Moss, Joe David 1895-1973 (MSS 422)

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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 112th 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 54th 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 112th AAA Group (Folder 5); and a map of the 1944 march of the XX Corps (Folder 9).

SHELF LIST

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

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Money – Germany  F7  
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Postcards  F7  
Sumpter, Irene Malone (Moss), 1902-1996 – Letters to  F3  
Sumpter, Reta Moss, b. 1931 – Letters to  F5  
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World War II, 1939-1945 – Campaigns, battles, military actions – France – Metz, 1944 –  
Relating to  F4,6  
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World War II, 1939-1945 – Germany, 1945  F3-4,7  
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World War II, 1939-1945 – V-mails, 1944-1945  F3

Crowley/Niedermeier/Jeffrey  08/30/2012