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Guide to MS302 Joseph C. Woolf papers

Owen Williamson

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MS302
Joseph C. Woolf papers
1943-1979

1 foot, 3 inches (linear)

Inventory and finding aid by Owen Williamson
April 10, 2019

Citation: Joseph C. Woolf papers, 1943-1979, MS302, C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department. The University of Texas at El Paso Library.

C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department
University of Texas at El Paso

Biography

Joseph Carlin Woolf was born on 8 May 1940 in Piedmont, Alabama. He was an avid aviation historian and modeler, and published a scholarly article, "Pacific Privateers: VPB-121 in World War II" in the Summer 1976 issue of the *Journal of the American Aviation Historical Society* (Vol. XXI: 2, pps. 118-126). Woolf died in El Paso in 2012 at 72 years of age.

VPB-121 was a World War II U.S. Navy bombing group based on the Pacific Island of Tinian during 1945. The unit participated in the bombing of Japan during the final months of World War II, flying PB4Y-2 "Privateer" bombers, a little-noted aircraft type that was similar to the more famous PB4Y-1 "Liberators."

Series Description or Arrangement

Folders are primarily arranged by source and subject.

Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of research materials for a history of the US Navy bombing group VPB-121 during the last months of 1945. It contains primary sources from 1943-1945 related to VPB-121. The collection also includes an offprint of Woolf's scholarly article, "Pacific Privateers: VPB-121 in World War II" from the Summer 1976 issue of the *Journal of the American Aviation Historical Society* (Vol. XXI: 2, 118-126), evidently the product of this research. Other related materials from the late 1970s are included, as well as Woolf's research-related correspondence.

All contents of this collection are in English.

Of particular significance are original combat-related maps and narrative reports and documentation from August and September 1945. These materials are important both as historic memorabilia and to illustrate the scope and intensity of continuing conventional warfare with Japan immediately before and after the nuclear attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Provenance Statement

Unknown provenance.

Restrictions

One of the photographic prints in this collection is stamped "Fleet Air Photographic Laboratory, Utility Squadron Seven. Official photograph not to be used for publication by order of the Chief of the Bureau of Aeronautics."

A number of original military items from the World War II era in this collection are classified as "Restricted" or "Confidential."

Literary Rights Statement

Permission to publish material from these papers must be obtained from the C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library. Citation should read, Joseph C. Woolf papers, MS302, C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library.

Notes to the Researcher

While there would seem to be negligible risk that any classified items from the World War II era included in this collection are still restricted, researchers should remain aware of that possibility when using, quoting, or reproducing those materials.

Researchers should also be aware that the authors of the narrative combat reports included in this collection typically refer to Japanese with an offensive slang word that was current during the World War II era but which is now recognized as discriminatory and unacceptable.

See also:

S.L.A. Marshall papers, MS186

S.L.A. Marshall military history book collection

Container List

Box #	Folder #	Title	Date
1	1	<p>Allen, T. G. [Assorted photo prints of scenes from the World War II era; Photocopies of "Battle Diary of Bombing Squadron One Hundred Twenty-One, 5 Sep 1944-5 Sep 1945."; Correspondence with T. G. Allen, 1976-1978; Envelope of photo prints: "Privateers." Aircraft Action Reports, Aug 1945, with map of Japan; Report of War Patrol, USS Aspro, SS309, for 13 Aug 1945, a week after the Hiroshima attack; Handwritten notes; Summary of Operations, Patrol Bombing Squadron One Hundred Twenty-One, 18 Sep 1945 (two weeks after VJ day); List of Awards to members of 121 Bombing Squadron, names listed, 11 Oct 1945; Awards recommended, 18 Aug 1945. Names listed; Squadron Order #9-45, 1 Jul 1946; Original Engineering Flight Forms, Jun 1945; Preliminary Supplementary Operations Instructions, Navy PB4Y-2 airplanes. Marked "Restricted." 14 May 1945; Daily Flight Inspection Form, PB4Y-2.; Patrol Bombing Squadron 121 Plan of the Day for Sunday, 17 Jun 1945; Air Force Pacific Fleet Confidential Air Tactical Bulletin 3CATB-45, 2 May 1945. Marked "Confidential."</p>	1944-1978
1	2	<p>Charno, George Jr. Contents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Two envelopes of photo prints with scenes from World War II era. b. Book, <i>The Lost Prince: Young Joe, the Forgotten Kennedy</i>, by Hank Searls. New York, 1969. New American Library. c. Correspondence to George Charno, 1974-1975. 	1969-1975

1	3	<p>Cole</p> <p>Contents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Handwritten notes on a telephone conversation 6 Dec 1978 with J. E. Robbins. b. Carbon copy of letter to J. E. Robbins, 9 May 1976. 	1976-1978
1	4	<p>Kelly, Reef P.</p> <p>Contents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Two envelopes of photo prints, unidentified, evidently from World War II. b. Memo dated 22 Sep 1945 recommending Navy Cross for Reef P. Kelly. c. Mock certificate, "Mystic Order of Mugwumps, Eniwetok." d. Photocopy of newspaper article from <i>The Arizona Republic</i>, 10 Jun 1945. e. Photocopy of GI newsletter from "Somewhere in the Western Pacific," C. 1945. f. Typescript (undated, unidentified, possibly by R. P. Kelly) with a first-person narrative of war experiences from March to August, 1945. g. Correspondence with R. P. Kelly, 1978. 	1945-1978
1	5	<p>William J. Martin</p> <p>Contents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Two envelopes of photos of scenes from World War II era. b. Five audio tape cassettes, dated 1974-1977, with interviews. c. Correspondence with Harry Maupin and Bill Martin, 1976-1978. 	1974-1978
1	6	<p>Pearson, Lee M.</p> <p>Contents:</p> <p>Correspondence with Naval Air Systems Command. 1974-1978.</p>	1974-1978

1	7	C H Welling Contents: a. Correspondence with Boeing Aerospace, 1978. b. Photocopies of articles (unattributed), Feb 1946-Jun 1950.	1946-1978
1	8	506 th Fighter Group Contents: a. Five photographs, 1945. b. Copies of correspondence to "Mr. Witt." c. Correspondence with Air University Library, 1978. d. Photocopy of Confidential Report, VLR Mission, 3 Aug 1945. Marked "Confidential." e. Correspondence with Neil T. Smith. 1977. f. Correspondence with Ronald Witt and other unidentified correspondents. 1977,	1945-1978
1	9	VPB-102 Contents: Correspondence with Louis Philip Pressler, 1977.	1977
1	10	VPB-124 Contents: a. Correspondence with T. R. Legett Jr., 1975.	1975
1	11	[Folder not labeled] Contents: a. Book: <i>The Air Sea Rescue Manual: JANP 300</i> . Air Sea Rescue Agency [NP/ND]. b. Pages 62-66 torn from <i>Life</i> magazine, 2 Oct 1945, "Air Rescue at Sea." c. Complete issue of <i>Aviation News</i> , 3-16 Aug [1973?]. d. Complete issue of <i>Air Classics</i> , Sep 1978. e. Pages torn from <i>Air Defense</i> , Oct-	1945-1979

		<p>Dec 1978.</p> <p>f. Book: <i>Bombers in Blue: PB4Y-2 Privateers and PB4Y-1 Liberators</i>, by Frederick A. Johnson. Tacoma, WA: Bomber Books, 1979.</p> <p>g. Complete issue of <i>Air Power</i>, Jan 1972.</p> <p>h. Booklet: "Our Early Navy: From 1913 through 1945, Part III. A Chronology of the Sea Services." Courtesy of <i>All Hands</i> magazine. U.S. Navy Recruiting Command [ND].</p> <p>i. Complete issue of <i>Aircraft Illustrated</i>, Mar 1977.</p> <p>j. Handwritten notes on "USSBS 24."</p> <p>k. Correspondence with William T Larkins, 1974.</p> <p>l. Copies of correspondence addressed to Mamosuke Toda, 1978.</p> <p>m. Photocopies from USSBS Reports: Pacific War. [1945]</p>	
1	12	<p>[Folder not labeled] Contents: a. Eight envelopes of photo prints of scenes from World War II era.</p>	C.1945
1	13	<p>[Folder not labeled] Contents: a. Several hundred index cards with research notes.</p>	C. 1977
1	14	<p>[Folder not labeled] Contents: a. Misc. correspondence, inquiries to surviving VPB-121 veterans, 1976.</p>	1976
1	15	<p>[Folder not labeled] Contents: a. Three unidentified microfilm reels. b. Correspondence with Naval Historical Center.</p>	1977

1	16	[Folder not labeled] Contents: a. Offprint of scholarly article: Woolf, J. C, (1976). "Pacific Privateers: VPB-121 in World War II." <i>Journal of the American Aviation Historical Society</i> . XXI:2, pps. 118-126.	1976
1	17	[Folder not labeled] Contents: a. Booklet: "Pilot's Guide: Consolidated 'Liberator' PB4Y-1 Type Aircraft." C. 1945 b. Booklet: "Patrol Sense." Marked "Restricted." C. 1945. c. Booklet: "Gunnery Sense." C. 1945. d. Booklet: "High Altitude Sense." 1950. e. Booklet: "US Naval Vessels." Marked "Restricted." Jun 1944. f. Booklet: "Japanese Operational Aircraft." Apr 1945. Marked "Restricted." g. Booklet: "Air Target Maps and Photos." 20 Feb 1944. Marked "Restricted." h. Booklet: "Operational US Aircraft: South Pacific Area." Aug 1943. Marked "US Confidential. British Secret."	1943-1950
1	18	[Folder not labeled] Contents: a. Large format target maps of Japan. [C. 1945] b. PB4Y-2 Training Procedure flyer. [ND] c. Large-format photos of two World War II aircraft.	C. 1945
1	19	Douglas A26 Contents: a. Misc. information for modelers and collectors. Notes,	1971-1972

		correspondence, photos and slides. 1971-1972.	
1	20	[Folder not labeled] Contents: a. Two envelopes of photos from S. J. Bathy, Prince George, BC, Canada, postmarked 1972.	1972
1	21	[Folder not labeled] Contents: a. Scale Craft Inc. blueprint for model of Boeing B-50 D bomber. 1972.	1972
1	22	[Folder not labeled] Contents: a. Folder: Mars Water Bomber. Contains correspondence with Steven J. Bathy, Prince George, BC, Canada. 1972. b. Booklet: "US in Space Caption Booklet," by <i>Aviation Quarterly</i> . C. 1972. c. Offprint from book: <i>Jimmy Doolittle: The First 80 Years</i> , by Barrett Tillman. [NP], American Aviation History Society, 1976. d. Offprint from "First around the World 1924: 50 Years," from <i>DC Flight Approach</i> magazine. 1974.	C. 1972-1974