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### **Descriptive Summary**

**Title:** Howard T Douglas Papers

**creator:** Douglas, Howard T.

**Dates:** 1887-1921

**Abstract:** Appointments and awards, letters of condolence, writings and published and newspaper accounts, 1917-1921, relating to the life and career of Howard T. Douglas and to the Alaska Flying Expedition of 1920.

**Extent:** 1.2 foot (1 box and 1 oversize box)

**Repository:** Claremont Colleges. Honnold/Mudd Library.

800 N. Dartmouth Avenue Special Collections, Honnold/Mudd Library Claremont University Consortium Claremont, California 91711

**Collection Number:** h1957.2

**Languages:** Languages represented in the collection: English

**Physical Location:** Special Collections, Honnold/Mudd Library. Claremont University Consortium.

### **Restrictions on Access**

This collection is open for research.

### **Publication Rights**

For permissions to reproduce or to publish, please contact Special Collections Library staff.

### **Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Howard T. Douglas Papers, Special Collections, Honnold Mudd Library, Claremont University Consortium.

### **Acquisition Information**

Gift to Honnold Library from Mrs. Gordon Douglas (sister-in-law), Covina, California, May 9, 1957.

### **Processing Information**

Arranged and Processed by Michael Palmer, June 2004

### **Accruals**

No additions to the collection is anticipated.

### **Biography/Organization History**

Howard T. Douglas was born in Covina, California, in about 1883, the second son of Summerfield Douglas, of the Covina Realty Company. He graduated from Covina Union High School and the University of California at Berkeley. He enlisted as a private in the United States Army in January 1917, joining a coast artillery unit in Covina. Upon the United States declaration of war in April 1917, he was sent to officer training school at the Presidio in San Francisco. Upon receiving his commission as a first lieutenant of infantry, he proceeded via Camp Lewis to the school of fire at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. In January 1918, he proceeded to France where he served as an aerial observation officer, where he served with distinction, being twice recommended from promotion to Major, and receiving the Distinguished Service Medal. Following the armistice he was placed in command of an aviation unit in Germany; he returned to the United States in the summer of 1919. He then entered the Regular Army with the rank of Captain, and was attached to General Mitchell, Chief of Air Service. He served as Mitchell's aid and flying companion, directing a cross-country flight and playing a vital role in the Alaska flying expedition of 1920. He helped write the War Department's first aviation manual. He was drowned in the Chesapeake Bay, off Tangier Island, on June 22, 1921, during a practice bombing raid on the hulk of the battleship "San Marcos", after his plane collided with another flown by Lieutenant Marll J. Plumb. His body was not recovered until July 1, 1921. He was buried in Oakdale Cemetery, Covina, on July 12, 1921.

"Covina Aviator Killed in Chesapeake Bay Fall", Los Angeles Times, June 23, 1921, p. i.1. "Covina Airman's Body Recovered from Chesapeake," Los Angeles Times, July 2, 1921, p. ii.8. "Last Honor for Hero at Covina," Los Angeles Times, July 13, 1921, p. ii.13.

### **Scope and Contents of the Collection**

Appointments and awards, letters of condolence, writings and published and newspaper accounts, 1917-1921, relating to the life and career of Howard T. Douglas and to the Alaska Flying Expedition of 1920.

### **Series Arrangement**

Series 1 Biographical Materials, 1917-1921

Series 2 Writings, 1920-1921

Series 3 Printed Works, 1920-1929

Series 4 Newspapers, 1920-1921

### **Subject Headings**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection

Douglas, Howard T.

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aeronautics

Western Americana, 1900-2000

box 1, folder 1-3 Series 1 **Biographical Materials, 1917-1921**

**Scope and Content Note**

The series comprises a recommendation for promotion (1918), papers appointing Douglas First Lieutenant and Captain (1919), and a letter (1920) from the Aero Club of America awarding Douglas the Aviation Medal of Merit (the medal itself is now in the Arthur L. Neuman 1923 Collection of Aeronautical Medals [NC010], Numismatics Division, Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University Library), as well as a carbon copy typescript report on Douglas' body, and several letters of condolence, most from Douglas' military superiors, but including one signed by the explorer Roald Amundsen.

box 1, folder 4-6 Series 2 **Writings, 1920-1921**

**Scope and Content Note**

The series contains Douglas' travel orders for, and a 137-page carbon-copy typescript account of the Alaska Flying Expedition of 1920, as well as carbon-copy typescripts of two articles Douglas had prepared for publication at the time of his death.

box 1, folder 7 Series 3 **Printed Materials, 1920-1929**

**Scope and Content Note**

The series consists of a single item, a published history of the San Gabriel Valley towns of Azusa, Baldwin Park, Charter Oak, Covina, Glendora, and Puente, during World War I. The history includes accounts of the war service of both Howard T. Douglas and his brother, Gordon C. Douglas.

box 1, folder 7 Series 4 **Newspapers, 1920-1921**

**Scope and Content Note**

Clippings and pages, July-October 1920, from the Nome Nugget, New York Times, New York Tribune, and unidentified newspapers, relating to the Alaska Flying Expedition; clippings and pages, June-July 1921, from the Pasadena Evening Post, the Nome Nugget, the Covina Argus (2 copies of the complete issue for July 21, 1921), and unidentified newspapers, relating to the death and funeral of Douglas.