Finding Aid for the Malcolm F. Farmer Second World War correspondence 2015.110.w.r

Andrew Harman
Center for American War Letters Archives
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Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: Center for American War Letters Archives
Title: Malcolm F. Farmer Second World War correspondence
source: Farmer, Ann Dahlstrom, Ms.
source: Farmer, Malcolm, Mr., 1915-2011
Identifier/Call Number: 2015.110.w.r
Physical Description: 0.2 Linear Feet(5 folders)
Date (inclusive): 1943-2016
Date (bulk): bulk
Abstract: This collection contains correspondence from Second Lieutenant Malcolm French Farmer, United States Army, to his mother during the Second World War, as well as photographs and some biographical information.

Storage Unit: WWII 8
Storage Unit: 5-9
Conditions Governing Access
This collection is open for research.
Immediate Source of Acquisition
Gift of Ann Dahlstrom Farmer.
Arrangement
This collection is arranged by material type and date: Series 1: Correspondence from Malcolm Farmer--Series 2: Photographs--Series 3: Biographical materials--Series 4: Photocopies and map.
Preferred Citation
[Item title, Box number, Folder number], Malcolm F. Farmer Second World War correspondence (2015.110.w.r), Center for American War Letters Archives, Chapman University, CA.
Content Description
This collection contains correspondence from Second Lieutenant Malcolm French Farmer, United States Army, to his mother during the Second World War. The correspondence consists of letters and V-mail. Also contained in this collection are biographical information, photographs, photocopies of letters and a map, as well as a brief background identification of persons named in the letters written by the donor. Inventory:
85 letters
76 v-mails
3 postcards
10 pieces of related material such as photographs and maps.
4 related biographical material
1 clipping, photocopy, "WWII vet taught at Whittier College"
1 clipping, obituary, Malcolm French Farmer
1 letter, handwritten, Malcom Farmer, 2010
Conditions Governing Use
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.
Biographical / Historical
Malcolm French Farmer was born August 6, 1915 in Los Angeles, California, the son of Ollef and Nellie Worst Farmer. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology in 1940 from the University of Arizona and later did graduate work at the University of Washington.
He entered the United States Army Air Force in 1943 and trained at Fort MacArthur and mentioned training in North Dakota and North Carolina. He was then assigned to the 320th Bomb Group, 444th Bomb Squadron and he arrived in North Africa in September 1943. He spent the next ten months in Sardinia and Corsica as he was promoted to Staff Sergeant and then moved to France in December 1944 and was promoted to Technical Sergeant in February 1945.
Lt. Farmer then entered Officer's Candidate School while in France in February and earned Second Lieutenant by late April. He was then assigned to the United States Army Headquarters 423rd Infantry Regiment, 334th Reinforcement Company. He spent the rest of the war there and did not need to see combat. After the war had ended, he spent some time in Germany and then he was reassigned to Company L, 134th Infantry in Rheims, France at Camp Norfolk. He wrote two final letters from England in August 1945.

Lt. Farmer spent time before and after the war as a curator at several museums in San Diego and Flagstaff, Arizona. His wife Doris died in 1950 and he remarried, to a woman named Ann and joined the faculty at Whittier College in California until he retired in 1981. Lt. Farmer and Doris' son John died in 2005, and he passed away April 6, 2011.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Correspondence -- World War, 1939-1945
World War II
World War, 1939-1945
World War, 1939-1945 -- Germany
World War, 1939-1945 -- Italy
World War, 1939-1945--England
World War, 1939-1945--France
United States -- Army -- Air Forces
United States -- Army -- European Theater of Operations
United States. Army.
Farmer, Ann Dahlstrom, Ms.
Farmer, Malcolm, Mr., 1915-2011

Series 1, Correspondence from Malcolm Farmer 1943-1945
Physical Description: 0.1 Linear Feet(2 folders)
Scope and Contents
This series contains correspondence from Lt. Malcolm Farmer, USA to his mother, wife Doris, and brother Al during the Second World War. The bulk of the letters and V-Mail were sent to his mother and there is one letter each for Doris and Al.

Of interest:
August 8, 1943, will be glad when the war is over but concerned over the "social trouble" when it is over. He is sure that he will get foreign service and wants to see new places but sad that it is during war time.

October 19, 1943, North Africa, "We have seen a lot of the Arabs. They are a great deal dirtier than Southwestern Indians. Their life is quite similar, however."

September 13, 1944, Sardinia, Doris sent clippings about the education plan for returning soldiers (GI Bill), would like to get another degree, maybe continue work at the museum, but "it is difficult to plan a thing for the future the way the world is today."

Special Note: letter dated 2 December, 1944 is misdated. It is supposed to be January 1944 and has been placed in the appropriate spot chronologically.

Inventory:
85 letters
76 V-mail
3 postcards
1 V-mail form, correspondence discontinuation form
Series 2, Photographs 1943-1945

Physical Description: 0.025 Linear Feet (1 folder)
Scope and Contents
This series contains three photographs and two photocopied pictures pertaining to Lt. Malcolm Farmer, USA from his service during the Second World War. Inventory:
1 photo, b/w, Lt. Farmer and others of the 320 BG, Sardinia, 1944
1 photo, b/w, aerial shot of B-26 bombers of the 320th BG over Sardinia, 1944
1 photo, b/w, Lt. Farmer with Ernie Acuna, in Fargo, ND in June 1943
1 photocopy, color, 2 photos of Lt. Farmer in uniform, Spring 1945
1 photocopy, picture of a cartoon drawn of Lt. Farmer at a desk, 1945

Series 3, Biographical materials 2010-2016

Physical Description: 0.025 Linear Feet (1 folder)
Scope and Contents
This series contains biographical material related to Lt. Malcolm Farmer, USA and his service during the Second World War. Inventory:
1 list, people mentioned in the correspondence collection
1 list, biographical/autobiographical data
1 summary, Lt. Farmer’s military service written by Doris Farmer (wife)
1 pamphlet, memorial for Malcolm French Farmer, 2011
1 clipping, photocopy, “WWII vet taught at Whittier College”
1 clipping, obituary, Malcolm French Farmer
1 letter, handwritten by Lt. Farmer, describing his war experience, 2010

Series 4, Photocopies and map 1945-1951

Physical Description: 0.025 Linear Feet (1 folder)
Scope and Contents
This series contains additional photocopied material pertaining to Lt. Malcolm Farmer, USA and his service during the Second World War. Inventory:
1 letter, copy, typed letter from Lt. Farmer to his wife Doris, 29 April, 1945 (original included in Series 1)
1 letter, copy, handwritten letter from Lt. Farmer's mother to his son John, March 11, 1951
1 map, cities where Lt. Farmer served and transportation taken, numbered in chronological order