

SMS 1078  
22 September 2022  
Schreck, Christopher J.

**GREENING, CHARLES R.**

**1937-1954**

**LINEAR FT.: 0.25**

**APPROX. NO. PGS.: 500**

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Colonel Charles Ross Greening (1914 – 1957) was an accomplished pilot and artist, and one of seventy-three Doolittle Raiders to survive the famous Tokyo Raid on 18 April 1942. He was also a prisoner at the Stalag Luft I German prison camp in Barth, Germany from April 1944 until its liberation eleven months later.

Greening received a BA from Washington State College in Fine Arts in 1936 and entered military service later that year at Fort Lewis, Washington. He graduated from Advanced Flying School at Kelly Field in 1937 and served at bases in Louisiana and California before joining the 17th Bomb Group at Pendleton, Oregon in 1940. After the Tokyo Raid he was assigned to a B-26 Group in North Africa and was shot down on July 17, 1943 while on a raid against Italian forces in Naples. He was captured by the Italians but escaped as he was being transferred to the Germans after two months imprisonment. While he evaded capture for six more months, he was eventually recaptured and spent the rest of the war as a prisoner at Stalag Luft I. After the war, he had stateside assignments until 1955, at which time he was assigned for a brief period as Air Attaché to Australia and New Zealand. Greening died on 29 March 1957 at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C. Decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross, Purple Heart, Silver Star, Air Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, and The Chinese Order of Yung Hui, 5th Class.

This collection was donated to the Air Force Academy's Association of Graduates in 1993 and transferred to Clark Special Collections in 1996.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection consists of six folders divided into four series, outlined in the Arrangement and Description section below. A detailed account of Greening's World War II experiences can be found in Folder 2 of this collection. Some of Greening's artwork can be viewed in a separate collection, SMS 615-Dillingham, Maurice S.

**Names:** Greening, Charles R.

**Keywords and terms:** World War II; World War, 1939-1945; Pilots; Artists; Artwork; 17th Bombardment Group; Prisoners of War (POWs); Stalag Luft I; Doolittle Raid; Tokyo Raid; Barth, Germany; Tokyo, Japan; 1940s

For information on how to cite the materials in this collection, see the Clark Special Collections Citation Guide at <https://usafa.libguides.com/spc>, or contact Clark Special Collections at (719) 333-4674.

## ARRANGEMENT AND DESCRIPTION

### **SERIES ONE: OFFICIAL RECORDS**

- Folder 1 Flight Records. Includes flight check reports, medical clearance, certifications, and orders
- Folder 2 Greening Flight Records, 1937-1946
- Folder 3 Greening Flight Records, 1947-1954

### **SERIES TWO: MONOGRAPH**

- Folder 4 Greening, Charles R. *The First Joint Action*. Unpublished monograph submitted to the faculty of the Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Virginia, 21 December 1948. Account of the first bombing raid on Tokyo, Japan on 18 April 1942, commanded by James "Jimmy" Doolittle

### **SERIES THREE: BIOGRAPHICAL MATERIAL**

- Folder 5 "Background of Not as Briefed." The story of Col. Greening's bombing mission over Naples, Italy, 17 July 1943, ending with him being a prisoner of war in Stalag Luft I

### **SERIES FOUR: ARTWORK**

- Folder 6 Sketches. Eleven photocopied sketches by Col. Greening of nude females depicting various airplane maneuvers