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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 05519	Photo of the original photo: Hare Power and its crew (Zelinske 2nd from the right, front row)	Photo Collection Box 35
800367027	PHOTO 05520	Photo of the original photo: Close up of 3 members from Hare Power crew photo, with Zelinske in the middle	Photo Collection Box 35
800367028	PHOTO 05521	Undated photograph: Group of 6 men, Zelinske is on left, front row	Photo Collection Box 35

800367029	PHOTO 05522	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	Photo Collection Box 35
800367030	PHOTO 05523	Undated photograph: 2 unidentified men on wing on Vought F4U Corsair (1 in cockpit, 1 standing on wing next to cockpit)	Photo Collection Box 35
800367031	PHOTO 05524	Undated photograph: Group of 3 unidentified men sitting on wing of Vought F4U Corsair (with "669" painted on side of plane nose)	Photo Collection Box 35
800367032	PHOTO 05525	Undated photograph: Consolidated B-24 Liberator, possibly "Hare Power," in flight with other planes far off in background (1 of 3, duplicate image)	Photo Collection Box 35
800367033	PHOTO 05526	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)	Photo Collection Box 35
800367034	PHOTO 05527	Undated photograph: Consolidated B-24 Liberator, possibly "Hare Power," in flight with other planes far off in background (3 of 3, duplicate image)	Photo Collection Box 35
800367035	PHOTO 05528	Undated photograph: Group of 8 unidentified aircraft in flight surrounded by flak (1 of 9, duplicate image)	Photo Collection Box 35
800367036	PHOTO 05529	Undated photograph: Group of 8 unidentified aircraft in flight surrounded by flak (2 of 9, duplicate image)	Photo Collection Box 35
800367037	PHOTO 05530	Undated photograph: Group of 8 unidentified aircraft in flight surrounded by flak (3 of 9, duplicate image)	Photo Collection Box 35

800367038	PHOTO 05531	Undated photograph: Group of 8 unidentified aircraft in flight surrounded by flak (4 of 9, duplicate image)	Photo Collection Box 35
800367039	PHOTO 05532	Undated photograph: Group of 8 unidentified aircraft in flight surrounded by flak (5 of 9, duplicate image)	Photo Collection Box 35
800367040	PHOTO 05533	Undated photograph: Group of 8 unidentified aircraft in flight surrounded by flak (6 of 9, duplicate image)	Photo Collection Box 35
800367041	PHOTO 05534	Undated photograph: Group of 8 unidentified aircraft in flight surrounded by flak (7 of 9, duplicate image)	Photo Collection Box 35
800367042	PHOTO 05535	Undated photograph: Group of 8 unidentified aircraft in flight surrounded by flak, large print, (8 of 9, duplicate image)	Photo Collection Box 35
800367043	PHOTO 05536	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)	Photo Collection Box 35
800367044	PHOTO 05537	Undated photograph: 2 B-24 Liberator aircraft in flight, with tail of third plane shown	Photo Collection Box 35
800367045	PHOTO 05538	Undated photograph: Unidentified aerial landscape	Photo Collection Box 35
800367046	PHOTO 05539	Undated photograph: Unidentified aircraft surrounded by flak, top of photo shows part of aircraft with one full airplane in the distance	Photo Collection Box 35
800367047	PHOTO 05540	Undated photograph: 6 B-24 Liberators in flight (1 of 2, duplicate image)	Photo Collection Box 35

800367048	PHOTO 05541	Undated photograph: 6 B-24 Liberators in flight (2 of 2, duplicate image)	Photo Collection Box 35
800367049	PHOTO 05542	Undated photograph: 750th Squadron B-17 Flying Fortress "Flak Dodger" dropping bombs with other aircraft in background (1 of 4, duplicate image)	Photo Collection Box 35
800367050	PHOTO 05543	Undated photograph: 750th Squadron B-17 Flying Fortress "Flak Dodger" dropping bombs with other aircraft in background (2 of 4, duplicate image)	Photo Collection Box 35
800367051	PHOTO 05544	Undated photograph: 750th Squadron B-17 Flying Fortress "Flak Dodger" dropping bombs with other aircraft in background (3 of 4, duplicate image)	Photo Collection Box 35
800367052	PHOTO 05545	Undated photograph: 750th Squadron B-17 Flying Fortress "Flak Dodger" dropping bombs with other aircraft in the background (4 of 4, duplicate image)	Photo Collection Box 35
800367053	PHOTO 05546	Undated photograph: unidentified aircraft (possibly B-17 Flying Fortress) in flight	Photo Collection Box 35
800367054	PHOTO 05547	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	Photo Collection Box 35
800367055	PHOTO 05548	Photocopy of photograph: Zelinske in Hare Power leather bomber jacket and hat, in color [we do not have original photo]	Photo Collection Box 35
800367056	PHOTO 05549	Photocopy of photograph: Zelinske in Hare Power leather bomber jacket, black and white [we do not have original photo]	Photo Collection Box 35

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
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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
1	1		Military Service Records	1942-2004, u.d.
		800367001	United States Army Recruiting and Induction Service letter of induction into the U.S. Army for Air Corps	11/24/1942
		800367002	United States of America Veterans' Administration, National Service Life Insurance certificate	12/1/1942
		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
		800367004	Headquarters 4265th AAF Base Unit Group 25-9 Processing Roster	10/23/1945
		800367005	Army of the United States Separation Qualification Record	10/25/1945

800367006	Army of the United States Honorable Discharge certificate and Enlisted Record and Report of Separation Honorable Discharge form	10/25/1945
800367007	Application for Servicemen's Readjustment Allowance State form	11/16/1945
800367008	Selective Service System Notice of Classification card	9/30/1949
800367009	United States of America Veterans Administration Certificate of Eligibility	4/8/1957
800367010	Email exchange between Al Blue and Kirk Zelinske listing full crew list of Hare Power	10/12/2004-10/18/2004
800367011	Veterans Administration Acknowledgement of Special Dividend Application card	u.d.
800367012	Personal Affairs Information Sheet	u.d.
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.

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Honors, Awards, and Certificates

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

800367014	General Orders No. 102 from Headquarters 2D Bombardment Division: awarding Zelinske with an Air Medal	6/18/1944
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
800367016	General Orders No. 125 from Headquarters 2D Bombardment Division: awarding Zelinske with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster (had Oak Leaf Cluster	7/9/1944

**Over
Size
1**

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.