The Descriptive Finding Guide for the Charles Richard Wilson Personal Papers
SDASM.SC.10159

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San Diego Air and Space Museum Library and Archives
2010
2001 Pan American Plaza, Balboa Park
San Diego 92101
URL: http://www.sandiegoairandspace.org/
Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: San Diego Air and Space Museum Library and Archives
Title: Charles Richard Wilson Personal Papers
creator: Wilson, Charles Richard
Identifier/Call Number: SDASM.SC.10159
Physical Description: 0.8 Cubic Feet2 manuscript boxes
Date (inclusive): 1942-1953
Abstract: This collection contains materials from the personal collection of Charles Richard Wilson. Wilson was a pilot in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II. He was shot down over the North Sea and captured and held as a prisoner of war until his camp was liberated at the end of the war. He was killed in an air accident off the Galapagos Islands in 1953.

Biographical / Historical
Charles Richard “Chuck” Wilson was born in Missouri, 16 December 1921. He attended Citrus Junior College in the Los Angeles area, majoring in mathematics. He worked at North American Aviation for a brief period before enlisting in the Army Air Corps on 11 April 1942.

Wilson received a reserve commission on 29 April 1943. He flew a wide variety of aircraft during flight training, including the BT-9B, BT-13A, BT-15, PT-17, AT-6A/C/D, AT-11, AT-23B. Later, he transitioned to the L-5, BC-1A, C-45F, P-39, P-40, P-51 and B-26. He received advanced training in the B-17F/G. The crew photograph shown above was taken during training in Tennessee. Wilson is in the front row, second from the left.

His B-17G was hit by flak on his first bombing mission over Germany, on 16 February 1945, near Gelsenkirchen, located in the northern part of the Ruhr Valley. Gelsenkirchen was a center for oil refining and coal production. They were able to drop their bomb load on target, but, eventually, had to ditch over the North Sea. He was the co-pilot.

The crew survived, but was captured. Chuck Wilson was a POW in Stalag XIIID in Nuremburg, and Stalag VIIA in Moosburg. He was liberated on 29 April 1945. He continued in active military service for a short period after World War II, serving as a flight instructor, flight inspector and check pilot.

After separation from active service he flew a variety of small civilian aircraft, working as a corporate pilot, flight instructor and technical advisor. He was killed in a crash at sea on 10 October 1953, off the coast of the Galapagos Islands, only 32 years of age. At the time he was flying a spotter plane for a fishing fleet. Chuck Wilson was a resident of San Diego, California.

Scope and Contents
The collection contains correspondence, official records and other notes from the personal collection of Charles Richard Wilson.

Preferred Citation
[Item], Charles Richard Wilson Special Collection, Archives, San Diego Air & Space Museum

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Related Materials
 Subjects and Indexing Terms
Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress Family
Stalag VII A
Wilson, Charles Richard
United States. Army Air Forces

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