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World War II collection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title:</th>
<th>World War II collection</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collection No:</td>
<td>MSS.502</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extent:</td>
<td>6.25 cubic feet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inclusive Dates:</td>
<td>1940-2015</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Abstract: The collection comprises items from various sources, and includes contemporary publications, posters and other items about World War II.

Processed by: Gerald Chaudron, 2016-2024
Access: Open to all researchers.
Language: English, German
Preferred Citation: World War II collection, Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis.

Publication date: 2024 April
Scope and contents

The collection is an artificial one comprised of items from various sources. It includes letters, photographs, official documents, some contemporary publications and others written about the war, and video.

The collection contains two sets of posters. The first includes 8 posters featuring “Jenny on the Job”, illustrated by Kula Robbins and issued by the U.S. Public Health Service in 1943. The second includes 2 posters from the 1940 presidential campaign of Democratic Party candidates Franklin D. Roosevelt and Henry A. Wallace.

Subject terms

Luxembourg.
Political posters--American--1930-1940.
United States. Army. Division, 9th.
Women in war--United States.
World War, 1939-1945.
World War, 1939-1945--Alaska--Aleutian Islands.

Inventory

Box 1

Folder

Reuben A. Peterson collection:


3  *Faithful Luxembourg to her Liberators: Letzeburg, 10 September 1944*, Luxembourg: Jules Nicolay.
   *Echternach* [Luxembourg], 12 views by E.A. Schaack.
   Postcards: 10 Luxembourg canton coats of arms; Luxembourg map with Grand-
Duchess Charlotte; Liberation of Luxembourg workman, 10 September 1944 (possibly reproductions).

Advertising material: *Calling All Girls* magazine, 1943.


News release: Liaison and Information Branch, American Graves Registration Division, Memphis General Depot, “114 Tennessee World War II Dead Returned From Italy Aboard USAT Carroll Victory”; “58 Louisiana World War II Dead Returned From Italy Aboard USAT Carroll Victory”, 1948 July 7.


“The Memflite”, U.S. Naval Station, Memphis, Tenn., Vol. 4, No. 8, 1945 June 1.


Jenny on the Job” posters by Kula Robbins, United States Public Health Service, 1943.

Democratic Party presidential campaign posters, 1940. Franklin D. Roosevelt and Henry A. Wallace.

Lavern W. Renfro papers, 1941-1945:

Lavern Woodson Renfro (1910-1974) was born in Tippah County, Mississippi, to William Weeden (1887-1959) and Lettie Pearl Drewry Renfro (1895-1962). He had a brother, Hugh Wilson, and four sisters, Emily Elizabeth, Gladys Pearl (1921-1988), Serene Juanita, and Mary Jean. Lavern was drafted into the army in 1942 in Memphis, Tennessee. He trained at Camp Croft, South Carolina, and was with Company A, 63rd Quartermaster Battalion at Camp Edwards, Massachusetts. PFC Renfro was serving in Company L of the 60th Infantry in Germany in 1945.

Correspondence:


Card: Lavern Renfro, Co. L, 60th Infantry, to Emily Wiggs, Memphis, Tenn., 1944 November 21. “Greetings from Overseas... A Very Merry Christmas and a Victorious New Year,” 9th Infantry Division stationery
with division emblem; “Season’s Greetings” card on 60th Infantry Regiment stationery with unit emblem.

V-mail letter: Lavern Renfro, Germany, to Emily Wiggs, Memphis, Tenn., 1945 January 25. “I am glad you and all had a nice xmas for my self I had a good diner I was in the hospital…I have never got those boxes you sent…we get more cigrett than we can yues. You wanter to no what we were January we are just staying in one place all we haft to do is just pull gard now we still have plenty of snow…”

Letter: Lavern Renfro, Ingolstadt, Germany, to Emily Wiggs, Memphis, Tenn., 1945 July 21. “…thanks a lot for the Blads we got 5 Blads last week and 2 this week so I have a nof. We get 7 pack of cigetts & 6 Bar of candy so that is a nof for me. Well Sis I am not sure what we are going to [unclear word] we got lasts of new men in this week and all new offers all of the men witch have 85P Have gone…This week have been having a little troble about 7 or 8 GI. We fond ded just out side of town so thy dont have a ideere of this dedds so thy are shooting at all of the house 6 me from my compy went out for about 2 ours and got 3 Rifels 2 pistol and showed? Big nife so they are going out a gin to night”

Hand copied certificate allowing Renfro to take home “1 Gearman Rifel”, 1945 July 8.

Clipping: Memphis draft board list for May 1942, including Lavern Renfro.

Select service notice of classification, Shelby County, Tenn.; L.W. Renfro, 1941 September; Address notice: L.W. Renfro, Camp Croft, S.C. (copy).


Panoramic image includes members of Company A, images of barracks and officers. Photographer: T.H. Merritt, Arlington, Mass. Renfro is the heavyset man in the top row slightly to the left of the company flag.

Map of the Berghof area and bunkers, Germany, undated. Key is in German and English.


Program: Mid-South Navy Mothers Club of America, Hotel Peabody, 1941 October 10.

Ration books: Ration books three and four, Memphis, Tenn. (5). Names include: Douglas W. Hammers, 1301 N. Center; Dan P. Thompson, Mary Thompson, Anna Lamey, 988 New York. Also 3 ration book holders.

Poem: The Fusilliers and Anzio”. Copy of undated poem by unknown author.

Photographs: B-25 “Memphis Menace” flown by L.J. Davidson, 1943; 42nd Bomb Group (M), 75th Bomber Squadron (copies).

Private Eugene Greer was born in Edison, Tennessee, on August 9, 1911. He served with the 624th Ordnance Ammunition Company from January 5, 1943 until November 29, 1945.

1. Detachment 1511th Service Unit, Medical Examination and Induction Board No. 6, Huntington, W. Va.: Guidelines for Enlisted Reserve Corps; Special Orders No. 226, 1942 December 29, Induction list.

2. Separation Qualification Record.
4. Change of address postcards, 1943. (2)
6. Postcard: Charles Greer, Co. B., Medical Service School, Fort Sam Houston,
   Texas, to Mrs. T.B. Greer, Kingsport, Tenn., 1944 May 12.

Riley S. Bringle papers:
Private Riley Bringle of Covington, Tennessee, the son of Mr. and Mrs. N.N.
Bringle, joined the U.S. Army on November 19, 1942, and served with the 349th
Regiment of the 88th Infantry, U.S. Fifth Army in Italy.
1. Letter: Private Riley S. Bringle, Italy, to Mrs. Norman Ashe, Brighton, Tenn.,
   1945 May 8.
2. Clippings (3), photographs (2).
3. Publications:
   “349th Infantry Regiment, Italy 1944”, Information – Education Section,
   349th Infantry Regiment, U.S. Army.
   “Mission Accomplished: Africa, Sicily, Italy”, Information and Education
   Section, MTOUSA (Mediterranean Theater of Operations, United
   States Army), 1945.
   “We Were There: From Gruber to the Brenner Pass. With the 88th
   Division, Italy”, Information and Education Section, MTOUSA.

Walter J. Martin papers:
Second Lieutenant Walter J. Martin, Jr., served with the 436th Group Troop
Carrier Command, Ninth Air Force, in Europe as a glider pilot from May 15,
1944, to November 2, 1945. Martin was born on March 17, 1919, in Greenwood,
Mississippi, and was a cotton classer before his military service. He later served
in the Air Force Reserve as a First Lieutenant.
2. Army Air Forces Pilot and Crew Member Physical Record Card, 1942-1944.
3. Advanced Glider Course completion card, 810th AAF BU, L-MAAB, 1944 July
   14.
4. European Wing Air Transport Command, Information Guide for Newly
   Arrived Personnel at Station No. 3.

OS1
American Red Cross map of Paris, 1944.
U.S.A.A.F. Aviation map of Central Europe, Essen sheet, 1944.

Thirtieth Bombardment Group:
“Brief”, Vol. 2, No. 9, 1945 January 30. Article on M.Sgt. James D. Lance of
McMinnville, Tenn., and Liberator “Come Closer”.

permanent personnel and patients of the Hospital Ship Jarrett M. Huddleston”.
The ship was originally launched as the “Liberty Ship” SS Samuel F.B. Morse on
September 28, 1942, before being sold to the War Department to be converted a
hospital ship between November 1943 and August 1944. Commissioned USAHS Jarrett M. Huddleston in August 1944, the ship operated between the east coast of the United States and the Europe-Africa-Middle East Theater of Operations until it was decommissioned in December 1945. Commissioned as USAT Jarrett M. Huddleston in 1946, it became surplus in 1949 and was scrapped in 1971.

2. Roster (copy): U.S. personnel stationed at the 329th Station Hospital, APO 729, undated (circa 1945), 4 pp.

Box 3
1 Photograph album titled “Service Album, Cherry Point, N.C., U.S.M.C. Aviation”, circa 1943-1945. Contains 145 b/w images. Images of servicemen at Cherry Point, N.C., Marine Corps base, Pitt County Courthouse, Greenville, N.C., and images produced by official photographers of operations in South Pacific and Philippines. Also snapshots taken in Okinawa, Japan. Contains names of 18 servicemen who were stationed at Cherry Point, February/March 1943, and mentions owner of album was named Jack who was not a Southerner.
2 Photograph: USS LCI (L)-678 grounded at Buckner Bay, Okinawa, Japan, following Typhoon Louise, 1945 October. Image taken by USS Typhon (ARL-28) crewman.
3 Publication: Mittelman, Joseph B., “Hold Fast!: Historical Bits of Pathos, Lore, Heroism and Satire About the Veteran Ninth Infantry Division”, circa 1945. The U.S. Army Ninth Division was activated on August 1, 1940, at Fort Bragg, North Carolina and served in North Africa, Sicily, France and Germany.

unfolded Publications:

Department of the Army Pamphlet:


Box 4
Photographs:
unfolded Naval Air Technical Training Center, Millington, Tenn., circa 1943 (41). U.S. Navy images of trainees and facilities with numbered descriptions, originally in album.
1 AOM (Aviation Ordnanceman), G-43 Sec. BB, Naval Air Technical Training Center, Millington, Tenn., 1944 August.
2 1. Navy Log, AMM (Aviation Machinist’s Mate), M13, Naval Air Technical Training Center, Millington, Tenn., 1944 February.
2. Graduation Program, G20, AOM (Aviation Ordnanceman); M13, AMM (Aviation Machinist’s Mate); R16, ARM (Aviation Radioman), Naval Air Technical Training Center, Millington, Tenn., 1944 February 19.

3 Correspondence: Joseph E. Gillis, Naval Air Technical Training Center, Millington, Tenn., to family, Bristol, Conn., 1943 June 9-October 3 (6). For transcriptions see Appendix 1.

U.S. Navy Aviation Ordnanceman Third Class Joseph Elmer Gillis was born in 1926, the son of Gervas B. Gillis (died 1968) who was born in Prince Edward Island, Canada, and Mary Lillian Cameron Gillis, and lived in Bristol, Connecticut. He had four sisters including Theresa (1929-2007), Cindy, Marion, and M. Gertrude (1923-2015). He enlisted at 16 and was sent to the AOM School at Memphis He was killed in action in the Pacific Theatre in July 1945.

4 Publication: “We Keep ‘Em Flying: NA Tech Tra Cen, Memphis, Tenn.”, Naval Air Technical Training Center, undated (circa 1944).

5 1. Program: Graduation Exercises, G3, AOM (Aviation Ordnanceman); M17, AMM (Aviation Machinist’s Mate); R10, ARM (Aviation Radioman), Naval Air Technical Training Center, Memphis, Tenn., 1943 May 15.

6 Letter: Thomas E. Selle, S 2/C, Barracks 27-G46-CC, NATTC, Memphis, Tenn., to Mr. and Mrs. John Poots, Grinnell, Iowa, 1944 June 20. Thomas Selle was born on March 28, 1925, in Grinnell, the son of Henry and Clara Selle. He graduated from Grinnell High School in 1942, attended Iowa State University and then enlisted in the U.S. Navy. After the war he married Lois Isabel Harvey and worked for Western Union, the Highway Commission and for Grinnell College. He died on August 2, 2012.

7 Publication: “Hand Tools”, Aviation Ordnanceman’s School, Naval Air Technical Training Center, Memphis, Tenn., 1944 June.

8 Letter: Pvt. William Seaman, NATTC, Memphis, Tenn. to George Seaman, Trenton, N.J., 1943 August 23. Notes he has applied for aerial gunnery school “because I would rather get a crack at the Japs from the air rather than on the ground.” He also records he went to Memphis and shared a $20.00 hotel room with 10 other men.

Box 5
Edward H. Allen collection:
unfolded Undress white uniform with AO 2 rank insignia.

1 Navy Log, AOM (Aviation Ordnanceman), G-35, Naval Air Technical Training Center, Millington, Tenn., 1944 May; Certificate: AOM course completion, Naval Air Technical Training Center, Millington, Tenn., 1944 June 3.


Edward Hamilton Allen was born in 1921 in Bexley, George County, Mississippi, the son...
of Charles Hamilton and Winnie Allen. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1942 to 1945. After the war, he obtained a BS and MS degree from Louisiana State University. He worked as an instructor of Veterinary Farm Training in Vicksburg, 1946-1948, and the Farmers’ Home Administration in Humphreys (1948-1951) and Smith Counties (1953) in Mississippi. He was professor of Animal Science at Northeast Louisiana University from 1953 until 1986. Allen obtained a PhD from Mississippi State University in 1967. He died in Monroe, Louisiana, in 1993.

Box 6
Leroy Bloch Brackstone collection:
1  Photographs: Brackstone and other soldiers mostly in Italy during World War II.
   March 17, April 7.
4  Clippings re: occupation of Bologna by U.S. 5th Army and British 8th Army, 1945
   April;
Leroy Bloch Brackstone was born in Corinth, Mississippi, on April 14, 1909, to Samuel
(born in Lithuania) (1872-1945) and Pauline Bloch Brackstone (born in Alsace) (1887-
1960). He had a younger brother, Fernand David (1913-1994). His father was a proprietor
of a dry goods store. He graduated from Corinth High School in May 1927, then attended
Vanderbilt University and graduated from the University of Mississippi in 1932 with a
medical certificate. He graduated from the University of Tennessee as a Doctor of
Medicine in 1934. Brackstone practiced for several years in Iuka, Mississippi. He married
Gladys Mae Bullard (1912-2002) on April 25, 1944, in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia. They
had one son, Samuel.
Brackstone enlisted in the army on August 25, 1942 and served as a battalion surgeon
with the 109th Medical Battalion, 34th Infantry Division, in Italy with the rank of
captain. He was released on February 6, 1946. He returned to private practice in Corinth
after the war. He also served as Chief of Staff at Magnolia Hospital. He died on
December 16, 1985, in Memphis, where he was a member of Temple Israel. Rabbi Harry
Danzinger presided over the funeral in Corinth.
5  Application for U.S. war savings bonds – Series E. Incomplete application by Mrs. Nellie
   F. Lewison and Miss Dorris V. Lewison, 323 E. 4th Street, Newton, Iowa, 1944
   December 11.
6  Publication: “Squaring Away”, Training Department, Naval Air Technical Training
   Center, Millington, Tenn., 1944 February.
7  Photograph: AMM (Aviation Machinist’s Mate), M-10, Sec. 1, Naval Air Technical
   Training Center, Millington, Tenn., 1943. Handwritten names on verso: Bill
   Andrew, Earl Baughton, Mearl E. Bolton, Louis J. Blackel, Tiny Bratton, Bill
   Balsley, Bob Ashley, Rolvin Allen, Ralph Archer, Emil Robert Barta, Johnny
   Bales, Charles J. Petersen, Charles W. Benton, Bill Ames (photograph owner and
   husband of Mary Pagrano Ames).
unfoldered  Publication: Watson, Robert Meredith, Jr., “From New Guinea to Nagoya with the
   Seahorse Soldiers”. Typewritten manuscript on the U.S. Army’s Engineer
   Amphibian Brigade in World War II. The book was published as Seahorse

Box 7


*WWII History*, 2002 September, 2005 September.

Box 8

1 Postcard: Red Cross Canteen, 4th Ferrying Group, Municipal Airport, Memphis, Tenn., undated; Parade Ground, NATTC, Memphis, Tenn., 1944; Entrance to NATTC, Memphis, Tenn., circa 1944; Enlisted Men’s barracks, NATTC, Memphis, Tenn., 1944; U.S. Army School Roentgenology, 874 Monroe Avenue, Memphis, Tenn., 1943. Sent by Sgt. E. Wilberg, U.S. Army School 05.

2 Publication: “We Keep ‘Em Flying: NATTC, Memphis, Tennessee”, Naval Air Technical Training Center, undated (circa 1943).

3 Marine Log, AMM (Aviation Machinist’s Mate), M6, Naval Air Technical Training Center, Millington, Tenn., 1943; Photograph: AMM, M-6, Sec. C, NATTC, Memphis, 1943.

4 Photographs: AOM (Aviation Ordnanceman) Range Personnel, Naval Air Technical Training Center, Memphis, 1944 March; Recruit Training, Company I, Platoon I, NATTC, Millington, Tenn., 1944 November; ARM (Aviation Radioman), R-23, Sec. C, NATTC, Memphis, 1945 April.


6 Graduation program:
   1. G40, AOM (Aviation Ordnanceman); R38, ARM (Aviation Radioman); SB2C, Line Maintenance School; M35, AMM (Aviation Machinist’s Mate); Naval Air Technical Training Center, Memphis, Tenn., 1944 July 22. (2)
   2. G21, AOM (Aviation Ordnanceman); R21, ARM (Aviation Radioman); M18, AMM (Aviation Machinist’s Mate); Naval Air Technical Training Center, Memphis, Tenn., 1945 March 24.

7 Navy Log, AOM (Aviation Ordnanceman), G-19, Naval Air Technical Training Center, Millington, Tenn., 1945 March 10.


9 Menu: Thanksgiving, Naval Air Technical Training Center, Millington, Tenn., 1945 November 22.

10 Naval Air Technical Training Center, Memphis, Tenn., James Travis, Jr.:
1. Graduation program: M-14 AMM (Aviation Machinist’s Mate); Marines AOM (Aviation Ordnanceman); G-15 AOM (Aviation Ordnanceman); AR-6 ARM (Aviation Radioman), 1943 August 28.
2. Navy Log, AMM (Aviation Machinist’s Mate), M-14, 1943 August.
4. Photograph: AMM (Aviation Machinist’s Mate), M-14, Sec. H, 1943 (2).

Unfoldered Publication: “They Flew By Night: Memories of the 801st/492nd Bombardment Group ‘Carpetbaggers’”, as told to Colonel Robert W. Fish, 1990.


Box 9
Publication: Selected articles from Life magazine, 1943-1945, bound into 2 volumes by Mr. and Mrs. Benito Alvarado, Sr., of Memphis, Tenn., for Benito R. Alvarado and Martha W. Alvarado, 1945.

Box 10
Publication: Bound copies of The Bluejacket newspaper published by the Naval Air Technical Training Center, Memphis, Tenn., 1942 December-1943 November.

Box 11
Publications:
Our Army, Vol. 17, No. 6, 1945 June.

Box 12
1 Kenneth G. Maddox letters, 1943-1946 (copies). Correspondence from 1st Lt. Maddox (1919-1944) to his parents, George R. and Oma Mae Maddox of Louisville, Kentucky. See Appendix 2 for notes on the letters. Maddox enlisted in 1941, was stationed in Wales in 1943, and served in the Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 110th Infantry Regiment, 28th Infantry Division from July 1944. He fought in France, Germany, and Luxembourg. On the second day of the Battle of the Bulge on December 17, 1944, near Clerf (Clervaux), Luxembourg, he was wounded and died in a German field hospital on December 25. Original letters are held by the Kentucky Historical Society.
2 John L. Slaughter papers, 1941-1945, 1982. Documents, letters and photographs. Includes: Distinctive Insignia of the 9th Infantry Division, Fort Lewis Military Museum, 1982; Hitler's Nemesis, The 9th Inf. Division, Stars and Stripes, Paris, France, circa 1945. John Lewis Slaughter was born in Durant, Mississippi, on January 12, 1919, to Lewis Nathaniel and Hallie Mae Slaughter. The family was living in Memphis in March 1941 when he entered the U.S. Army. In April at Camp Wheeler, he was promoted to Corporal and became company clerk. He served with the 3rd Battalion, 47th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division, which fought in North Africa, beginning with Safi, Morocco, then Sicily, France and Germany (the regiment was the first infantry to cross the Rhine River at
Remagen), and subsequent occupation duty in Bavaria, Germany. He was promoted to sergeant. Slaughter died in Memphis on May 27, 1992.

1. Program: Graduation Exercises, AR5, ARM (Aviation Radioman); M13, AMM (Aviation Machinist’s Mate); G14, AOM (Aviation Ordnanceman), Naval Air Technical Training Center, Memphis, Tenn., 1943 August 21.

2. Navy Log, ARM (Aviation Radioman), R-15, Naval Air Technical Training Center, Millington, Tenn., circa 1943.

3. Program: Graduation, G10, AOM (Aviation Ordnanceman); R4, ARM (Aviation Radioman); M3, AMM (Aviation Machinist’s Mate), Naval Air Technical Training Center, Memphis, Tenn., 1943 December 11.

4. Program: Graduation, G20, AOM (Aviation Ordnanceman); M13, AMM (Aviation Machinist’s Mate); R16, ARM (Aviation Radioman), Naval Air Technical Training Center, Memphis, Tenn., 1944 February 19.

4 Correspondence: Seaman Second Class Walter G. Miete, Naval Air Technical Training Center, Memphis, Tenn., to Paul H. Miete, Wiscasset, Me, 1944. Letters to family from August to November 1944 from Walter Miete while on an aviation radioman course. Miete was born on October 16, 1919, in Alna Center, Maine, to Otto Ludwig and Annie Marie Miete. His siblings were: Paul H., Lauri, Olavi Otto, Mae, Aune and Helmi E. He graduated from Wiscasset Academy in 1937 and worked at the Bath Iron Works. In 1942 he enlisted in the U.S. Navy as an aviation cadet. He served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam and retired as a Lieutenant Commander. He returned to work at the Bath Iron Works and in 1981 moved to Alna. He married Mertie Jo Smith (1929-2020) in 1950 and had two children. He died May 12, 2010.

5 1. Navy Log, ARM (Aviation Radioman), R-13, Naval Air Technical Training Center, Millington, Tenn., circa 1943.

2. Navy Log, ARM (Aviation Radioman), R-19, Naval Air Technical Training Center, Millington, Tenn., circa 1943.


6 Navy Log, ARM (Aviation Radioman), AR-3, Naval Air Technical Training Center, Millington, Tenn., 1943; Photograph: AR-3, Sec. E, 1943.

7 “Ashore in Memphis”, Naval Air Technical Training Center, Millington, Tenn., undated.

Box 13

Unfolded

John W. Moore collection, 1945:

Publications:

Stars and Stripes, Germany ed., Vol 1:19-33, 1945 April 23-May 7.
Stars and Stripes, South Germany ed., Midweek in Central Europe, Vol. 1:1, 1945
August 22.


**Box 14**

1 Navy Log, AOM (Aviation Ordnanceman), G-1, G-20, Naval Air Technical Training Center, Millington, Tenn., circa 1943.


3 Program: Graduation, G39, AOM (Aviation Ordnanceman); R37, ARM (Aviation Radioman); M34, AMM (Aviation Machinist’s Mate), SB2C Line Maintenance School, Naval Air Technical Training Center, Memphis, Tenn., 1944 July 15.

Theresa Ellers collection:

4 Correspondence, documents, 1949-2005. Re: memorial for Flight Officer Milas Massey of Memphis, Tennessee, (co-pilot) and 8 crewmembers of a B-17 bomber from the Second Bomb Group that crashed in Grossraschen, Germany, on March 22, 1945. The crew also included T/Sgt Henry Lawson of Memphis. The sole survivor of the crash, John H. Bryner, Jr., corresponded with Milas Massey’s sister, Theresa Ellers.

5 Dedication ceremony of monument to B-17 crew killed in Grossraschen, Germany, on March 22, 1945, 2005.

6 Raymond Anthony Weisman collection:

Weisman (1913-1997) was born in Payne, Oklahoma, and served in the U.S. Navy and was based at Millington, Tennessee, at some point. He was married to Evelyn Bernice Weisman (1921-2011) and lived in Kleberg County, Texas.


**OS1**


7 Leo Raymond Ping collection:

1. Program: Graduation, G18, AOM (Aviation Ordnanceman); R18, ARM (Aviation Radioman); M15, Sailors; SB2C, F4U, SC1, F6F, FM, TEM, Line Maintenance and AMM (Aviation Machinist’s Mate) School, Naval Air Technical Training Center, Memphis, Tenn., 1945 March 3.


4. Card: Acknowledgement of receipt of Claim, World War II Service
Compensation Board, Des Moines, Iowa, 1948.


OS1 *Thunderbolt: Weekly Newspaper of the 83rd Infantry Division*, Linz, Austria, Vol. 6, No. 27, 1945 November 3.


AV 1 Video:


*WWII: Marines at War*, Madacy Entertainment Group, 2004 (DVD).


*U.S. Military Heritage*, Topics Entertainment, 2012 (DVD):

  *U.S. Air Forces: Top Guns of WWII.*

  *WWII: Rampage Across Europe.*

*WWII in HD*, History Channel, 2009-2010 (DVD).


*Secrets of World War II*, BBC, 2007 (DVD).


*World War II in Color*, History Channel, 1996 (VHS):

  *A New World Order.*

  *Total War.*

  *Triumph and Despair.*


Aanenson, Quentin C., *A Fighter Pilot’s Story*, WETA, 1994 (VHS).


AV 2 Film of the activities of the Tennessee National Guard 115th Field Artillery Regiment made by Major Pleasant L. Fisher, 1940-1941 (VHS).

The VHS video tape was copied from a tape donated by Fisher's daughter to the 3rd Howitzer Battalion, 115th Field Artillery, Tennessee Army National Guard, in Memphis, Tennessee.

The 115th Field Artillery Regiment of the Tennessee National Guard was mobilized for active federal service on September 16, 1940, as part of the nationwide build-up ordered by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Major Pleasant L. Fisher was at the time of mobilization the operations officer (S3) for the 2nd Battalion of the 115th Field Artillery Regiment, which had moved from Clinton, Tennessee, in March 1940. The battalion mustered and organized in Memphis and deployed to Camp Forrest, Tennessee (near Tullahoma) for training. It then moved and prepared for deployment to the European theater of operations at Camp (now Fort) Jackson, South Carolina. Fisher, from Gibson, Tennessee, and a Memphis State University alumnus, died in 1942.

Major Fisher was an amateur photographer who filmed many of the battalion's activities during this time. The video on the VHS cassette was produced directly from the original film with little or no editing, although background music was added as the original was silent. The video shows everyday activities of the officers and men of a National Guard field artillery unit as it was in the rather hectic days of 1940/1941 before the United States became involved in World War II. It is of interest as it shows equipment, uniforms and property as it existed then.


Box 15

1 Christmas menu and list of personnel, Kennedy General Hospital, Memphis, Tenn., 1945.

Separated materials

The following materials have been separated from the collection and disposed of as follows:


Transferred to Special Collections book collection.
Appendix 1. Transcriptions of Gillis letters.

   [Letter paper is headed “Naval Training Station, Great Lakes, Illinois”.

   June 9, 1943
   Dear mom,
   Well, here I am in Memphis, Tenn. Boy, is it hot down here. It's a heck of a change from Great Lakes. It took us about 16 hours to get here but we didn't mind because we had pullmans this time. I slept good too. What sweet news I heard when I arrived. I'll have K.P. for six (6) weeks before I go to school. K.P. is a lot better down here though we get up at 5 A.M. and finish about 5 P.M. Up in Gt. Lakes we got up at 4 A.M. and finished at 8 P.M. We get liberty three out of four nights a week. [page 2] I guess our money won't last long at that rate. We're about 17 miles outside the city and we take a bus there. There's an airport at each end of the base so there's something for me to do. I went swimming all afternoon. This weather is really something. They say that this is cold compared to some of the days. I'll be as black as a negro when I get out. All the country is flat as heck. It’s not like Connecticut. I bet you were surprised when I called. Instead of getting closer to home I'm further away. Well, I expected that from the navy. Well, mom, I have to close and wash some clothes so give my love to all and write.
   Your loving son
   Elmer

2. Joseph E. Gillis, S 2/c, Section 1-4, Barrack 2, NATTC, Memphis, Tennessee to Miss Gertrude Gillis, 116 Davis Drive, Bristol, Connecticut, 1943 June 29.

   June 29, 1943
   Dear Gert,
   I got your letter and was very glad to hear from you. That was some scolding you gave me but I guess I deserve half of it. I'm sorry for not writing more often but I can't send any money home now because I haven't any to send. I got $7 one week and $15 two weeks later so you can see how much I have. With liberty every day and the canteen here I was soon broke. I got a letter from Jack today. He expects to pull out in a few days. [page 2] Boy, I wish I were going with him instead of being here on this dump. Jack got paid $45 once and $25 the other time so you can see why he can send money home. I don't understand it, but I can't argue with the navy though.
   I got a letter from Bernadatte [sic] last week. She's going home for a vacation soon. Aunt Margaret was in the hospital and had an operation on her legs. She can't walk yet. I'm still on K.P. and I hope to be off soon. I get enough to eat but that's the only good thing about it. To top it all, they put sixteen waves in with us. Boy, they don't know a thing are are [sic] they helpless. Gert, don't ever join the [page 3] service. I've seen what the Waac's Waves and Marines are like and in plain English they are almost all a bunch of bags. Excuse me but that's the only way I can explain them. There's a few good ones but the majority is bad. They have a rough name here. I don't fool with them at all and would like it much better if they would ship them to Siam or
Alaska. Well I guess that's enough of that for awhile. It's too bad about Iris. I couldn't believe it when I read it. It doesn't seem as if could happen. I hope she gets well fast. How is the family taking it? I got a letter from Accie McGivney. He's down at Atlantic City and seems to be having a good time. He was going to try to come home for graduation at the high school. I hope he succeeded. Well, Gert, I'll have to get back to K.P. so I'll have to close. Write soon and love to all. Your loving brother El

P.S. How is Warren? Tell him I was asking for him.


[Letter paper headed “Aviation Ordnance School, Naval Air Technical Training Center, Memphis, Tennessee”].

[page 1] Sept. 11, 1943

Dear Gert,

I got your letter and thanks for the nice card. Next Tuesday is my birthday and I guess it will be one that I won't ever forget. The boys in the section most always think up some welcome so I can expect a nice cold shower or something wrong with my bunk. I have liberty Wednesday so I'll have to go out and celebrate. Don't get me wrong, I don't mean getting drunk. I've just finished my eighth week of school and only six more to go. Time sure does fly around here. It won't be long before I graduate. This week was supposed to be our hardest and I agree. We had tests all day today and were they killers. We won't get our marks until next week so I don't know how I made out. When I had my picture taken I was on K.P. and did lose weight. I weighed 131 then and now I'm back to 140. I haven't heard from Rod for quite some time. He must be on the move again. Franny Zang is having a heck of a time at some college in Ohio. The upper classmen make him do their work and you can imagine how he likes that. I guess everything's quiet & peaceful again with everyone back in school. What made Bert go back to school anyway? I thought she with Erma last year. Well, if she gets her diploma it will be okay. When does Ernie leave for the air corps? He hasn't answered two letters of mine so I'll wait till he does. How is Iris coming? It's too bad it had to happen to her. I hope she recovers fast. [page 3] I haven't received the box yet but you can bet I'm waiting for it. The chow down here is pretty good so I can't pick. We have chicken nearly every Sunday and always have ice cream at least once a day. I have the week end off but I'm not going out. Pay day is a week off and I don't want to end up being broke. The football season starts in two weeks and we have to get ready to march. The corps is coming right along and I'm still banging away on the drums. Well, Gert, I guess that's all for now so I'll say "adios." [sic] Write soon and give my love to all.
Sept. 14, 1943

Dear mom,

This is it Today I am seventeen and what a place for a birthday. I got the box last night and we had a little party. The cake was swell and thanks a million. It made me feel a little funny when I opened it. I guess you could say I was a little homesick for awhile. Well, the war can't last forever and then I'll be back again.

School is still coming alone fine and it won't be long before I graduate. I was talking to a kid who just got out of gunnery school and he says its swell. He also got a 16 day leave. Boy I hope they don't run out of these leaves by the time I get there. Incidentally, gunnery school lasts for one month and two days and is located in Florida so if I do get a leave, I might be home for Christmas. I'm looking too far into the future because this Navy can do anything. It would be just like them to stop us from going to gunnery school. I sure hope not.

I finally got an answer from Rene. I see where he's going to paratroop school. It's a good branch and I hope he makes good.

Ernie should be leaving in a few weeks for the air corps. He's going to get a big setback when he gets in. I feel sorry for anyone just coming in. I know how one feels and it's a heck of a big difference than civilian life. Well so much for that.

I got the usual birthday greeting from the section; a good cold shower. What a gift that was.

I guess Bristol is more dead now that kids have returned to school. Does Jack still live at the Endee Inn? I was wondering what happened to him.

Well, mom, I guess that's all for now so I'll sign off. Give my love to all & write soon.

Love,

El

Sept. 26, 1943

Dear mom,

Here I am cuddled up nice in bed with nothing to do but write letters and sleep. You can imagine how I just adore that. I had to play with the drum and bugle corps at the football game today and now I'm pretty tired. Our football team won 57 to 0 so you can see what kind of sailors we have here.

The Navy Department has cut our rates to 10% so now about 2 men in each section will be getting a rate and the rest will get plain seaman. Boy, were we disappointed when we heard that. Well, we'll just have to make the best of it. This war can't last forever.

Just four more weeks till graduation and boy, will that be a happy day. After that I'll
have a month of gunnery. I should graduate from gunnery school around Christmas so I hope I can wiggle a 10 day leave.
Well, how is everything at home? I suppose everything is pretty quiet as everyone is in school. How does Bert like being back in school? It will be all right if she sticks and gets her diploma. I'm glad Marion likes school. Maybe she won't be playing hookey so much. Remember the many times I stayed out?
I finally got a letter from Rene. He's about 400 miles from here. I hope he makes good in paratroop school.
Well, Gert, I'll have to close before lights go out so love to all and write soon.

Love,
El


Dear Gert,
Here it is Sunday again and one more week to look back on. Twenty more days until graduation and boy, we can hardly wait. Our last three weeks is all practical work and I suppose it will drag by. We'll be working on planes all day long and no more classroom stuff for awhile.
We certainly got hooked when they lowered the rates to 10%. I was pretty sure of mine but now, I don't know. When we first came down here, all the graduates got rates but then they cut it to 50% and now to 10%. That's some slashing.
[page 2] Don Mason graduates from radio school in two weeks and I wonder if he'll get a rate. He's lucky to be up in Newport anyway. After I finish school I'll still have two weeks of radar here and then a month of gunnery down in Florida. I'll be graduating from there around Christmas so I hope they are still giving out those 10 day leaves. It would be my luck to have them cut that too. Wouldn't it be swell to be home for Christmas?
Has Ernie left for the service yet? It's a shame about Iris. She should try to start over again instead of causing trouble.
I got a card from Mary & Julius and also pictures of Bobby & Joseph.
[page 3] I can hardly recognize them. They sure have grown up. Joseph is 13 and Bob is 7. Mary wants a picture of me so I'm going to send her one.
I also got a letter from Jack. I was surprised when I got his. He usually waits quite a while before he answers but this time he was prompt. He's one swell guy.
How's everything coming with you? Still going to strong at the N.D. Is Bert still going to school? I hope she makes good if she sticks it out. Keep Marion & Theresa going too.
I went on a cruise up the Mississippi last night. It was on one of those Southern boats [page 4] and was it crowded. About three fourths of the people were soused so you can imagine how it was. It was very lively and one of the couples fell overboard. That sure was a wild night.
Well, Gert, I guess that's all the news for now so I'll hang up with love to all and write soon.

Your loving brother,
Elmer

P.S. Tell Warren I was asking for him.

2. July 23, 1944. Describes arrival in France, his tent, desire for mail, attempts to speak French.
4. August 19, 1944. Suggests that it would be impractical to send him Christmas presents although he could use a sweater, asks parents to do Christmas shopping for him.
5. August 26, 1944. Sends home roll of film, stresses that the fighting is not over yet, tells of capturing a prisoner, meets French civilians, describes his reaction to France which he likes.
8. July 25, 1944, July 26, 1944, July 28, 1944, September 15, 1944. Refers to contact with French civilians. “Everything is definitely going our way but no one knows how long it will take to finish the job.”
9. September 21, 1944. Discusses treatment of French women who had collaborated with the Germans, describes reception of American troops by French. “I kissed more babies than a third rate politician while in France.”
10. September 24, 1944, September 25, 1944. Birthday note to father, asks for warm winter clothing.
11. October 1, 1944. Describes different currencies, attends church service.
12. October 6, 1944. Describes his division's entry into Paris and parade.
13. September 9, 1944. Mentions Red Cross services, comments on news reporters.
14. October 12, 1944. Asks his parents to read the Pennsylvania newspapers for news of his outfit and see a movie newsreel for entry into Paris, asks about his war bonds, thinks the war in the Pacific might last longer than people think.
15. October, 1944. Comments on the cruelty of warfare involving civilians.
16. October 23, 1944. Thoughts about German civilians, stories about GIs in his area, description of combat suit, church services.
17. October 31, 1944. Describes conditions and effects of mail on morale.
19. November 6, 1944. Comments on news from home, sends home a box.
20. November 12, 1944. Wants his parents to get a copy of Life because it has an article on his outfit.
21. November 15, 1944. “Now that we have Jerry on his own land he is getting very stubborn. Maybe now he will realize just what total war means if we flatten out more of his cities.” Mentions that Christmas packages are beginning to arrive, dispenses his liquor ration to his men as 'cough medicine'.
22. November 21, 1944. Describes being billeted in a private home.
23. November 28, 1944. Takes a tub bath, heating the water with a blow torch, has dinner with local civilians.
24. December 1, 1944. Discusses relations with civilians, heavy rain.
25. December 5, 1944. Refers to the effects of mail on morale, and the war effort at home, describes hard work of civilians in Luxembourg.