1916-1919
3	13	Unveiling of the National War Memorial in Ottawa, programmes and maps	1939

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	15	Translated German technical equipment documents	1917
	16	World War I data: wireless telegraphy	
	17	Maps - Somme, 1916 Communication stations	1917
	18	Technical data: communications Passchendaele Operation, memoranda and maps	1917-1920
4	19	Notes and diagrams: radio communications, World War I	
	20	Notebook giving names of those who took W. A. Steel's cable courses in World War I	
	21	German document: signals World War I (Translation)	
	21A	Miscellaneous articles for World War I Sapper Magazine	1918-1919
		<u>Canadian Permanent Force</u>	
5	22	Imperial Conference: memoranda: progress of Imperial Air Communications.	1930
	23	Department of National Defence File: visit of R100 to Montreal - Memorandum on communication for visit - Miscellaneous correspondence: visit	1930

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	25	Notes for lecture at Camp Borden. "The basic theory underlying the thermionic valve" Electrical equipment catalogues	1926-1930
	25A	Wind tunnel test: Deslaurier contract; constant speed propeller	1929-1930
6	26	Notes: Defence Quarterly Articles	1915-1931
	27	United States connections: plastics processes: correspondence and memoranda	1919-1920
	28	Air Mail data	1929
	29	Effects of radio transmitters on explosive stores Department of National Defence memoranda	1931
	30	Trans-Atlantic Cable - memoranda: Imperial Communications Committee - cable landing rights at Sydney Mines - memoranda and correspondence: Trans-Atlantic Telephone	1932-1935
7	31	Lecture notes: visit of R100 in 1930	
	32	Lecture notes: North West Territories and Yukon radio system	1929
	33	General lecture notes: broadcasting	
	34	General report: Western Canada Forestry radio	1922-1965
	35	Manuscript of article "Down the Mackenzie with the Governor-General" by W. A. Steel	
	36	"To the Arctic" movie script of Lord Byng's trip	1925

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8	37	North West Territories and Yukon radio system Script for movie made in 1959	1920
	38	Visit to Canada-RI00 movie script of 1930: visit made in 1966	
	39	Forestry operations in western Canada Royal Canadian Corps of Signals Movie script	1921-1934 1965
	40	Imperial and International Communications Conference: correspondence and memoranda	1930-1934
	40A	List of stores comprising a standard station: North West Territories System	
9	41	Report on the New York Conference in 1930 on radio aids to air navigation: memoranda, maps	
	42	Newton Bros: electrical plants, data, photos, plans	
	43	List of technical papers by Lt. Col. W. A. Steel	1931
	44	Electric plant, Chesterfield Inlet: diagrams and memoranda	
	45	Mount Royal tunnel reports: radio reception experiments: correspondence, memoranda and data	1928
10	46	Report on the Madrid Telegraph and Radiotelegraph Conference	1932
	47	Invitation cards: souvenirs from Conference attended by W.A. Steel	1930-1932
	48	Report on British Columbia government Co.: operation in forestry radio communication	

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	50	Proof for article "The North West Territories Radio System" by W. A. Steel in 1927	
	51	Manuscript of "Down the Mackenzie to the Arctic with the Governor-General", by W.A. Steel	1927
	52	Lecture notes: radio broadcasting	1920-1924
	53	Lecture notes: North West Territories Radio	1925-1926
	54	Lecture notes: installation of the Radio-Telegraph System in the Yukon and North West Territories	1924-1925
	55	Miscellaneous notes: radio antennas: Bureau of Standards, Washington	1927
	55A	Senior Officers' School-Communications memoranda	1922-1924
11	56	Programmes: list of delegates for International Radio and Telegraph Conference, New York	1927
	57	Proof for article "Radio, Forestry and Aircraft in Northern Saskatchewan"	
	58	The work of the R.C.C.S. in the field of Radio Communications in Canada - papers Direct reading radio compass - papers Accurate capacity measurements - papers	1925 1926 1923
	59	Copy of Article "Use of Aeroplanes in Forest Fire Fighting, 1922"	
60	60	International Cadre Equipment: Line and telegraph course, correspondence and data	1929



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	63	Data and diagrams: "IT" Intercepts	
	64	Signals Monthly Bulletin	Jan. 1930
12	65	Technical data: instructions on spark apparatus	
	66	Data: transmitting valves	
	67	Department of National Defence files: Royal Canadian Corps of Signals courses on wireless communication: course, lecture notes	
	68	Schedule of experimental work: Royal Canadian Signal Corps	
13	69	Operation instruction Royal Canadian Signal Corps - Radiotelegraph	
	70	Copy of 1926 address " Some Aspects of the Work of the Department of National Defence" by General A.G.L. McNaughton	
	71	Lecture in 1924 "General Problems of Broadcast Reception" by W.A. Steel	
	72	Treaty negotiations between the United States and Canada: memorandum dated 1927 allocation of radio channels	
	73	Memoranda: Broadcast channels: National Radio Conference	1929
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14	75	Specifications on transmitters: Marconi Company data and memoranda	
15	76	Design data No. 1: data: radio antennas, etc.	1928
	77	Design data: short wave systems	
	78	Re-design of STTD 500 watt transmitter: data	
	79	Design of Royal Canadian Signal Corps 500 station	
16	80	Short wave transmission data	1928
	81	Royal Canadian Signal Corps, lecture series, diagrams	
	82	Data, radio stations, 1923 miscellaneous memoranda: Mount Royal Tunnel experiments	
	83	Defence - Strategic Sub-Committee - Empire News Service, memorandum - Trans-Atlantic cables, correspondence	1930-1932
	84	Dinner in honour of Col. Steel programme and clippings	1931
	85	Diagrams, memoranda: signals course	1922
	86	Clippings: radio	1926-1928
	87	Clippings: aviation and radio	1923-1933

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17	88	Minutes of Committee on Transmission Standards for T.V. Philadelphia 1936 - C.R.B.C. - J.A. Ouimet 1935, memorandum on T.V. - preliminary T.V. report 1935, C.D. Howe, correspondence	
	89	Standard coverage and market data service, U.S. radio stations	1936
	90	Pictures and specifications for Marconi radio transmitters	1932
	91	C.R.B.C. press clippings	
18	92	Memoranda and photos: guyed masts 1934	
	93	Memoranda and correspondence: vertical radiators	1934
	94	Microwave propagation survey Gaspé: memoranda, photos	1932-1933
	95	Memorandum: reducing sky radiation	
	96	Newspaper clippings: C.R.B.C.	
19	97	Canadian Radio League - Memoranda and editorials supporting a nationally owned broadcasting system	
	98	Correspondence with CRBC and CBC concerning pensions	1934-1966
	99	Radio interference - a paper broadcast over the CRBC in 1936 and other radio talks, broadcasts in 1935	
	100	Copies of report on cost of broadcasting in Canada 1936 (a confidential report prepared for C.D. Howe.)	

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19 (cont'd)	101	Letters removed from secret and confidential files 1934-1936: unsatisfactory Northern Messenger Programmes. Sir E. Beatty - Rex. battle 1938, Toronto CRBC staff 1935, 1934 CRBC staff	
	102	Radio Broadcasting Commission - U.S. Agreement. Confidential report of W. A. Steel to General McNaughton in 1931. Correspondence: radio station CKCK at Windsor, 1932. (see also files No. 129, 159, 184, 185 and 189)	
	103	Transmitters - memoranda No. 15 & 16 on station specifications	
	104	Reports on Commission stations Strathburn 1934-1936, Bowmanville, Toronto	
	105	Report on Commission station - Richmond Road, Ottawa, 1936	
20	106	Engineering reports - Field investigations on Radio reception, Ontario	1933-1936
	107	Engineering reports - Field investigation on Radio reception, Western provinces	1934-1935
	108	Engineering reports - Field investigation on Radio reception, Maritime Provinces	1935
	109	Engineering reports - Field investigation on Radio reception, British Columbia	1935
	110	Radio Broadcasting Commission - Apparatus - correspondence and memoranda with Brown, Boveri and Co.	1932

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	112	Submission to Special Parliamentary Committee on Broadcasting, 1932 on behalf of Canadian Association of Broadcasters	
	113	C.R.B.C., 1934 Radio survey of listeners in Ottawa area	
	114	Memoranda: Commercial broadcasting, miscellaneous reports on radio, G. M. Geldert testimony before the Parliamentary Committee on radio	
21	115	C.R.B.C. list of broadcasting stations in Canada	1936
	116	Engineering report: Windsor, Ontario Radio Station	1932
	117	Data for conference with Dr. Jolliffe	1933
	118	CKIW - CRCT: Common frequency broadcasting memoranda and correspondence	1933
	119	Negotiations with the U.S.A.: frequencies, correspondence	1933
	120	Monthly engineering progress report for the CREC	1933-1936
22	121	Engineering reports on broadcast coverage, review of W. W. Grant's paper, 1934: broadcast channels and the importance of proper allotment	1934
	122	Correspondence: radio equipment specifications	1933-1937
	123	Memoranda for Parliamentary Committee on Broadcasting	1933-1937
	124	Engineering reports, field investigation in Quebec on radio reception	1933-1936

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	126	Memos for presentation at Committee meetings of CRBC	1934-1936
	127	CRBC Engineering specifications and memos, correspondence	1934-1936
23	128	Costs of a 100 Kilowatt radio station, correspondence, memoranda and data	1936
	129	Costs of Windsor station, memoranda	1936
	130	List of Licences sent to Minister by CBC	1936
	131	Tri-party telephone agreement, correspondence and memoranda	1930-1933
	132	Report on organization of a Department of Communications	1935
	133	Communications information - memoranda appointments to CRBC	1935
	134	Minutes and final report: formation of a Department of Communication	1935
	135	Report by J. A. Chambers: Crosley Radio Corporation, Cincinnati	
	135A	High power station - Toronto area, correspondence and memoranda	1936
24	136	Engineering reports - Interference from WLM in Ontario.	1934
	137	Reports on modification of WLM's antenna	1934
	138	Plan covering the establishment over a period of years of a Nationalized Broadcasting system - prepared in 1932 by CNR radio services	1932

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	140	Historical notes: CRBC & CBC, correspondence	1965-1966
	141	Report of Technical committee on radio licences	1937
25	142	Confidential - Engineering Division - Measurement data to accompany the report on Join Western Engineering trip	1934
	143	Report on radio transmitter coverage in Canada	1935
26	144	Confidential correspondence of Col. Steel, General A. Currie funeral, CRBC business	1933-1935
	145	Data: Radio stations in Canada	1932
	146	Radio Broadcasting Commission, notes and memoranda: Canadian radio stations	1932
	147	CRBC employee unit, network contracts, CNR contract	1934-1936
27	148	Appropriations CRBC	1936
	149	Primary frequency standard and monitoring stations of the CRBC; paper by W.A. Steel and K.A. Mackinnon	
	150	Telegrams received by W.A. Steel when he left the CRBC	1936
	151	Commercial card rates, data and memoranda: radio stations in Canada	1935-1936
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28	154	Marconi Company's proposed broad- cast scheme	1933
	155	Memoranda concerning changes in classification and procedure in CRBC	1934
	156	Organization chart for CRBC (Temporary organization)	1936
	157	Memoranda submitted to House of Commons Committee on Broadcasting Technical aspects of the report on the Royal Commission on Broadcasting	1932-1936
	158	Copy of Mayor Murphy's 1933 report of National Radio in Canada, 1933 public opinion - plan for improved broadcasting in Canada R.W. Astcroft - Memoranda on Channel allotment by W.A. Steel after 15 months on Commission	
	159	Memoranda concerning station CKOK at Windsor - 1935 report on Station CKOK at Windsor - complaints of dental association: CKOK advertising - correspondence: renewal of CKOK licence	1933     1933
29	160	Maps of radio stations in Canada Material for CRBC annual report	1935-1936
	161	Memoranda concerning 1932 channel allotment agreement with United States	
	162	Memorandum concerning Mr. Weir's submission by Lt. Col. Steel 1932, correspondence 1933.	



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	164	Design data short wave transmitters and receivers	
	165	Musical Protective Association, correspondence and clippings	1934-1935
30	166	Indexes to files in CRBC	
	167	Memoranda: CRBC meeting	1935
	168	Station CRCT, Victoria, B.C.	
	169	Reports on Commission Stations CRCV Vancouver, CRCT Bowmanville	1933-1935
	170	Engineering reports on Equipment broadcast receiver tests	1934-1935
	171	Engineering reports - standard frequency monitoring equipment	1935
	172	Parliamentary Committee on radio broadcasting - minutes of daily evidence	1932
	173	Engineering reports on the Blattner-phone, memoranda, data and photos	1934
	174	Engineering reports Christmas broadcasts, memorandum	1935
	175	Letter in 1934 to CRBC regarding radio patents held by W.A. Steel	
	175A	Wave signaling system - patent legal papers	1931-1932
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32	184	Radio station CKOK, memoranda and photos	1932
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	187	Miscellaneous memoranda and correspondence relating to broadcasting clippings: radio broadcasting	1933-1941
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	191	Press releases, Board of Broadcast Governors	1960-1961
	192	Press releases, Board of Broadcast Governors	1959-1960
	193	Clippings concerning the establishment of channel 13 in Ottawa	1960
	193A	Frequency assignments under Havana Agreement United States and Canada, correspondence and memoranda	1947
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	196	Cable T.V. - Correspondence on Ottawa system	1965
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	198	Cable T.V. - Ultra high frequency allocation - Cable T.V. receiving station correspondence	1959 1960
35	199	Mobile T.V. tape units - correspondence and circulars, photos and prices	1960
	200	Pay T.V. patents Canadian patent office leaflets	1961 - 1962

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	203	Laurentian Cablevision Limited, South Gloucester area - correspondence, maps concerning antenna sites, reports on reception at different sites, photos of sites	1965-1967
	204	Design of Radio studios, memoranda and plans	1938
36	205	Frequency modulation - correspondence with the Department of National Defence and CBC	1944-1945
	206	Mast and Tower data, 1956: memoranda, cost of T.V. broadcasting, antennas, etc.	
	207	Air cell batteries, 1931-1937 - correspondence with the National Carbon Company	1931-1937
	208	Frequency standards - correspondence	1943
	209	NRC correspondence	1961
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	219	Safety corps 1942 - correspondence and data: Light Beam Instrumenta- tion	
	220	Bureau of Ships - United States immigration correspondence	1943
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	252	Standard broadcast stations in Mexico	1958
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	270	Canadian Scientific Film Association - circulars	
	271	R.C.S.S. correspondence concerning showing of films and Vimy barracks Kingston Memorial dedication	1960 - 1963
50	272	Movie Scripts - The Life Story of a Mink, Holidaying with a Movie Camera, Ottawa through the Seasons, Siking 1938. (see also files 36, 37, 39, 299, 300, 303)	



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	286	Performing Rights Society - correspondence	1944-1945
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	290	Composers, authors, Publisher's Association of Canada - correspondence with C.B.C.	1946-1947
	291	Ottawa Technical School - vocational talk on engineering	1936-1947
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	294	Film Number Record	
53	295	Data given P. Stursberg for C.B.C. records	
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	297	Canadian War Museum - correspondence concerning donation of signals equipment	1968
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54	299	Movie Script - Victory aircraft of the two World Wars	1965
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	302	Consultants' Association - - correspondence	1957
	303	The RCCS the RCAF in Forestry Operations in Western Canada - memoranda for movie 1965	1921-1931
	304	Institute of radio engineers - New York correspondence	1957-1960
	305	Institute of radio engineers, Awards Committee - correspondence	1952-1956
55	306	Institute of radio engineers, - correspondence	1951
	307	Canadian Scientific Film Association, Industrial Committee - correspondence	1946
	308	Canadian Performing Rights Society, Appeal before copyright appeal board	1944
	309	Canadian Performing Rights Society, - correspondence	1944
	310	Performing Rights Society, Judge Parker Hearing - memoranda	1935
56	311	Copyright Appeal Board, public sitting	1937
	312	Letter to H. W. Nichol on pensions for air raid precaution workers	1942
	313	Signals in RCE Corps History - notes	1959
	314	Canadian Performing Rights Society, Radio Power Increases	1935 - 1943

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56 (cont'd)	315	Lectures, Scripts - Glimpses of the Mexican Plateau - CRBC 1935 - Moose River Broadcast 1936	
	316	Clippings and pamphlets concerning Col. Steel on CRBC, Lawn Tennis, Coronation	1934 - 1939
	317	Personal Memoranda booklet on Col. Steel: radio data, tennis club, addresses, persons met on trip to Yukon 1925	
	318	W.A. Steel - Professional Papers	n.d., 1922-1946
	319	W.A. Steel - Personal Papers	n.d., 1919-1949
	320	W.A. Steel - Alumni Association certificate, Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering, University of Toronto.	1965