Descriptive Finding Guide for the Francis Oscar Smith Personal Papers
SDASM.SC.10134

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San Diego Air and Space Museum Library and Archives
11/13/2014
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: Francis O. Smith Personal Papers
source: Smith, Francis O.
Identifier/Call Number: SDASM.SC.10134
Physical Description: 0.17 Cubic FeetOne box: 12”x 2.5”x 10”
Date (inclusive): 1917-1998
Abstract: Francis Smith was WWII pilot who flew 'over the Hump' - the route over the Himalayas between India and China. He received various accolades and after his service, he worked at the FAA from 1962 to 1998.

Conditions Governing Access
The collection is open to researchers by appointment.

Conditions Governing Use
Some copyright may be reserved. Consult with the library director for more information.

Preferred Citation
[Item], [Filing Unit], [Series Title], [Subgroups], [Record Group Title and Number], [Repository “San Diego Air & Space Museum Library & Archives”]

Immediate Source of Acquisition
The materials in this Collection were donated to the San Diego Air and Space Museum.

Scope and Contents
One box: 12”x 2.5”x 10” - This collection includes photographs, military records, letters and newspaper clippings which involve Francis O. Smith. It includes images of Smith in Arizona as a flight instructor in 1941, with Royal Air Force student pilots, as well detailed military records documenting his extensive Army Air Forces service.

Biographical / Historical
Francis Smith was WWII pilot who flew 'over the Hump' - the route over the Himalayas between India and China. He received various accolades and after his service, he worked at the FAA from 1962 to 1998. Born in Placer County, California on June 17, 1917, his family relocated to Butte County when he was a young boy, where he received his formal education. Francis Oscar “Smitty” Smith began flying lessons in 1933, earning his private pilot’s license in 1935. Before World War II he was involved in a variety of flying activities, working as a crop duster, air charter pilot, and as a flight instructor. In 1941, he taught Royal Air Force pilots at Falcon and Thunderbird Fields in Arizona. Francis O. Smith joined the Army Air Corps Ferrying Command on June 2, 1942 as a civilian pilot, and then was commissioned as an officer on July 14, 1942. He served as a Hump Pilot during World War II, flying 60 round trips over the Himalayas, from India to China. As with other Hump pilots, he flew at high altitudes, often in terrible weather conditions. His many awards include the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with oak leaf clusters, Asiatic Pacific Service Medal, and others. During his distinguished military flying career, Smith piloted a wide range of vehicles, including, among others, the Stearman PT-17, Fairchild PT-19, Ryan PT-22, Stearman PT-27, PQ-8 Cadet, AT-6 Texan, AT-9 Jeep, AT-11 Beech Twin, BT-13 and BT-15 Valiant, AT-17 Cessna Bobcat, Anson AT-20, Taylorcraft L-2A and L-2B Grasshopper, Piper L-4B Grasshopper, A-29 Hudson, B-17F Flying Fortress, Douglas B-18 bomber, B-24D Liberator, B-25D Mitchell, B-26B Marauder, Douglas DC-3 transport, Lockheed C-36A, C-47 Skytrain, C-53 Skytrooper, C-56 and C-60 Lodestar, Boeing C-73, Cessna C-78, and the Fairchild C-82. Later, Smith flew transports for the Air Transport Command in South America, Africa, and India. He was discharged from the Army Air Forces on January 15, 1946, and then worked various flying jobs, such as aerobatic pilot, crop duster, charter pilot, and airline pilot. He joined the Federal Aviation Agency in 1962, remaining there until he retired in 1975. At the FAA, he worked as a flight inspector, flight procedures specialist and check pilot. Due to cancer, Smith died on May 18, 1998 in Sacramento, California.

Related Materials
SDASM China Burma India Subject File.
http://www.flickr.com/photos/sdasmarchives/12123422343/

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Douglas DC-3 Family
World War, 1939-1945
United States. Federal Aviation Administration. FAA
United States. Army Air Forces. Air Transport Command. Ferrying Group, 7th
United States. Army Air Forces. Bombardment Group, 100th
Consolidated B-24 Liberator Family
Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress Family
Curtiss C-47 Commando
China Burma India Theater (CBI)
Smith, Francis O.

Box 01
Folder 01- Francis O. Smith Personal Letters from Aug 11, 1943 to Dec 5, 1988

Folder 02- Departure/Arrival Notebook
Physical Description: 1. Notebook, arrival and departure times, 1943-1945 (commercial flights, railroad and B-17 flights).

Folder 03- Newspaper Article 22 Oct 1941
Physical Description: 1. Newspaper article about British pilot in training who died in plane crash in Arizona.

Folder 04- Air Transport Command Official Correspondence

Folder 05- The Falcon Reunion Booklet Apr 8-11, 1988
Physical Description: 1. The Thunderbird Pilots booklet. 2. The Falcon Field Reunion booklet.
Folder 06- Postwar commercial Flying operation


Folder 07- Museum display of WW II uniforms

Physical Description: Eight (8) photographs of World War II uniforms displayed in an unidentified museum.

Folder 08- Individual Flight Records