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Richard Zelinske Collection

Creator: Richard Zelinske
Dates: 1942-2004, bulk 1944-1949
Quantity: 5 folders
Acquisition: Jean Zelinske, June 7, 2018
Identification: PMML ID: 800367, OCLC: 1106558582,
Call Number: PAPERS 00349
Citation: [Document Title]. The Richard Zelinske Collection, [Box #, Folder #],
Pritzker Military Museum & Library, Chicago, IL.
Language: English
Finding Aid: Kelly Schulz, 2019

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Biographical Note

Staff Sergeant Richard S. Zelinske was born on August 16, 1923 in Chicago, Illinois. On November 24, 1942, he enlisted in the United States Army Air Force. During World War II, Zelinske served as a flight engineer and gunner for the 8th Air Force, 491st Bomb Group, and the 852nd Bombardment Squadron. He was assigned to a B-24 named "Hare Power." He served in Normandy, Northern France, and Air Offensive Europe. He flew in a total of 31 combat missions, with his 4th mission being on D-Day, June 6, 1944. He was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army Air Force on October 25, 1945.

Zelinske honors and awards include: Good Conduct Medal, Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Distinguished Flying Cross, and European – African – Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with three Bronze Stars.

Zelinske died on April 7, 1976.

Scope and Content of the Collection

The Richard Zelinske Collection contains service military records, personal items, honors, awards, and certificates relating to Zelinske's service in the United States Army Air Force during World War II. The bulk of the materials date from 1942 to 1949. The collection also contains photographs, many taken in flight, as well as artifacts including uniform jackets, military equipment, patches, awards and decorations, and some souvenirs from his military travels in Brazil, Northern Africa, and Iceland. Photographs and artifacts are separated out.

Arrangement

The collection arrived in no discernable order. PMML staff have organized the collection by subject and chronologically there within.

Rights

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Separations

Item ID	Call Number	Description	Location
		Photographs	
800367026		Photo of the original photo: Hare Power and its crew (Zelinske 2nd from the right, front row)	
800367027		Photo of the original photo: Close up of 3 members from Hare Power crew photo, with Zelinske in the middle	
800367028		Undated photograph: Group of 6 men, Zelinske is on left, front row	

- 800367029 Undated photograph: Possibly Zelinske on wing of Vought F4U Corsair (with "669" painted on side of plane nose) holding on to aircraft canopy and looking into cockpit
- 800367030 Undated photograph: 2 unidentified men on wing on Vought F4U Corsair (1 in cockpit, 1 standing on wing next to cockpit)
- 800367031 Undated photograph: Group of 3 unidentified men sitting on wing of Vought F4U Corsair (with "669" painted on side of plane nose)
- 800367032 Undated photograph: Consolidated B-24 Liberator, possibly "Hare Power," in flight with other planes far off in background (1 of 3, duplicate image)
- 800367033 Undated photograph: Consolidated B-24 Liberator, possibly "Hare Power," in flight with other planes far off in background, with illegible note written on back (2 of 3, duplicate image)
- 800367034 Undated photograph: Consolidated B-24 Liberator, possibly "Hare Power," in flight with other planes far off in background (3 of 3, duplicate image)
- 800367035 Undated photograph: Group of 8 unidentified aircraft in flight surrounded by flak (1 of 9, duplicate image)
- 800367036 Undated photograph: Group of 8 unidentified aircraft in flight surrounded by flak (2 of 9, duplicate image)
- 800367037 Undated photograph: Group of 8 unidentified aircraft in flight surrounded by flak (3 of 9, duplicate image)

- 800367038 Undated photograph: Group of 8 unidentified aircraft in flight surrounded by flak (4 of 9, duplicate image)
- 800367039 Undated photograph: Group of 8 unidentified aircraft in flight surrounded by flak (5 of 9, duplicate image)
- 800367040 Undated photograph: Group of 8 unidentified aircraft in flight surrounded by flak (6 of 9, duplicate image)
- 800367041 Undated photograph: Group of 8 unidentified aircraft in flight surrounded by flak (7 of 9, duplicate image)
- 800367042 Undated photograph: Group of 8 unidentified aircraft in flight surrounded by flak, large print, (8 of 9, duplicate image)
- 800367043 Undated photograph: Group of 8 unidentified aircraft in flight surrounded by flak, large print zoomed in to show 7 of the 8 aircraft, "Robert Starggush (?) 36724725" written on the back (9 of 9, duplicate image)
- 800367044 Undated photograph: 2 B-24 Liberator aircraft in flight, with tail of third plane shown
- 800367045 Undated photograph: Unidentified aerial landscape
- 800367046 Undated photograph: Unidentified aircraft surrounded by flak, top of photo shows part of aircraft with one full airplane in the distance
- 800367047 Undated photograph: 6 B-24 Liberators in flight (1 of 2, duplicate image)

- 800367048 Undated photograph: 6 B-24 Liberators in flight (2 of 2, duplicate image)
- 800367049 Undated photograph: 750th Squadron B-17 Flying Fortress "Flak Dodger" dropping bombs with other aircraft in background (1 of 4, duplicate image)
- 800367050 Undated photograph: 750th Squadron B-17 Flying Fortress "Flak Dodger" dropping bombs with other aircraft in background (2 of 4, duplicate image)
- 800367051 Undated photograph: 750th Squadron B-17 Flying Fortress "Flak Dodger" dropping bombs with other aircraft in background (3 of 4, duplicate image)
- 800367052 Undated photograph: 750th Squadron B-17 Flying Fortress "Flak Dodger" dropping bombs with other aircraft in the background (4 of 4, duplicate image)
- 800367053 Undated photograph: unidentified aircraft (possibly B-17 Flying Fortress) in flight
- 800367054 Undated photograph: Two men in uniform, one man on the left (appears to be Zelinske) is holding camera and taking photo of the profile of the second man
- 800367055 Photocopy of photograph: Zelinske in Hare Power leather bomber jacket and hat, in color [we do not have original photo]
- 800367056 Photocopy of photograph: Zelinske in Hare Power leather bomber jacket, black and white [we do not have original photo]

Artifacts

- 800367057 Military ID bracelet "Dick Zelinske"
- 800367058 Dog tags "Richard Zelinske"
- 800367059 Type A-2 leather flight jacket, drawing no. 30-1415, painted with 8th Air Force insignia and 30 bombs on back, includes "Hare Power" patch and "Dick Zelinske" and "Tail Gunner" patches on front
- 800367060 Eisenhower jacket with Air Gunner wings, ribbon rows, patches, pins and shoulder sleeve insignia
- 800367061 Uniform jacket with embroidered wings and shoulder insignia
- 800367062 Air Medal ribbon and medal in original box, awarded 6/18/1944
- 800367063 Distinguished Flying Cross ribbons (2) and medal in original box, awarded 8/26/1944
- 800367064 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster (attached to General Orders No. 125), awarded 7/9/1944
- 800367065 Ribbon row: Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters
- 800367066 Ribbon row: Air Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Good Conduct Medal, and Euro-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with Bronze Star
- 800367067 Ribbon row: Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, and Euro-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with 2 Bronze Stars
- 800367068 Ribbon row: Army Good Conduct Medal, American Campaign Medal, and Euro-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal

800367069	U.S. Army Air Corps Class A Patch
800367070	WWII U.S. Army Air Corps 8th Air Force Class A Patch
800367071	WWII U.S. Army Air Corps 8th Air Force Class A Patch
800367072	WWII Airborne Command Shoulder Patch
800367073	WWII Airborne Command Shoulder Patch
800367074	U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii Class A Patch
800367075	U.S. Army Enlisted Rank Insignia - Sergeant Chevron Patch
800367076	U.S. Army Enlisted Rank Insignia - Staff Sergeant Chevron Patch
800367077	"Hare Power" leather patch
800367078	U.S. Army Air Corps 8th Air Force pin
800367079	U.S. Army Air Force Aircrew wings pin, circa 1944-1945
800367080	Air Medal lapel pin
800367081	Enlisted personnel "U.S." insignia pin
800367082	Enlisted personnel U.S. Army Aviation Branch insignia pin
800367083	U.S. Army Air Force Oxygen Mask, manufactured by Bulbulico, the Ohio Chemical & Mfg. Co., stamped with "Demand, Oxygen Mask, Type A-14, Medium" on front and "Property Air Force U.S. Army Spec. No. 3163, 11-43" on side

- 800367084 WWII U.S. Army Air Force B-8 M-1944 goggles with red night adaptation lenses, stamped with "Polaroid, Aviation Goggle, No. 1065, T.M. Reg. U.S. Pat. Off."
- 800367085 Brown leather wallet with stamped designs, written inside: "Bought at Merakeck Africa" and "Dick", contained the following: 2 franc note and a "short snorter" made up of 6 notes/currency taped together from the following countries: Trinidad and Tobago (1 dollar note) , Brazil (5 & 20 real notes), Senegal (5 franc note), Morocco (50 franc note) and England (10 shilling note) and includes various signatures and handwritten notes
- 800367086 Leather wallet with braided edges, hand colored designs, and "Casablanca Maroc" on front
- 800367087 Purple handkerchief painted with white bird and "Iceland"
- 800367088 White handkerchief with outline of island (possibly Iceland) and "Island" written inside
- 800367089 Pink handkerchief with embroidered Iceland flag and painted with "1943" and "Iceland"
- 800367090 White handkerchief with glitter painted Iceland flag and "Island"
- 800367091 Blue velvet "Overseas Hero" banner with gold star
- 800367092 1944 Champion Canvas Supplies Inc top load canvas duffle bag, stamped with "US" by handle, with airline tag "side 1: Delta Air Lines, ORD, O'Hare Airport, Chicago, ILL., side 2: Delta

Airlines O'Hare Airport, Chicago, ILL.,
Flight 551 to ORD, 934-624"

800367093	Ludwig Professional Bugle with corduroy bag
800367094	American Flag presented during Zelinske's funeral, April 1976

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.

Subjects

United States. Army. Air Corps
United States, Army Air Forces
United States. Army Air Forces. Air Force, 8th
United States. Army Air Forces. Bomb Group, 491st
World War, 1939-1945
World War, 1939-1945 – Aerial operations
B-24 (Bomber)

Container List

Box	Folder	Item ID #	Title	Dates
Military Service Records				
1	1	800367001	United States Army Recruiting and Induction Service letter of induction into the U.S. Army for Air Corps	11/24/1942
1	1	800367002	United States of America Veterans' Administration, National Service Life Insurance certificate	12/1/1942
1	1	800367003	Individual Flight Record (Stations: Jefferson Proving Ground; Morrison Field; AAF Station 366; AAB Pueblo, Colorado; Herington, Kansas; AAB Blythe, California; Davis-Monthan Field)	11/1943-9/1945
1	1	800367004	Headquarters 4265th AAF Base Unit Group 25-9 Processing Roster	10/23/1945
1	1	800367005	Army of the United States Separation Qualification Record	10/25/1945
1	1	800367006	Army of the United States Honorable Discharge certificate and Enlisted Record and Report of Separation Honorable Discharge form	10/25/1945
1	1	800367007	Application for Servicemen's Readjustment Allowance State form	11/16/1945
1	1	800367008	Selective Service System Notice of Classification card	9/30/1949
1	1	800367009	United States of America Veterans Administration Certificate of Eligibility	4/8/1957
1	1	800367010	Email exchange between Al Blue and Kirk Zelinske listing full crew list of Hare Power	10/12/2004-10/18/2004
1	1	800367011	Veterans Administration Acknowledgement of Special Dividend Application card	u.d.

1	1	800367012	Personal Affairs Information Sheet	u.d.
1	1	800367013	Loose Envelope to Zelinske, 18th Sqdn, 34th Bomb Gr., Army Air Base, Blythe, California from Army Air Forces War Department, SDSO, 11th Sub Depot, AAB, Blythe, California	u.d.

Honors, Awards, and Certificates

**1944-1947,
u.d.**

1	2	800367014	General Orders No. 102 from Headquarters 2D Bombardment Division: awarding Zelinske with an Air Medal	6/18/1944
1	2	800367015	General Orders No. 111 from Headquarters 2D Bombardment Division: awarding Zelinske with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster in addition to the Air Medal previously awarded	6/26/1944
1	2	800367016	General Orders No. 125 from Headquarters 2D Bombardment Division: awarding Zelinske with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster (had Oak Leaf Cluster attached but they have been separated into the artifacts for this collection)	7/9/1944
1	2	800367017	General Orders No. 208 from Headquarters 2nd Bombardment Division: awarding Zelinske with the Distinguished Flying Cross	8/26/1944
1	2	800367018	Headquarters 491st Bombardment Group (H) Certificate of Valor	12/5/1944
1	2	800367019	State of Illinois Service Recognition Certificate	1947
1	2	800367020	U.S. Army Air Forces "For Meritorious Service" award	u.d.

1	2	800367021	Certificate from United States of America honoring the memory of Zelinske	u.d.
			Record of Combat Missions Journal	6/2/1944-8/25/1944
1	3	800367022	Small journal with "Record of Combat Missions" describing the 31 missions Zelinske flew from June 2, 1944 to August 25, 1944	6/2/1944-8/25/1944
			Mass Prayers Manual	u.d.
1	4	800367023	Mass Prayers Manual, Complete Funeral Mass and Burial Service, signed In Memory of Mrs. Henry Zelinske	u.d.
			Souvenirs from Military Travels	u.d.
1	5	800367024	2 franc note (originally found in brown leather wallet)	u.d.
Over-sized		800367025	Short snorter (originally found in brown leather wallet) made up of 6 notes/currency taped together from the following countries: Trinidad and Tobago (1 dollar note) , Brazil (5 & 20 real notes), Senegal (5 franc note), Morocco (50 franc note) and England (10 shilling note) and includes various signatures and handwritten notes	u.d.