Overview of the Collection

Collection Title: Fred Bridges Photograph Collection

Dates: 1945-1946

Identification: OCH/FBP

Creator: Bridges, Fred

Physical Description: 0.45 linear feet

Language of Materials: English

Repository: Old China Hands Archives

Abstract: The Fred Bridges Photograph Collection contains photographs documenting street scenes, local events, and individual U.S. Marines stationed in Tanggu and Tientsin, China as part of the 1st Combat Engineer Battalion. A booklet issued to Marines stationed in China provides insight into American perceptions of China immediately following World War II.

Biographical Information:
Fred Bridges took part in the World War II invasion of Normandy as a Navy hospital corpsman. After the invasion he was transferred to the Fleet Marines, before being assigned to the 1st Combat Engineer Battalion. As part of that Battalion, Bridges went to Okinawa and then to Tanggu and Tientsin, China in September 1945. He returned to the United States on the USS General Meigs and attended college after completing his service. In 1950 he joined the U.S. Army and went to Korea and served as a fort and air observer. After Korea he returned to the U.S. to finish school, and became a math, science, and P.E. teacher at a middle school in Portland, Oregon. He also joined the Army Reserve and retired as a Captain.

Genre/Form of Material:
Ephemera

Photographic material

Processing Information:
Mallory Furnier, 2017

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Scope and Contents
The Fred Bridges Photograph Collection contains photographs related to Bridges' time as a United States Marine stationed in China as part of the 1st Combat Engineer Battalion. Photographs primarily depict U.S. Marines stationed in Tanggu and Tientsin (Tianjin) in northern China, but also include street scenes. U.S. Marines related photographs include prisoners of war, Marine air transport, and the Tientsin Japanese girls school used as barracks. Tientsin street scenes include the British and Russian concessions, a Buddhist shrine, Catholic cathedral, and a funeral. The Collection also includes "A Marine's Guide to North China" booklet that was issued to U.S. Marines stationed in China at the end of World War II.

Box 1, Folder 1: A Marine's Guide to North China Booklet, September 1945
Box 1, Folder 2: U.S. Marines Tientsin, China Photographs Access Copy, 1945-1946
Box 2, Folder 1: U.S. Marines Tientsin, China Photographs, 1945-1946