

2013

American Militaria Collection

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American Militaria Collection MSS.2013.01.15



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Title: American Militaria Collection

Identifier/Call Number: MSS.2013.01.15

Contributing Institution: SJSU Special Collections & Archives

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: 5.0 boxes

Date (inclusive): 1931-1982

Abstract: This collection consists of militaria belonging to various service-members in the WWII and Cold War eras. Included are: the lapel pins and certification cards of WWII Merchant Mariner William H. Pabst Jr.; a WWII-era Army Medical Department First Aid Kit assigned to a service-member with the surname Daley; photographs, documents and historic objects belonging to WWII Army soldier James Nolan Hoover, who served in North Africa and occupied Japan with the 62nd Signals Battalion, and Thomas J. Durkin, who served in the U.S. Air Force in the early 1950s and was stationed at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska with the 925th Engineer Aviation Group.

Physical Location: Vault 1, Room 272, Shelf 23B, Bay 1

Access

The collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation

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Scope and Content of Collection

This collection consists of militaria belonging to various service-members in the WWII and Cold War eras. Included are: the lapel pins and certification cards of WWII Merchant Mariner William H. Pabst Jr.; a WWII-era Army Medical Department First Aid Kit assigned to a service-member with the surname Daley; photographs, documents and historic objects belonging to WWII Army soldier James Nolan Hoover, who served in North Africa and occupied Japan with the 62nd Signals Battalion and Thomas J. Durkin, who served in the U.S. Air Force in the early 1950s and was stationed at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska with the 925th Engineer Aviation Group.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into four series: Series I, Thomas J. Durkin; Series II, William H. Pabst, Jr.; Series III, The Daley Medical Kit; Series IV: The Hoover Family.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Durkin, Thomas J.

Hoover, James Nolan

Pabst, William H.

Airmen

Armed Forces

Elmendorf Air Force Base (Alaska)

Merchant marine--Medals, badges, decorations, etc.

Soldiers

World War II -- History

Series I: Thomas J. Durkin, 1931-1982

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: 33.0 folders

Physical Description

3 boxes

Scope and Content of Collection

This series features photographs detailing the life and activities of an Airman during the Cold War. A photo album constructed by Thomas J. Durkin during his service in the U.S. Air Force begins and ends with Independence Day holiday in Green Lake, Alaska, and contains scenes from life at Elmendorf AFB on 203 black and white photos (198 of which remain). Five additional sets of photographs detail elements of training, exercise, fraternization and professional recognition which composed military life, and additional photographs, negatives, documents and objects spanning Durkin's life are also included.

Biographical History

Thomas J. Durkin was an enlisted airman in the United States Air Force from at least 1954 to 1955. He was stationed with the 925th Engineer Aviation Regiment in Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, a unit which specialized in airfield construction and maintenance. This period witnessed a robust commitment of military resources to the Arctic, many of which were air power-related facilities (airfields, radar and telecommunications installations, etc).

Arrangement

This series is arranged in one box of photographs contemporaneous with military service, and another containing miscellaneous items throughout Durkin's life.

1/1 - Green Lake and Elmendorf AFB, 1954-1955

Physical Description: 10.0 prints

1/2 - Social scenes, 1954-1955

Physical Description: 5.0 prints

1/3 - Basketball, 1954-1955

Physical Description: 5.0 prints

1/4 - Basketball, 1954-1955

Physical Description: 4.0 prints

1/5 - Basketball, 1954-1955

Physical Description: 6.0 prints

1/6 - Social scenes, 1954-1955

Physical Description: 6.0 prints

1/7 - Social scenes, 1954-1955

Physical Description: 6.0 prints

1/8 - Social scenes, 1954-1955

Physical Description: 4.0 prints

1/9 - Barracks, 1954-1955

Physical Description: 6.0 prints

1/10 - Office and barracks life, 1954-1955

Physical Description: 5.0 prints

1/11 - Office and barracks life, 1954-1955

Physical Description: 5.0 prints

1/12 - Outdoors, 1954-1955

Physical Description: 6.0 prints

1/13 - USO, 1954-1955

Physical Description: 8.0 prints

1/14 - Elmendorf AFB, 1954-1955

Physical Description: 6.0 prints

1/15 - Barracks life, 1954-1955

Physical Description: 6.0 prints

1/16 - Abroad (France, Germany), 1954-1955

Physical Description: 6.0 prints

1/17 - Basketball, 1954-1955

Physical Description: 6.0 prints

1/18 - Basketball, 1954-1955

Physical Description: 6.0 prints

1/19 - Basketball, 1954-1955

Physical Description: 6.0 prints

1/20 - Basketball, 1954-1955

Physical Description: 6.0 prints

1/21 - Basketball, 1954-1955

Physical Description: 6.0 prints

1/22 - Barracks life and outdoors, 1954-1955

Physical Description: 7.0 prints

1/23 - Social scenes, 1954-1955

Physical Description: 6.0 prints

1/24 - Barracks life, 1954-1955

Physical Description: 5.0 prints

1/25 - Barracks life, 1954-1955

Physical Description: 6.0 prints

1/26 - Airfield, 1954-1955

Physical Description: 4.0 prints

1/27 - Civilian dress, 1954-1955

Physical Description: 4.0 prints

1/28 - Green Lake, 1955

Physical Description: 6.0 prints

1/29 - Miscellaneous - Training (Pickett, VA), 1954

Physical Description: 14.0 prints

1/30 - Miscellaneous - Winter training, 1954

Physical Description: 4.0 prints

1/31 - Miscellaneous - Winter bivouac, [date unknown]

Physical Description: 4.0 prints

1/32 - Miscellaneous - Fraternity, [date unknown]

Physical Description: 4.0 prints

1/33 - Miscellaneous - Awards, [date unknown]

Physical Description: 2.0 prints

2/1 - Kempo certificate, love poem, 1991

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: 1.0 folder

2/2 - Fishing license, 1982

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: 1.0 folder

2/3 - Photographs and negatives, 1931

Physical Description: 1.0 folder

2/4 - Garrison caps, 1952-1955

Physical Description: 2.0 items

2/5 - Photo album sheets, 1954-1955

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: 1.0 folder

Series II: William H. Pabst, circa 1945

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: 1.0 Box

Physical Description

1 small box

Scope and Content of Collection

This series contains one photograph, lapel pins and award certificates certifying the service record of William H. Pabst, Jr., Ensign in the United States Merchant Marine for the duration of World War II.

Biographical History

William H. Pabst, Jr. was an Ensign (ENS) in the Merchant Marine—a wartime branch of the Navy which provides supply logistics at sea, often on small vessels, many privately-owned. ENS Pabst's awards indicate service in four major theatres of World War II, and were issued before the Sept. 1st, 1946 dissolution of the War Shipping Administration.

Arrangement

In this series files and pins are grouped by type.

Box 1 - Certificates, uniform items, circa 1945-1946

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: 1.0 Box

Series III: Daley Medical Kit, circa 1945-7

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: 1.0 Box

Physical Description

1 steel box

Scope and Content of Collection

This series consists of the US Army Medical Department's "Kit, First-Aid, motor Vehicle, 12-unit, Stock No. 977300," and contains several small boxes of medical supplies, an inventory and instructions.

Historical Note

The Daley Series is composed entirely of an Army Medical Department first aid kit designed to attach to a ¼ ton truck—popularly known as the 'Jeep.' It contains basic medical supplies for burns, lacerations and eye injuries. Its stock number indicates a date of manufacture after 1944 and the 'Field Brown' color color of bandages indicates manufacture after 1945.

Arrangement

Medical supplies are arranged according to the instructions pasted to the interior of the box lid.

First-Aid Kit, circa 1945-1947

Physical Description: 1.0 Box

Series IV: The Hoover Family, 1945-1996

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: 2.0 boxes

Physical Description

1 box

Scope and Content of Collection

This series contains photographs, uniform and paper items related to the military service of James Nolan Hoover, who served with the Army's 62nd Signals Battalion in World War II. The collection consists mostly of photographs taken in Hiroshima Prefecture during the Occupation of Japan, and at reunion events for the 62nd in the late 1980s and 1990s. Also included is the publication *Soldier's Guide to Rome* produced by the Psychological Warfare Branch of the Allied Forces Head Quarters and published by the Allied Control Commission, Italy, and a printing of the *Indianapolis Star* given to Hoover. Accompanying is a letter to Hoover conveying his father's American Legion garrison caps and uniform items and an identification tag ("dog tag") for Ethel J. Hoover.

Biographical History

The Hoover Series is composed of the memorabilia of Army soldier James Nolan Hoover of Morgan Hill, CA as well as items belonging to Edith Hoover and his father B.V. Hoover of Carlisle, IN. During World War II, LT Hoover served in Company C of the 62nd Signals Battalion, a unit which saw service in Africa, Italy, the Philippines and Japan and installed telephones and teletype lines for wartime communication. The oldest dated photographs in this collection are from Hiroshima Prefecture between 1945-7 during the occupation of Japan. Photographs from 1945 were taken in the city of Hiroshima and at an American base in Sendai, Japan. Photographs taken in the late 1980s and 1990s reside in a separate album and document several reunions of veterans of the 62nd.

[http://www2.ijworld.com/news/1999/may/15/signal_battalion_reconnects/]

Arrangement

This collection is arranged with World War II-period photographs and documents preceding reunion photographs and uniform memorabilia.

1/1 - Occupation of Japan, 1945-1947

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: 1.0 folder

1/2 - Artillery Training, [date unknown]

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: 1.0 folder

1/3 - Bizerte, Tunisia, 1943

Physical Description: 1.0 folder

1/4 - Sendai, Japan, 1947

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: 1.0 folder

1/5 - 62nd Signal Batallion Pin, [date unknown]

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: 1.0 folder

1/6 - Soldiers Guide to Rome, 1945

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: 1.0 publications

1/7 - Letter form 'Vesta' to Jim Hoover, Nov. 27, 1984

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: 1.0 folder

1/8 - B.V. Hoover Uniform Items

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: 1.0 folder

Album 1 - Reunions, 1989-1996

Physical Description: 1.0 albums

Album 2 - Indianapolis Star, 1/27/1922

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: 1.0 albums