

Edward A. Ferguson World War II correspondence, 1943-2007

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Ferguson, Edward A. (Edward Ammon), 1924-2012
Title	Edward A. Ferguson World War II correspondence
Dates	1943-2007 (inclusive) 1943 2007
Quantity	1 box, (.5 linear ft.)
Collection Number	USU_COLL MSS 303
Summary	This collection contains the World War II correspondence of Edward A. Ferguson spanning the period of 1943 to 1946. This correspondence consists of approximately 300 letters of outgoing correspondence and 6 letters of incoming correspondence. Includes descriptions of kamikaze attacks.
Repository	Utah State University, Merrill-Cazier Library, Special Collections and Archives Division Special Collections & Archives Merrill-Cazier Library Utah State University Logan, UT 84322-3000 Telephone: 435-797-8248 Fax: 435-797-2880 scweb@usu.edu
Access Restrictions	Restrictions Open to public research.
Languages	English.
Sponsor	Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant, 2007-2008

Biographical Note

Edward Ammon Ferguson was born November 21, 1924 in Spanish Fork, Utah. He received his education in the common schools of the area and graduated from Payson High School in 1943. In June 1943 Ferguson enlisted in the U.S. Army and was deployed to Fort Douglas, Utah for preliminary military testing. Later that month he was transported to Fort Abbot, Washington to continue training and assigned to the 240th Engineers Construction Battalion. In September 1943 Ferguson was sent to Sacramento Junior College to study engineering and surveying where he remained until January 1944 when he was transferred to Fort Belvoir, Virginia to continue his studies. Following Ferguson's graduation from Army Engineers Surveying School on April 1, 1944 he was transferred back to Sacramento. The following month he boarded the *USS General John Pope* before arriving at Buna, New Guinea in June.

Ferguson was transferred to Finschhafen, New Guinea in July and in August he was transferred to Hollandia, New Guinea. Once in Hollandia, Ferguson was assigned to be the H&S Company surveyor

and began plans to construct an airfield in the nearby jungle. In November 1944 Ferguson was transferred aboard a naval vessel to Leyte, Philippine Islands and in route his ship was attacked by the Japanese Airforce. He arrived safely at Leyte and worked for the next month as an army surveyor while facing daily bombing raids and attacks from the Japanese. During December 1944 while in route to Mindoro, Philippine Islands, the convoy Ferguson was sailing with came under heavy attack at the Sulu Sea. Ferguson was on deck when a kamikaze attack hit his ship, the *LST # 749*, which caused it to sink. Ferguson had to dive overboard and swim to a nearby boat to be rescued.

Ferguson spent the next few months in various locations, including Mindanao, Cotabato, and Cagayan in the Philippine Islands. In November 1945 he was transferred to Japan and served as an occupying force in Yokahma. He remained in Japan for over two months before boarding the *USS Gordon* for transport back to the United States. Ferguson was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army February 3, 1946 at Fort Douglas, Utah.

On February 13, 1946 Ferguson married Jean Hiatt. Later that year he enrolled at Utah State University and graduated in 1949. He accepted a job with Utah Mortgage & Loan Corporation at Logan, Utah where he worked until his retirement. Ferguson passed away on June 14, 2012 in Logan, Utah.

Source: Ferguson, Edward A., "Reminiscences of War: The World War II Journal of Edward A. Ferguson," unpublished manuscript, 1995.

Content Description

This collection contains the World War II correspondence of Edward A. Ferguson spanning the period of 1943 to 1946. This correspondence consists of approximately 300 letters of outgoing correspondence and 6 letters of incoming correspondence. Ferguson's outgoing correspondence has been separated into letters written to his family and to his fiancé (and later wife) Jean Hiatt and then organized chronologically. Ferguson's incoming correspondence is from Latha Akers and spans the period of 1945 to 1946. Latha Akers was the wife of George "Red" Akers, a shipmate and close personal friend of Ferguson's who was killed when *LST # 749* sank in the Sulu Sea in December 1944. This incoming correspondence was written in response to the letters Ferguson wrote to Latha Akers explaining the death of her husband. Overall, Ferguson's letters are descriptive and discuss numerous topics, including his perception of the war in the Pacific, food and housing conditions in the Philippine Islands and New Guinea, his duties as an engineer, surveyor, MP, and tower guard, his impressions of occupied Japan, and other similar topics.

Researchers further interested in Ferguson's wartime experiences should also see his approximately 500 page unpublished memoir entitled "Reminiscences of War: The World War II Journal of Edward A. Ferguson" (Special Collections call #: Book Coll 58, # 91).

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use

Copyright

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Preferred Citation

Edward A. Ferguson World War II correspondence, 1943-2007. (COLL MSS 303). Utah State University. Special Collections and Archives Department.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

Grouped by addressee and arranged chronologically.

Acquisition Information

The materials in this collection were donated to USU Special Collections by Edward A. Ferguson in 2006. Additional correspondence from Thomas Revelle, the son of LST #749's cook, as well as an update to Ferguson's memoir, were donated by Edwards' son, Brad Ferguson, in 2015.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Edward A. Ferguson's World War II Correspondence, 1943-2007.

Container(s)		Description	Dates
Box	Folder		
1	1	Outgoing correspondence to family	1943 June-December
1	2	Outgoing correspondence to family	1944 January-June
1	3	Outgoing correspondence to family	1944, July-December
1	4	Outgoing correspondence to family	1945, January-July
1	5	Outgoing correspondence to family	1945 August - 1946 January

Container(s)		Description	Dates
1	6	Outgoing correspondence to Jean Hiatt	1943 June-December
1	7	Outgoing correspondence to Jean Hiatt	1944 January-July
1	8	Outgoing correspondence to Jean Hiatt	1944 August-December
1	9	Outgoing correspondence to Jean Hiatt	1945 January-June
1	10	Outgoing correspondence to Jean Hiatt	1945 July - 1946 January
1	11	Incoming correspondence from Latha Akers	1945-1946
1	12	Incoming correspondence from Thomas Revelle Includes photographs of the attack on LST #749.	2007 September 18
1	13	"The Sinking of LST #749 (an update 10-2-07)" This is an update to Ferguson's memoir, located in BOOK COLL 58 no. 91.	2007 October 2

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

World War, 1939-1945--Aerial operations, Japanese--Sources.

World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns--New Guinea--Sources.

World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns--Philippines--Sources.

World War, 1939-1945--Sources.

Personal Names :

Ferguson, Edward A. (Edward Ammon), 1924-2012--Correspondence.

Corporate Names :

United States. Army. Corps of Engineers--Employees--Correspondence.

Geographical Names :

Japan--History--Allied occupation, 1945-1952--Sources.

Finding aid created by Special Collections and Archives.
2008