

NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE ARCHIVES

Joseph D. Mountain Collection

Accession 1991-0079

National Air and Space Museum
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Wakako Komoto

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Joseph D. Mountain Collection
1 CU. FT. (3 BOXES)

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Joseph D. Mountain was born on October 24, 1902 at Cherryvale, Montgomery County, Kansas. He joined the U.S. Army, where he obtained his wings as a pilot and his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant. During the 1930s, Mountain was involved in the following three projects as an aerial photographer: 1) in the beginning of the 1930s, he mapped the state of California for Continental Air Map Company; 2) in 1934-1935, he photographed the life and environment of the Arabian people while he searched for oil for an Aramco expedition to eastern Arabia; 3) in 1936-1937, he took charge of the operation in Hijaz, western Arabia, searching for gold for Karl Twitchell's Saudi Arabia Mining Syndicate. During World War II, Mountain carried out his active duty with the U.S. Army Air Forces as an officer in charge of training in the Air Transport Command. In 1945 he was promoted to full Colonel and appointed Executive Officer of the Committee for Air Navigation and Traffic Control at the Pentagon. In 1947, Mountain entered the developing computer field with International Telephone and Telegraph. Later he became a consultant and the president of Mountain Systems, a digital computer manufacturing company, and Mountain Datasystem, a data processing firm in Westchester County, New York. During the Korean War, he worked for the U.S. Air Force as a Liaison Officer with the Bell Telephone Laboratories. The focus of his work with them was developing radar systems. After the war, he returned to civilian life and worked with the above-mentioned two computer companies. Mountain died on November 25, 1970 at the age of 68.

CONTENTS NOTE

This collection follows Joseph Mountain's aviation career and includes photographs, negatives, licenses, certificates, reports, and maps. The most valuable part of the collection are the 490 photographic images taken on his Aramco trip to Saudi Arabia. The images capture the Bedouins and their camels, the pearl fishermen and their dhows and the colorful landscape of Saudi Arabia.

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
1	1	Affidavits of Joseph Mountain's Birth
	2	Passport, Licenses, etc.
	3	Diaries of Joseph Mountain, 1942-1944, 1945
	4	Pages from Joe's Diary 1950-1960
	5	Air Reserves Material
	6	Documents pertaining to Col. Joseph Mountain
	7	Miscellaneous Personal Documents
	8	Mountain Systems Inc.
	9	Wind Simulator Material, June 2, 1941
	10	Instrument Flight: Part I, Basic Airwork Training Division Bureau of Aeronautics, U.S. Navy
	11	Articles written by Joseph Mountain "Science Finds Silver Mines in Movie Studios" February 26, 1932 "Beware the Motor Oil GYPS" May 13, 1932 "The Switch Engine of the Air" "Practical Exposure and Development" Miscellaneous Notes
	12	Newspaper Clippings, 1926-1956
2	1	Original Photographs from Aramco Trip, 1934-1935 Folder I
	2	Original Photographs from Aramco Trip, 1934-1935 Folder II
	3	Prints from Aramco Trip, 1934-1935
	4	Prints from Aramco Trip, 1934-1935
	5	Prints from Aramco Trip, 1934-1935
	6	Prints from Aramco Trip, 1934-1935
	7	Captions for Photographs
	8	Photographs of Joseph Mountain and Isabel Mountain
	9	Miscellaneous Photographs - Joseph and Audrey Mountain
	10	Saudi Arabia Articles <i>Standard Oil Bulletin</i> December, 1938 <i>Smithsonian Magazine</i> September, 1983, Volume 14 Number 6
3 [Oversize Box]		Certificates Elementary Grade School Diploma - May 26 1916 Air Service Pilots School U.S. Army - June 3 1920 Honorable Discharge from the United States Army - January 27 1921 Appointment to the Rank of Colonel, U.S. Army Air Corp - May 15 1946 The Industrial College of the Armed Forces Certificate - May 15-26 1950 Certificate of Retirement U.S. Air Force - October 31 1962 Log Books, Military and Civilian (8 books) #1 January 1920 - January 1921

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Box Folder

3 [Oversize Box]	#2 March 1929 - January 1934 Log Books (continued) #3 January 1934 - December 1937 #4 November 1934 - January 1938 #5 November 1937 - November 1939 #6 December 1939 - May 1943 #7 June 1943 - September 1950 #8 April 1946 - December 1948 Report of Aerial Reconnaissance, Saudi Arabia, 1936-1937
Tube Section C0603	Saudi Arabia Locations of Photographs of Colonel Joseph D. Mountain 1934 and 1936