

Guide to the
William L. Birch Papers
(1917 - 2006)

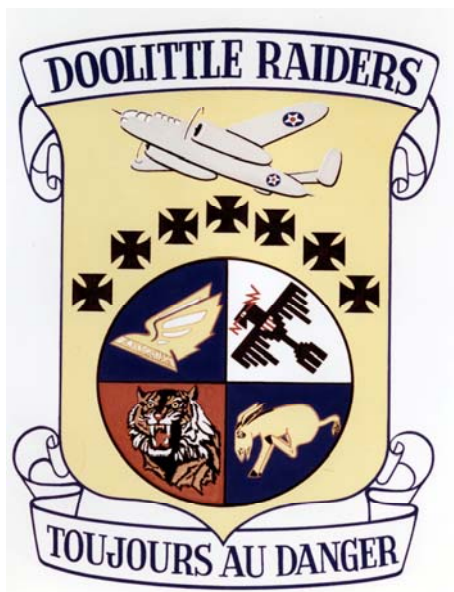
1.5 linear feet

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Biographical Sketch

William L. Birch was born September 7th, 1917 in Glaexico, California. He graduated from Kern County Union High School and entered the Army Air Forces in 1939, at March Field, California. Birch attended Bombsight Maintenance School at Lowry Field, Colorado prior to the Doolittle Raid. Birch was the bombardier with crew number 11, the 11th plane to take off for the Raid. After bombing its targets, and shooting at some patrol boats in Tokyo Bay, crew 11 bailed out of their bomber 200 miles inland over China. They were recovered by friendly forces. Birch attended pilot training school after the raid at Lubbock Field, Texas. He was posted to several stateside assignments and was separated from the service in 1945.

Birch's decorations included Distinguished Flying Cross, and Chinese Army, Navy, and Air Corps Medal, Class A, 1st class. Birch passed away in Temecula, California on November 18th, 2006.

Sources

Glines, C.V. 1964. *Doolittle's Tokyo Raiders*. Princeton, NJ: D. Van Nostrand Company, Inc.

Doolittle Raider Tokyo Raiders Association Papers, Series II, Box 1, Folder 13, History of Aviation Collection, Special Collections Department, McDermott Library, The University of Texas at Dallas.

Additional Sources

For more information about William L. Birch and the Doolittle Raid consult the *Doolittle Tokyo Raiders Association Papers*. For more information about James Doolittle consult the *James H. Doolittle Papers*. Both of these collections are in the custody of the History of Aviation Collection.

Additional information can be found in the books *Doolittle's Tokyo Raiders*, and *Four Came Home* (Both by C.V. Glines).

Series Description

The *William L. Birch Papers* are organized into one series of material.

Series I: William L Birch Photographs (1942 – 2000). 1.5 linear feet

1 oversized box. Items are arranged chronologically. This series contains photographs of William Birch and The Doolittle Raid.

Scope and Content Note

The Doolittle Raider Collection is organized into one series of material.

Series I: William L Birch Photographs – 1 Box (1942 – 2000)

This series is made up of photographs collected by William Birch. Items include the Official Government photographs (with captions) of The Doolittle Raid, and two poster/collages of scans of photographs.

Collection Note

Some items that are part of this collection are on display with the Doolittle exhibits in the History of Aviation Collection. These items are not reflected in this finding aid. For a list of these items please consult the Guide to Doolittle Items on Display at History of Aviation Collection.

Provenance Statement

The *Richard E. Cole Papers* were donated to the History of Aviation Collection, McDermott Library by Richard Cole in May of 2007.

Literary Rights Statement

Permission to publish copy, reprint, digitize, orally record for transmission over public airways, or use in any and all current or future developed methods or procedures, must be obtained in writing from the Special Collections Department, McDermott Library, The University of Texas at Dallas.

Container List

Container list begins on page 5.

William L. Birch: Container List

Series I: William L Birch Photographs (1942 – 2000)

<u>Box 1</u>	<u>Titles, Dates, and Description</u>
<u>Folder</u>	
1	Photographs: Doolittle Raid with Captions - Folder 1 (1942)
2	Photographs: Doolittle Raid with Captions – Folder 2 (1942)
3	Poster: Photo mosaic of William Birch, then and now (2000)
4	Poster: Personal Photographs of William Birch (2000)