OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Author: Richard E. Cole

Title: Richard E. Cole Collection

Date: 1942 and 1990s


Quantity: .5 cu.ft.

BIOGRAPHY OF RICHARD E. COLE

Richard (Dick) E. Cole was born in Dayton, Ohio on September 7, 1915. He graduated from Steele High School in 1934. He then worked for periods on a farm in Shelby County, Ohio and at the National Cash Register Company in Dayton. Cole completed two years at Ohio University and then attended Civilian Pilot Training at Wittenberg College in Springfield, Ohio where he received his private pilot’s license. He is also a graduate of the State Department Foreign Language Institute, the Air University Air Tactical School, the Air Command and Staff School, and the Armed Forces Staff College.

Cole enlisted in the U.S. Army in November of 1940. After acceptance for Army Air Corps Flying Training he attended Parks Air College, East St. Louis, Illinois and Randolph and Kelly Flying Schools in San Antonio, Texas. Cole was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in July of 1941. He was assigned to the 34th Bombardment Squadron, 17th Bombardment Group stationed at Columbia, South Carolina in February 1942. Cole volunteered and took part in the Doolittle Raid on Tokyo, Japan on April 18, 1942. He remained in China until June 1943 flying bombing and transport missions over The Hump.

Cole returned to the United States and was assigned to the Ferry Command. In October 1943 he volunteered for the First Air Commando Group and took part in the aerial invasion of Burma and flew missions in support of General Wingate and the
commando ground forces. He then returned to the U.S. in June 1944 and was assigned as a test pilot at the Douglas Aircraft Plant in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Cole was relieved from active duty in January of 1947, but was recalled in June of 1947. He served in the Far East flying administrative and cargo missions. He became jet-qualified and rated as a Command Pilot during peace-time service in Ohio, Washington, D.C., North Carolina, California, and Venezuela. He retired from the service in 1967 as a Lieutenant Colonel.

Cole’s decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Air Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star, the Air Force Commendation Medal, a Presidential Unit Citation, and the Chinese Army, Navy, Air Corps Medal Class A 1st Grade.

Cole went into the construction business in Comfort, Texas until his final retirement.

Leona Hughes had known Cole when he attended Ohio University and re-contacted him when the Doolittle Raiders held a reunion in Sarasota, Florida in 1996. Since then she has continued attending the reunions and has passed on materials relating to Cole and the reunions which have been made a part of the Collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION

The Collection contains materials donated from Dick Cole and items donated from Leona Hughes. The Cole materials consist of documents, artifacts, a photograph, and artwork relating to the Doolittle Raid. The Hughes items consist of correspondence, clippings, and photographs relating to Doolittle Raid reunions, and World War II Commemorative event held at Ohio University, and notices about the Doolittle Raiders.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION

These records are organized into the following series:

- **Series I:** Cole Correspondence
- **Series II:** Cole Artifacts
- **Series III:** Doolittle Raiders Artwork
- **Series IV:** Hughes Materials on Doolittle Raiders
- **Series V:** Hughes Materials on World War II Commemoration

RELATED MATERIALS

Cornelius Ryan Collection of World War II Papers, Ann Stringer Collection, Iris Carpenter Collection, Papers of John Wilhelm, Walter Ervin Collection, George Hebenstreit Collection, Spanish Civil War, World War II and Cold War

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Restrictions: The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Ohio University Libraries.

Preferred Citation: Researchers are requested to cite the collection name, collection number, and the Ohio University Libraries, in all footnotes and bibliographical references.

Accession Number: 01-20

Provenance: The Ohio University Archives received the bulk of the collection in 2001 and 2002.

Property Rights: Ohio University retains all property rights to the collection.

Copyrights: Ohio University retains all copyrights unless retained by the donor, other correspondents, or other artists.

Photoduplication: Ohio University will entertain requests to photocopy reasonable amounts of material from the collection for the convenience of individual researchers.

Processing: The Collection was processed by Doug McCabe in 2003.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note both the location and box numbers shown below.

CONTAINER LIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box/Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
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Series I: Cole Correspondence

1 / 1 Letter (with envelope) from Cole to mother, December 7, 1941, 1 pg.
Letter from Cole to mother, early 1942, 1 pg.
Letter (With envelope) from Cole to parents, May 4, 1942, 1 pg.
Letter from Brigadier General Jimmy Doolittle to Cole’s mother, May 20, 1942, 1 pg.
Letter from Cole to Leona Hughes, June 9, 2000, 4 pgs.
Biographical data on Cole, n.d., 2 pgs.

Series II: Cole Artifacts

2 Parachute Ripcord (“D” ring and cable) saved by Cole after parachuting from Doolittle’s plane.
3 “K-Bar” fighting knife and scabbard Cole saved from the Doolittle Raid.
4 “Time-Distance Computer” used by Cole on the Doolittle Raid.
5 Photograph of Doolittle’s crew (including Cole) with Chinese officials.

Series III: Doolittle Raiders Artwork

A Framed one-color print (67/500) of B-25 bomber entitled “Doolittle Raiders: Toujours Au Danger,” signed by artist Koones and surviving members of the Raiders, 26” x 16”
B Unframed one-color print of three B-25s by Benny Lawrence signed by surviving members of the Doolittle Raiders, 20” x 16”

Series IV: Hughes Materials on Doolittle Raiders

1 / 6 Newspaper and magazine articles on the Doolittle Raid
7 Newspaper articles on Doolittle Raiders Reunions
8 Doolittle Raiders obituaries
9 Items relating to the 1996 Doolittle Raiders reunion in Sarasota, FL, 1996

Series V: Hughes Materials on World War II Commemoration at Ohio University, September 2000

10 Letter from Hughes