

Pritzker Military Museum & Library

104 S Michigan Ave., 2nd Floor, Chicago, IL 60603

312-374-9333

www.pritzkermilitary.org

librarian@pritzkermilitary.org

The Donald E. Casey 379th Bomb Group 8th Air force WWII Collection

An Inventory of the Collection at the Pritzker Military Museum & Library

Overview of the Collection

Creator:	Donald E. Casey
Dates:	August 2007
Quantity:	1 Folder
Acquisition:	Donated by Donald E. Casey, August 6, 2007
Identification:	PML ID# 320754; OCLC# 231399367; CALL# PAPERS 010
Citation:	[Document Title]. The Donald E. Casey 379 th Bomb Group 8 th Air for WWII Collection, [Box #, Folder #], Pritzker Military Museum & Library, Chicago, IL
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Finding Aid:	Written by Kathryn Hofherr, June 2008

Biographical Note

2nd Lieutenant Donald E. Casey was born November 6, 1924 in Chicago, Illinois. The second of four boys, Casey was deeply affected by the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December of 1941 and when he turned eighteen the following year traveled to Lafayette, Indiana and volunteered to be an Aviation Cadet.

Casey reported for active duty at the San Antonio Aviation Cadet Center in February of 1943. He tested well and was selected for navigator training, his first choice. Over the next six months, Casey went through basic training and then advanced navigation school. On October 23, 1943, Casey received his silver wings and was made a 2nd Lieutenant with the Air Force. In January 1944, Casey was sent to England to begin his tour of duty. His first mission was a bombing of an enemy airfield in Dijon, France. Twenty-eight missions later, with only two to go before he could be sent back to the states, 2nd Lieutenant Casey's plane was shot down over Germany and he was taken prisoner by German troops.

After a round of questioning by German officials, Casey was sent to Frankfurt, Oberusel, Lufwaffe Interrogation Center, Dulagluft and finally Stalag LUA III, a permanent camp for Allied Aircrews. Casey and thousands of other POWs remained there until Russian bombing only 30 miles from the camp forced the Germans to move them. Nearly ten thousand prisoners of war were relocated, taking trains and walking miles during the worst winter Germany had seen in 25 years. Once they reached their new camp, the POWs stayed there until April 29, 1945 when General Patton's Fourteenth Armored Division of the 3rd Army rescued them. Casey returned home to Chicago in June of 1945, where he still lives today.

Chronology:

Date	Event
1942	Enlistment
1943	Report for Active Duty
1944	Sent to England
1944	Shot down over Germany
1945	Liberated by General Patton's Army

Other list(s):

Award: Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Prisoner of War Medal, European Theatre Medal with two battle stars, U.S. Victory Medal, American Theatre Medal

Scope and Content of the Collection

This collection consists of a speech given by 2nd Lieutenant Casey to a veterans group recalling his service in the United States Air Force during World War II. The speech spans Casey's entire period of enlistment, including a detailed account of his first mission, first mission as lead navigator, and the months he spent as a German captive.

Arrangement

The collection is contained within one archival folder.

Restrictions

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Related Material

Related Collections:

Robert T. Herz Collection

Key Subjects

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the Library's online catalog. Researchers interested in materials about related topics, persons, or places should search the catalog using these subject headings.

Names: Casey, Donald E.

Subjects:

United States-- Air Force-- Air Force, 8th-- History World War, 1939-1945.

World War, 1939-1945-- Aerial operations, American.

World War, 1939-1945-- Personal narratives, American.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Folder One

Casey Speech

Transcript of speech delivered by 2nd Lieutenant Casey, n.d.