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## Moss, Joe David 1895-1973 (MSS 422)

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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives  
 Department of Library Special Collections  
 Western Kentucky University  
 Bowling Green, KY 42101-1092

*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 422 MOSS, Joe David, 1895-1973**

½ box. 9 folders. 119 items. 1943-1954. Originals, typescripts.

2004.169.1

***BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE***

Colonel Joe D. Moss was born on 23 November 1895 in Warren County, Kentucky to Morton M. Moss (1867-1939) and Maybelle (Andrew) Moss (1870-1948). He graduated from Ogden College in Bowling Green, Kentucky in 1915 and the West Point Military Academy in 1918. Between World Wars I and II, Moss served in Siberia, the Philippines, Hawaii and many posts in the United States. He received further military training at Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland; Fort Sill, Oklahoma; Fort Monroe, Virginia; and Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. From 1922-1940, he served as aide to three generals, and was stationed at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. from 1940-1942 as an executive assistant to the Chief of Coast Artillery and Anti-Aircraft Command.

In 1943, Moss was made commanding officer of the 112<sup>th</sup> AAA (Anti-Aircraft) Group, attached to the XX Corps of General George S. Patton's Third Army. The XX Corps became noted for its 600-mile march across France during August and September 1944, one of the fastest sustained marches in military history. In October 1944, the XX Corps took the fortified French city of Metz from the Germans. Colonel Moss received numerous decorations, including the Bronze Star, Croix de Guerre with Palm and the Legion of Honor. After the German surrender, he was transferred to command of the 54<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade at Oberammergau, Bavaria.

After World War II, Colonel Moss returned to duty at the Pentagon. He also served for two years as second in United States Command of the Free Territory of Trieste. In summer 1953, Moss was appointed commanding officer of Fort Leslie J. McNair in Washington, D.C., a position he held until his retirement in 1954.

Joe D. Moss died on 8 August 1973 and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

***BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTES***

The Collection.

Irene (Moss) Sumpter Collection (MSS 130),  
 Manuscripts & Folklife Archives, WKU  
 Special Collections Library.

## COLLECTION NOTE

This collection consists of correspondence between Joe D. Moss and his mother Maybelle, sister Irene (Moss) Sumpter, niece Reta Moss Sumpter, and wife Dorothy Moss. Almost all of the correspondence dates from 1943-1945. Moss writes from Australia, England, France and Germany, and mostly describes war conditions in rural France. He also describes his travels in England, Italy and Germany, including to Oberammergau and Berchtesgaden. The collection includes news clippings about Moss (Folder 8), French and German currency, postcards and photographs (Folder 7); historical information relating to the 112<sup>th</sup> AAA Group (Folder 5); and a map of the 1944 march of the XX Corps (Folder 9).

## SHELF LIST

<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>Moss, Joe David</b>	<b>1943-1954</b>	<b>119 items</b>
Folder 1	Inventory		1 item
Folder 2	Letters to Maybelle Moss	1943-1945, n.d.	10 items
Folder 3	Letters to Irene (Moss) Sumpter	1943-1945, 1954, n.d.	22 items
Folder 4	Letters to Dorothy Moss	1944-1945	15 items
Folder 5	Letters to Reta Sumpter	1943-1945, 1948, n.d.	18 items
Folder 6	Letters to Joe D. Moss; data relating to his Army service	1943-1944, 1946, n.d.	8 items
Folder 7	Postcards, greeting cards, photos, French and German currency	1943-1945, 1954, n.d.	32 items
Folder 8	Newspaper clippings, chiefly about Moss	1945-1954	9 items
Folder 9	Service star flag; shoulder war patches; <i>Passing Review</i> , Aug. 27, 1954; map of the March of the XX Corps (Oversized: C1-D5,#4)	1944, 1954, n.d.	4 items

**BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD**

MSS MOSS, Joe David, 1943-1954  
422 1895-1973

Correspondence of Colonel Joe David Moss of Warren County, Kentucky, written mostly during his World War II military service in Europe. Includes material related to Moss's career as a U.S. Army officer.  
½ box. 9 folders. 119 items. Originals, typescripts.  
2004.169.1

**SUBJECT ANALYTICS**

Christmas cards, 1945 F7  
Deemer, Paul Caleb, d. 2006 F3  
Gurney, Pleasance F3,6  
Italy – Travel and description, 1948 F5  
Money – France F7  
Money – Germany F7  
Moss, Dorothy – Correspondence F3-5  
Moss, Joe David, 1895-1973 – Photos F7  
Moss, Maybelle (Andrew), 1870-1948 – Letters to F2  
Postcards F7  
Sumpter, Irene Malone (Moss), 1902-1996 – Letters to F3  
Sumpter, Reta Moss, b. 1931 – Letters to F5  
World War II, 1939-1945 – Australia, 1943 F3,6  
World War II, 1939-1945 – Campaigns, battles, military actions – France – Metz, 1944 –  
Relating to F4,6  
World War II, 1939-1945 – England, 1944-1945 F2-3,5  
World War II, 1939-1945 – France, 1944 F4-5,7  
World War II, 1939-1945 – Germany, 1945 F3-4,7  
World War II, 1939-1945 – Military life, 1943-1945 F2-7  
World War II, 1939-1945 – V-E Day, 1945 F2  
World War II, 1939-1945 – V-mails, 1944-1945 F3

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