

SMS 1573  
17 February 2022  
Schreck, Christopher J.

**MONAGHAN, ROBERT H.**  
**1937-1955**  
**LINEAR FT.: 0.5**  
**APPROX. NO. PGS.: 300**

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Robert H. Monaghan was a Second Lieutenant and Bombardier in the US Army Air Corp during World War II. He was stationed in Honolulu, HI when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, and was later imprisoned at the Stalag Luft III Prison camp in Sagan, Germany. He attended a Citizens Military Training Camp (CMTC) at Fort George Meade in Maryland before being assigned to the 2nd Coast Artillery Training Battalion in Fort Eustis, Virginia for training in artillery. He was then assigned to the 98th Coast Artillery Regiment in Oahu, HI, where he was stationed when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor shortly before the United States entered World War II. In 1943 Monaghan completed Bombardier training at Roswell Army Air Field (RAAF), upon which he was commissioned a 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant and soon transferred to Bedfordshire, England to serve with the 306th Bomb Group. On June 12, 1944, on Monaghan's thirteenth mission, his B-17 Flying Fortress was shot down and he and his crew were captured near the town of Bevern, Belgium. He was taken prisoner and held at the Stalag Luft III Prison Camp until January 28, 1945, when he and his fellow inmates were sent to Stalag VII-A near Moosburg, Bavaria, it what has become known as the Sagan Death March, or simply "The March." Monaghan survived this ordeal and was liberated on April 29, after 10 months and 17 day as a German Prisoner of War.

A complete biography of Monaghan is included in the first folder of this collection. Additional resources regarding the Slag Luft III prison camp are also available in the Clark Special Collections branch of the Air Force Academy library.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection consists of a single series divided among a single box and two oversized folders. The materials are arranged chronologically except for the newspapers and some photographs, which have been separated and included the end of the collection due to their size and composition.

**Names:** Monaghan, Robert H.;

**Keywords and terms:** 367<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron; 306<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group; Bombardiers; B-17 Flying Fortress; World War II; World War, 1939-1945; Pearl Harbor Attack; Stalag Luft III; Prisoners of War (POWs); The March; Cal-aero Flight Academy; Ontario, California; Ft. Eustis, Virginia; Honolulu, Hawaii; United States; Zagan, Poland; Sagan, Germany; 1940s;

## ARRANGEMENT AND DESCRIPTION

### BOX 1

- Folder 1 Collection Overview Materials. Includes a complete biography of Monaghan and his years of military service, copies of the donation information, correspondence regarding the acquisition of the materials, and a CD containing scanned images of many of these documents
- Folder 2 Citizens Military Training Camp, 1937. Ft. Meade, MD
- Folder 3 Artillery School, 1941. Ft. Eustis, VA. Includes official documents, correspondence, and a text book: *Organization of the Coast Artillery Corps*, Special Text No. 29, 1934 Edition
- Folder 4 Honolulu, HI, 1941. Includes photographs, postcards, and correspondence from Monaghan's assignment in Hawaii leading up to and shortly following the attack on Pearl Harbor
- Folder 5 Pre-pilot & Bombardier Training, 1943: Training materials. Includes notes, exams, and other educational materials
- Folder 6 Pre-pilot & Bombardier Training, 1943: Official Orders and Documents
- Folder 7 Pre-pilot & Bombardier Training, 1943: Photos and Correspondence. Includes ten 2.5x3.5" black and white photos from the Cal-aero Flight Academy Ontario, California. Postage dated 25 May 1943
- Folder 8 Military Service, 1944. Includes photographs, correspondence, and official documents from 1943. Monaghan was stationed in Europe for much of this time
- Folder 9 Stalag Luft III. Includes official documents, identification, a prayer book, and other materials from Monaghan's imprisonment

- Folder 10      Stalag Luft III-Letters and Post Cards
- Folder 11      Red Cross *Prisoners of War* Bulletins, 1944-1945. Five issues
- Folder 12      Sagan Death March Diary
- Folder 13      Separation/Discharge Documents
- Folder 14      Awards and Citations
- Folder 15      Post-War Documents
- Folder 16      Newspaper Articles

**OVERSIZED MATERIALS**

- OS Folder 1    Photographs. Tw oversized photographs titled “1943 Aviation Cadet Pictures”
- OS Folder 2    Newspapers. Includes a complete NY Times edition following the attack on Pearl Harbor