

A GUIDE TO THE JAMES B. MOSS, JR. DIARY, 1943-1944 MS.0452

James B. Moss, Jr. World War II diary
1943-1944

Title Statement

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MS.0452

Unit ID

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Unit Date

1943-1944

Language

English

Creator

Moss, James B., Jr., 1924-1998

Extent

1 items

Physical Location

Manuscripts stacks

Repository

Virginia Military Institute Archives

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

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Preferred Citation

James B. Moss, Jr. World War II diary, 1943-1944. MS 0452. VMI Archives, Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Virginia.

Biographical / Historical

James B. Moss, Jr. (1924-1998) of Richmond, Virginia entered VMI in September 1942 as a member of the class of 1946. Along with many other members of his class, he soon enlisted in the United States Army and began active duty in March 1943. Moss started his 26 months of overseas duty in September 1943, serving with the 15th Field Artillery Observation Battalion and attaining the rank of Sergeant. He participated in a number of critical battles, including Anzio Beachhead, Mt. Camino, and Monte Cassino. His unit saw 554 days of continuous combat operations.

Following the World War II, Moss returned to VMI to finish his education and was awarded a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering in June 1950. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Army Reserves and returned to active duty during the Korean War. In civilian life, Moss pursued his career as an electrical engineer, serving with Western Electric Company in missile systems development.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of James B. Moss Jr.'s diary. The first diary entry begins on page 13 and is dated September 13, 1943, the day his unit departed for overseas duty, and the last entry is D-Day, June 6, 1944. During the bulk of this period his unit was in Italy at Anzio Beachhead. Moss describes action at Anzio, German air attacks, unit casualties, and other events relating to the military campaign.

This diary is written in the book "My Life in the Service," which was issued to members of the armed forces. It contains space to enter important names, events, and other personal information.

Keywords

Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1946

Virginia Military Institute—Alumni—Biography

World War, 1939-1945—Campaigns—Italy

Anzio, Battle of, Anzio, Italy, 1944

World War, 1939-1945—Personal narratives

Diaries

United States. Army—Field Artillery Observation Battalion, 15th

World War, 1939-1945

Description of Subordinate Components

Diary

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5159

Unit Date 1943-1944

Language English

Scope and Contents

James B. Moss Jr.'s first diary entry begins on page 13 and is dated September 13, 1943, the day his unit departed for overseas duty, and the last is D-Day, June 6, 1944. During the bulk of this period his unit was in Italy at Anzio Beachhead and vicinity. Moss describes action at Anzio, German air attacks, unit casualties, and other events relating to the military campaign.

Keywords

Anzio, Battle of, Anzio, Italy, 1944

Diaries

United States. Army—Field Artillery Observation Battalion, 15th

Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1946
World War, 1939-1945
World War, 1939-1945—Campaigns—Italy
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