The Descriptive Finding Guide for General James H. Doolittle Personal Papers
SDASM.SC.10038

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General James H. “Jimmy” Doolittle was a profound presence in aviation: from his U.S. Army Air Corps service to his groundbreaking instrument-only flight to leading of the Doolittle Raid during World War II. Born in Alameda California, December 14, 1896 Jimmy Doolittle attended University of California Berkeley before joining the U.S. Army Signal Corp Reserves on campus. His flight-training took place at Rockwell Field, California. During the remainder of World War I, Doolittle served as a flight instructor. After the war, he became the first pilot to fly across the country in less than 24 hours. Aided for the Daniel Guggenheim Fund for the Promotion of Aeronautics, INC, he helped develop technology for instrument-only flying. In 1929 Doolittle made the first known blind flight. After joining Shell Oil Company as head of the aviation department in 1930. Doolittle continued to set air speed records. Doolittle returned to active service in 1940, working with large auto manufacturers to convert the facilities for aircraft production. After Pearl Harbor, Doolittle planned an innovative air raid on the Japanese mainland using land-based bombers launched from an aircraft carrier. The raid was executed April 18, 1942. Although the damage to the Japanese war effort was minimal, the raid served as a morale-booster by proving Japan was not isolated from attack. Lt. Colonel Doolittle was awarded the Medal of Honor and promoted to the rank of General. By September 1942, Doolittle was assigned command of the Twelfth Air Force. Before the war ended, he would also command the Fifteenth Air Force. Post war, Doolittle continued to serve as an advisor on many fronts, serving as a scientific advisor, and conducting a study of the Central Intelligence Agency. Doolittle received many honors including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, three Distinguished Flying Crosses and the Bronze Star. Doolittle died September 27, 1993 in Pebble Beach, California and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.
Box 01 - SDASM Bio File

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Physical Description: Mostly news clippings about Doolittle at various stages of life. Photocopy of an honor given to Doolittle in 1969 by Chang Kai-shek. Photocopies of photos of the Consolidated NY-2, and instrument panel, flown by Doolittle to set a record for the flying blind, first instrument-only flight and landing. Part of the research funded by the Daniel Guggenheim Fund for the Promotion of Aeronautics, INC.

Folder 02 - Josephine Doolittle

Physical Description: Mostly news clippings about Mr. & Mrs. Doolittle in later years. In 1957, Mrs. Doolittle was awarded the Frank M. Hawks Memorial Award from American Legion Air Service Post 501. Folder contains a congratulatory telegram from Jaqueline Cochran. Folder also contains a copy of a 1919 memo from the headquarters of the flying school at Kelly Field to 2nd Lieut. James Doolittle. He was being restricted to post for 30 days as punishment for stunt flying a DeHaviland.

Folder 03 - Career

Physical Description: Mostly news clippings about various stages of Doolittle’s career. Photocopy of a letter written by Doolittle during his time with the Guggenheim Fund for the Promotion of Aeronautics. The letter is to Reuben H. Fleet and concerns the test of radio equipment for instrument flying and suggested changes to the design of the NY-2 Husky. An envelope, without return address, with a piece of a parachute used by Doolittle to bail out of an aircraft. Authenticity of item unverified. Photocopy of 1923 Army pay voucher signed by Doolittle.

Folder 04 - Honors

Physical Description: Mostly news clippings about the many honors received by Doolittle throughout his life.

Folder 05 - World War II Service

Physical Description: News clippings about Doolittle’s World War II service. 1943 - 1956

Folder 06 - Tokyo Raid

Physical Description: Mostly news clippings making historical reference to the 1942 Doolittle Raid on Tokyo. 1956-1990. Includes one press release that seems to be original from time of Doolittle’s assignment to command the Eighth Air Force in England in 1944. A commemorative publication by Westinghouse. Three photographs: Doolittle receiving the Medal of Honor from President Roosevelt, North American B-25 bombers onboard the USS Hornet (CV-8), prior to the raid. North American B-25 bomber launching from the USS Hornet (CV-8).

Folder 07 - News Events

Physical Description: News clippings about Doolittle. 1931 - 1981
Folder 08 - Philosophy
Physical Description: News clippings of articles that focus on Doolittle expressing his opinion on a variety of subjects.

Folder 09 - Magazine articles
Physical Description: Magazine articles about Doolittle. 1942 - 1989.

Folder 10 - Publicity
Physical Description: Magazine and newspaper articles about Doolittle. Some are photocopies, some original, though torn from publication. Notable originals with Doolittle on cover: Look magazine from Aug. 11, 1942; Liberty magazine from July 25, 1942; Liberty magazine from April 1, 1944.

Box 02
Physical Description: Personal guest book belonging to Mr. & Mrs. Doolittle Scrapbook of Doolittle’s career International Aerospace Hall of Fame newsletters (4), Spring 1978, autographed by Doolittle.