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Special Collections Department**

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Frank J. Gattuso collection

Title: Frank J. Gattuso collection

Collection No: MSS.386

Extent: 0.5 cubic feet

Inclusive Dates: 1936-1954

Abstract: The collection comprises two unidentified photograph albums from World War II and other materials including correspondence, receipts and photographs.

Donor: Frank J. Gattuso, Jr., Memphis, Tennessee, February 1992.

Processed by: Gerald Chaudron, 2018.

Access: Open to all researchers.

Language: English

Preferred Citation: Frank J. Gattuso collection, Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis.

Publication date: 2018 December

Scope and contents

The contents of the collection were found by Mr. Gattuso amongst unclaimed furniture at his company, E.Z. Storage and Van Company at 493 S. Main Street, Memphis. There is no indication who owned the photograph albums although it is clear the two albums are not related.

Both photograph albums contain images from World War II. One has photographs of African American soldiers and military police taken in occupied Tokyo, Japan, along with postcards of Japan. There are more loose images that appear to be related. The other album seems to have belonged to someone who served in the air force. There are images from Egypt with military aircraft, Maxwell Field, Alabama, and some battle scenes possibly from the Pacific.

The other material includes correspondence, receipts and photographs. There is no obvious relationship between the albums and this material.

Subject terms

Japan--History--Allied occupation, 1945-1952.
United States. Army. Quartermaster's Department.
World War, 1939-1945--Africa, North.
World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns--Pacific Area.

Inventory

Box 1

Folder

- Photograph album: Contains photographs and postcards from occupied Japan, circa 1946.
- 1 Original photograph album. Photographs removed for preservation.
 - 2 Photographs removed from photograph album. Places include American Red Cross Yokohama Club, 8th Army Exchange, Hibiya Theatre, Headquarters, British Commonwealth Sub Area, Palace Heights, Miyakezaka, Military Railway Service headquarters.
The images are of African American servicemen, many of them with military police armbands and helmets standing near Area 13 office and guard post No. 15. The number 4418 is noted on some images, likely referring to the 4418th Quartermaster Service Company. The soldiers have Eighth Army patches on their uniforms. Some of the names that appear in the album and related material include: C. Barber, Willie L. Butler, Private

R. L. Byrd, PFC Louis C. Caery (Nethoff, W.Va.), Joseph B. Chapman (Route 3, Box 160, Newton, Miss.), Calvin Davis, Clinton Davis, Gray S. Duncan, J. Gray, Elbert Huston (220 S. Main Street, Dallas, TX), and James Mitchell (15, 12 Ave, Paterson, NJ). Also African American woman named Willie A. Taylor and another woman has name Cpl. Leroy Ferguson typed on back.

- 3 Loose photographs (30): Related to above photograph album including images of Tokyo, African American servicemen and Japanese. Includes portrait of Miss V.N. Baker sent to Private Clinton Davis.
Davis was born on November 20, 1925 in Tennessee. In 1940 he was living with his parents Ernest, a farm laborer, and Ethel Davis on Brownsville Road in Shelby County, Tennessee. He enlisted in the army on October 26, 1945, at New Orleans and had been working as a cotton farmer in Wayne County, Michigan. Clinton Davis died December 22, 1984, in Los Angeles.
- 4 Letter: Private R.L. Byrd, Eighth Army, to Herman L. Floyd, 4418 Quartermaster Service Company, Tokyo, Japan, 1946 August. Byrd was born in 1926 in Oklahoma and his parents were Riley and Alice Byrd. Byrd was living with them in Independence, Montgomery County, Kansas, in 1940. He enlisted in New Orleans in November 1945. He returned to Independence after his service and lived there with his wife Wanda R. and their seven children, working for the city water department.
- 5 Photograph album: Contains images of military aircraft; Peabody College, Nashville, Tenn.; Egypt, including British and American aircraft at Helipious Airdrome; Maxwell Field, Ala., including reference to the Corps of Aviation Cadets, Class 45A, 1944 June; a shipboard religious service; and battle scenes from the Pacific.
- 6 Menu: Headquarters, Southwest Pacific Wing, Pacific Division, ATC, 1550th Army Air Force Base Unit, APO 359, The Philippines, 1945 January 9.
- 7 Correspondence: Private First Class Collier Harvey, Heavy Mortar Company, 17th Infantry Regiment, to Mrs. Mary Ellen Champion (sister), 2111 Curry Avenue, Memphis, Tenn., 1954 May 16; Minnie M. Champion, Somerville, Tenn. to Mary E. Champion (mother), 1954 June 8.
Photograph: Tinted image of woman and man. On reverse is noted "Mary Ellen Champion, 312 N. Decatur"
Mary Ellen Harvey married Olin Champion in 1934 in Fayette County, Tennessee. In 1940 she was living at 312 Decatur in Memphis. Mary Ellen Champion died on May 22, 2009, in Detroit, Michigan. Collier Harvey was born on April 15, 1933 and died on December 27, 2014, in Jackson, Tennessee.
- 8 Receipts, etc.: Joseph B. and Jensie Burns, 742 Hamilton Street, Memphis, Tenn., 1936, 1940.
Joseph Burns was born on January 31, 1894, in Hudsonville, Mississippi. The 1930 census of Memphis lists Joe Burns, aged 35, Negro, living at 955 Cohoma Place and working as a packer at a tobacco company. His wife Jensie Burns was recorded as aged 32 and born in Tennessee. The 1940 census showed that they

had a son, Joe Junior, aged 13. The family lived at 742 Hamilton for many years. Joseph Burns died on January 30, 1952, and is buried at Mt. Carmel cemetery in Memphis.

- 9 Correspondence: "Slim", Norfolk, Va., to "Butch", 1952 July 7; "Slim", Norfolk, Va., to Mrs. James B. Scudder (Butch), Kingsport, Tenn., 1952 August 7.
- 10 Pamphlets (4): Published by Men of America, Inc. in 1940 as Common Sense Talk 48C-51C, the pamphlets support capitalism, America First and oppose entering the war and communism.
- 11 Miscellany. Includes photograph of unidentified African American man, 1944. Photographer: Daisy Studio, Memphis, Tenn.