Descriptive Finding Guide for James Stephen Williams Personal Papers
SDASM.SC.10157

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2001 Pan American Plaza, Balboa Park
San Diego 92101
URL: http://www.sandiegoairandspace.org/
Abstract: The James Stephen Williams Personal Papers contains materials relating to his military training and service as a flight navigator for the United States Army Air Corps and Air Force in the Pacific Theater of World War Two.

Biographical / Historical
James Stephen Williams entered the U.S. Army Air Forces during World War II, serving as a navigator in the Pacific Theater with the 3rd Photo Reconnaissance Squadron.

James Stephen Williams (July 3, 1924-?) entered the U.S. Army Air Forces in World War II. He was commissioned as a 1st Lieutenant (promoted to 2nd) and served as a navigator in the Pacific, where he navigated crews aboard B-29 Superfortresses and variants, such as the F-13A, while stationed with the 3rd Photo Reconnaissance Squadron in Guam. This was the same squadron that was assigned to fly behind the Enola Gay on August 6, 1945 during atomic bombing of Hiroshima. Williams was discharged in 1946 and entered the Air Force Reserve.

According to his 1953 Air Force Reserve Inventory Questionnaire, he graduated from Bucknell University in 1950 with a degree in Business Administration and was working for Sunshine Art Studios as general manager of the western branch offices in Pasadena, CA. He had 293:15 combat hours in flight and 684 total flying hours.

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

Immediate Source of Acquisition
The materials in this collection were donated to the San Diego Air & Space Museum in 1986.

Related Materials
A more detailed finding guide is available at http://www.sandiegoairandspace.org/collections/collection_item.php?id=109

Digitized images from this collection are available at https://www.flickr.com/photos/sdasmarchives/sets/72157639621050806/

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Scope and Contents
One (1) archival box, 15” x 2.5” x 10”, containing military orders, type correspondence, ink and pencil notes, drawings, and maps. Additional folders containing duplicate forms and fragile materials.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
World War, 1939-1945
World War, 1939-1945 -- Campaigns -- Pacific Area
Boeing B-29 Superfortress
Military maps
Navigation (Aeronautics)
Pacific Theater
Celestial charts
United States. Air Force
Selman Field Navigation School (Monroe, La.)
Box 01
Folder 01 - Orders: Special, General, Personnel 1944
Scope and Contents
55 pages, 44 documents including duplicates. Orders regard various topics including duty details, shipments, assignment orders, discharge and commission notices.

Folder 02 - Orders: Special, General 1945-1953
Scope and Contents
52 pages, 18 documents, including some duplicates. Orders regard various topics including medal recipients and relocation orders.

Folder 03 - Correspondence and Messages to J.S. Williams
Scope and Contents
10 pages, 10 documents, including envelops, reappointment letters, and mostly military correspondence.

Folder 04 - Various Military Documents and Records
Separate Materials
41 pages, 29 documents, including activity reports, purchase items, outline of officer classification system, qualification data, Air Force Reserve Inventory Questionnaire, and photocopies of fragile documents.

Folder 05 - Radio Compass Lecture and Notes
Scope and Contents
58 pages of notes, mostly handwritten, pages seem to be drawn from two different notebooks but have been left in the original order.

Folder 06 - Sheets with Lecture and Notes
Scope and Contents
18 pages, 13 documents of sheets, charts, notes and drawings that were originally placed in Radio Compass Lecture and Notes documents with no discernible order.

Folder 07 - Packets and Records
Scope and Contents
53 pages, 2 documents, Allied Records and form records for James S. Williams.

Folder 08 - Maps and Illustrations
Scope and Contents