



Smithsonian
National Air and Space Museum

William Rigby Jacobs (Arctic Search
and Rescue Unit) Scrapbook

Patricia Williams

2003

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Chantilly, VA 20151
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<http://airandspace.si.edu/research/resources/archives/>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	William Rigby Jacobs (Arctic Search and Rescue Unit) Scrapbook
Identifier:	NASM.2003.0050
Date:	1942-1945, 1998-1999, 2004 (bulk 1942-1945)
Extent:	0.27 Cubic feet (1 small flatbox, 1 VHS tape)
Creator:	Jacobs, William Rigby, 1906-1957
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection consists of one scrapbook and some additional materials relating to Dr. William R. Jacobs and his service in the Alaskan Air Transport Command (Arctic Search and Rescue Unit) during World War II.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Pauline Jacobs, Mary Heuskinkveld, Gift, 2003, additional material sent by Henry Heuskinkveld in 2003 and 2004, NASM.2003.0050.

Processing Information

Arranged and described by Patricia Williams in 2003, updated and encoded by Jessamyn Lloyd in 2020.

Preferred Citation

William Rigby Jacobs (Arctic Search and Rescue Unit) Scrapbook, NASM.2003.0050, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

William Rigby Jacobs (1906-1957) was born in Ogden, Utah, and attended Weber College and Brigham Young University for his bachelor's degree and the University of Utah and Rush Medical College for his medical degree. In 1941, Jacobs moved with his family to Lewiston, Idaho, and established a general medical practice. He was commissioned with the Air Force in August of 1942, serving as a flight surgeon with the Alaskan Division of the Air Transport Command, in charge of an Arctic Search and Rescue Unit for northern Canada and Alaska. Jacobs served as a medic who parachuted into Arctic rescue situations with sled dogs, and he was awarded the Silver Star for his effort to render aid to a fighter pilot who had parachuted from his disabled aircraft. Jacobs was promoted to captain before being honorably discharged in 1945. Dr. Jacobs died of a heart attack while caring for his Appaloosa horses, which he bred as a hobby.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of one scrapbook containing photographs, newspaper articles and correspondence relating to Dr. William R. Jacobs and his service in the Alaskan Air Transport Command (Arctic Search and Rescue Unit) during World War II. The collection also includes copies of letters from Jacobs to his family, 1943-1945; twelve black and white photographs; three issues of the *North Star*, newsletter for the Alaskan Division, Air Transport Command; miscellaneous magazine articles and correspondence; a report of a medical emergency at Fish Lake, YT, April 1945; and a VHS copy of "Paradocs," which was produced by Dr. Paul Little for the Air Force Television News.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged by type of material.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Arctic medicine
- Aviation medicine
- Rescue dogs
- Rescue work
- Rescues -- Medals

Types of Materials:

- Clippings
- Correspondence
- Photographs
- Scrapbooks

Names:

Jacobs, William Rigby, 1906-1957
United States. Air Force -- Search and rescue operations -- Alaska.
United States. Air Force -- Search and rescue operations.
United States. Army Air Forces. Air Transport Command

Geographic Names:

Arctic

Container Listing

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Box 1, Folder 1 | [Scrapbook], 1942-1945
Image(s) |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | [Photos], 1942-1945
Image(s) |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | [Letters from Jacobs to his family], 1943-1945 |
| Box 1, Folder 4 | [Miscellaneous Material], 1943-1999 |
| Video 1, Item 1 | ["Paradocs" VHS Tape], 2004 |