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**Finding Aid for the Richard N. Doolittle Second World War correspondence  
2015.085.w.r**

Andrew Harman

Center for American War Letters Archives

6-1-2016

Leatherby Libraries

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**Language of Material:** English

**Contributing Institution:** Center for American War Letters Archives

**Title:** Richard N. Doolittle Second World War correspondence

**source:** Sluti, Donald G.

**Identifier/Call Number:** 2015.085.w.r

**Physical Description:** 1 Linear Feet(2 document boxes)

**Date (inclusive):** 1940-12-1945-05

**Abstract:** This collection consists of original correspondence from Lieutenant Senior Grade Richard N. Doolittle, United States Navy to his wife, Ruth Doolittle, during the Second World War, as well as various correspondence to the Doolittles before the war began and some ephemera from time spent overseas. Also included is a summary inventory created by the donor that lists dates, summaries, and locations of each letter in the collection.

Leatherby Libraries

**Storage Unit:** 1-2

**Conditions Governing Access**

This collection is open for research.

**Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Gift of Donald G. Sluti.

**Arrangement**

This collection is arranged by material type.

Series 1, Inventory

Series 2, Correspondence from Richard N. Doolittle

Series 3, Correspondence to Richard and Ruth Doolittle

Series 4, Papers

Series 5, Clippings

Series 6, Ephemera

**Biographical / Historical**

Lt. Richard N. Doolittle, USN and his wife Ruth Doolittle are from Pierre, South Dakota. Doolittle worked for the United States Geological Survey when he was drafted in July 1941. He was sent to train in Washington D.C.; Norfolk, Virginia; and other bases until his unit arrived in Port Hueneme, California. He began his military career as an Ensign in the 44th United States Naval Construction Battalion (CB's or Seabees) and was deployed to New Hebrides in the South Pacific in March 1943. His unit eventually left and deployed to Manus, an island in the Admiralties chain in May 1944 where he was promoted to Lieutenant Junior Grade. They returned to the US, California, in January 1945 where he was promoted to Lieutenant and transferred to the 46th Naval Construction Regiment by March. That unit deployed to Okinawa but the correspondence collection ends before his departure.

**Preferred Citation**

[Item title], Richard N. Doolittle Second World War correspondence (2015.085.w.r), Center for American War Letters Archives, Chapman University, CA.

**Content Description**

This collection contains correspondence to and from Lt. Richard N. Doolittle, USN and his wife, Ruth Doolittle, other authors and ephemera during the Second World War. An inventory of the collection, with summaries of letters written by the donor, was included.

1 correspondence inventory

279 correspondence, from Richard N. Doolittle to Ruth Doolittle

13 correspondence, from: Ira Lloyd Stanley, Gene L. Berry, Ted Doolittle, Mary and Don McGregor, Mrs. W.F. (Aleen) Klawiter, Mother, Bob McGrath, Lorraine and Ray Johnson

10 papers, including draft cards, receipts, and railroad tickets

4 newspaper clippings,

3 ephemera, including a bridge score card, a menu, and a poem

**Conditions Governing Use**

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There are no restrictions on the use of this material except where previously copyrighted material is concerned. It is the responsibility of the researcher to obtain all permissions.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Correspondence -- World War, 1939-1945  
World War II  
World War, 1939-1945  
World War, 1939-1945 -- Campaigns -- Northern Mariana Islands -- Tinian.  
World War, 1939-1945 -- Caricatures and Cartoons  
World War, 1939-1945 -- Equipment and supplies  
World War, 1939-1945 -- Homefront  
World War, 1939-1945 -- Hospitals  
World War, 1939-1945 -- Naval operations, American.  
World War, 1939-1945 -- Phillipines -- Mindanao Island.  
World War, 1939-1945 -- Phillipines.  
World War, 1939-1945 -- Propaganda  
United States Navy  
Doolittle, Richard  
Sluti, Donald G.

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folder 1

**Series 1, Inventory**

**Physical Description:** 0.025 Linear Feet(1 folder)

**Scope and Contents**

This series contains one inventory list of all correspondence contained in the collection, along with locations, dates, to/from information, and short summaries of each individual correspondence.

folder 2-10

**Series 2, Correspondence from Richard N. Doolittle 1942-11-1945-05**

**Physical Description:** 0.75 Linear Feet(9 folders)

**Scope and Contents**

This series contains 279 letters and postcards from Lt. Richard N. Doolittle, USN to his wife Ruth Doolittle during the Second World War. The letters begin while he is in training as an Ensign in 1942 and continue through his deployment in 1943 to the South Pacific with the 44th United States Naval Construction Battalion in New Hebrides and Manus islands. The correspondence continues until his arrival back in California in 1945 where he was promoted to Lt. Senior Grade and end before he was deployed to Okinawa.

folder 11

**Series 3, Correspondence to Richard and Ruth Doolittle 1940-12-1942-12**

**Physical Description:** .025 Linear Feet(1 folder)

**Scope and Contents**

This series contains various letters from different authors to Lt. Richard N. Doolittle, USN and his wife Ruth Doolittle before and during his military training, from December 1940 to December 1942. The inventory of this series includes:

10 letters, Ira Lloyd Stanley, Gene L. Berry, Ted Doolittle, Mary and Don McGregor, Mrs. W.F. (Aleen) Klawiter, Mother, Bob McGrath, Lorraine and Ray Johnson, 2 postcards, Ted Doolittle, unknown, 1 empty envelope, Ted Doolittle.

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folder 12

**Series 4, Papers 1940-1944**

**Scope and Contents**

This series contains papers from Lt. Richard N. Doolittle's US Navy experience overseas during the Second World War as well as some material mailed during his military training. Inventory:

- 1 invoice, L.E. Breuninger and Sons, Inc., September 30, 1942,
- 3 credit receipts, The Washington Loan and Trust Co., Washington D.C., November-December 1942,
- 1 railway receipt, Railway Express Agency, October 24, 1942,
- 1 railway receipt, freight bill, Chicago and North Western Railway Co., November 25, 1942,
- 1 notice of arrival, Chicago and North Western Railway Company, November 28, 1942,
- 1 repair order, auto repairs, James Motor Co., November 6, 1942,
- 1 notice of classification, Selective Service Local Board Minnehaha County, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Richard N. Doolittle, December 4, 1940,
- 1 paper, "Short Course to Rotation," with Doolittle's name and information, includes tips on being a gentlemen after returning home

**Series 5, Clippings**

**Scope and Contents**

This series contains newspaper clippings pertaining to the death of Lt. Doolittle's father, Walter Schuyler Doolittle.

- 4 newspaper clippings, death and funeral of Walter S. Doolittle (father), 1941

**Series 6, Ephemera**

**Scope and Contents**

This series contains ephemera from Lt. Doolittle's time in the US Navy. Inventory:

- 1 score card, bridge, most pages missing,
- 1 poem, on thin paper,
- 1 program and menu, All Engineers Dinner, May 18, 1942