Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: San Diego Air and Space Museum Library and Archives
Title: Linus Upson Personal Papers
Identifier/Call Number: SDASM.SC
Physical Description: .35 Cubic Feet
This collection contains Linus Upson’s memorabilia which include a large scrapbook, photographs, a CD with photographs, certificates, an autobiography, reunion booklets, cloth patches, and bio rosters. These documents are associated with Upson’s 80th Fighter Squadron unit that flew in China-Burma-India, also known as the “Burma Banshees.” Additional objects are stored in the curatorial department. Two oversized photographs – Upson_1 and Upson_2 – have been placed in the Oversized Materials Special Collection, OMSC_00001. This is a one box collection measuring 15 ¼ x 12 ½ x 5 inches.

Date (bulk): bulk

Abstract: Linus Upson served with the 80th Fighter Group in the Second World War in the CBI Theater.

Biographical / Historical
Tampa, Florida and graduated from the University of Tampa with a B.S. degree in 1941. He enlisted as a flying cadet in 1941 and was commissioned and awarded his pilot’s wings in April, 1942. He flew 150 combat missions in the China-Burma-India Theater (C.B.I.) of World War II and later in the Korean conflict. Col. Upson was a command pilot and awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with cluster, Air Medal with two clusters, and the Bronze Star medal. He married Mary Elizabeth "Betty" Standau, also of Tampa, in 1942 and had four children. Linus retired from the Air Force in 1966, settled in Northridge, CA and started a second career with Hughes Aircraft Company. When his wife Betty passed away in 2009, he moved to San Diego where he lived until his passing on May 2, 2014.

Upson flew with the 80th Fighter Group – consisting of the 88th, 89th, and 90th Fighter Squadrons – in the C.B.I. campaign. Labeled the “Burma Banshees,” he was stationed in Burma to attack the Japanese forces. They assisted India with the Japanese sweep. They trained in Republic P-47 Thunderbolts but flew combat missions in the Curtiss P-40N. After two years in combat, the squadron was removed from duty.

Scope and Contents
This is a one box collection measuring 15 ¼ x 12 ½ x 5 inches. It contains Linus Upson’s memorabilia which include a large scrapbook, photographs, a CD with photographs, certificates, an autobiography, reunion booklets, cloth patches, and bio rosters. These documents are associated with Upson’s 80th Fighter Squadron unit that flew in China-Burma-India, also known as the “Burma Banshees.”

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Immediate Source of Acquisition
The materials in this collection were donated to the San Diego Air & Space Museum in May, 2014. The collection has been processed and is open for research with no restrictions.

Conditions Governing Use
The collection is open to research by appointment.

Related Materials
https://www.flickr.com/photos/sdasmarchives/albums/72157678237164420

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Republic P-47 Thunderbolt
Eightieth Fighter Group
China Burma India Theater (CBI)
Upson, Linus
Series I: Richard Cart Autobiography

Physical Description: Folder 1 - Richard Ray Cart Autobiography. This folder contains a 105-page book titled "Those were the Days, My Friend!" written in 1999. It is his perspective and story of his life with much emphasis on World War II. It is his memories of events and his friends, but warns us that it is not a true biography. Linus Upson is mentioned on page 70. Richard Cart knew Linus Upson for over fifty years.

Series II: Burma Banshee Papers

Folder 2 - Squadron History Booklets

Physical Description: 1. Ex-CBI Roundup; March, 1997. This booklet contains stories about the Burma Banshees' experiences in World War II in their civilian life as well as their fight against the Japanese. 2. Booklet titled “Burma Banshees II – The Rest of the Story,” by Tony Jewell & Ken Thomas. In it are many entertaining and exciting stories about the lives, thoughts, and actions of the Burma Banshee Pilots. 3. This booklet contains the history of the 89th Fighter Squadron. It also includes individual pilots who received awards and decorations as well as photocopied photographs.

Folder 3 - Burma Banshees Combat Book

Physical Description: This folder contains a Burma Banshee Combat Book (passed by U.S. Army Press Censor) and a photocopy of it. It is a souvenir "scrapbook" published by the officers and men of the Eightieth Fighter Group of Burma. It contains the character and operations of the fighter group and its personnel.

Folder 4 - Reunion Booklets & CD


Folder 5 - Bio-Rosters


Series III - Patches


Series IV - Photographs

Physical Description: Folder 7 - Photographs. This folder contains 17 photographs of 80th fighter group sites, aircraft, and personnel. There are also photographs of Mitchell Field, NY, Hopin Airstrip, an official group photograph of NATO officials, the USS Louisiana warship, and a restricted photograph of the Namkwin Bridge. Additionally, there are reunion photographs of the 80th fighter group in oversized sleeves, and photocopies of the photographs.
Series V – Certificates


Series VI – Scrapbook

Physical Description: The scrapbook contains a variety of items including postcards, photocopied photographs, magazine stories, and newspaper articles, photographs, newspapers articles and clips, and magazine articles.

Series VII – Oversized Materials

Physical Description: Two group photographs labeled Upson_1 and Upson_2 are being stored in the Oversized Material Special Collection, OMSC_00001.