Finding Aid for the Lola Cannon Pefley Second World War Correspondence Collection 2017.013.w.r

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Center for American War Letters Archives
02/16/2017
Leatherby Libraries
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URL: http://www1.chapman.edu/library/archives/
Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: Center for American War Letters Archives
Title: Lola Cannon Pefley Second World War Correspondence
source: Wilcox, Cherri
Identifier/Call Number: 2017.013.w.r
Physical Description: .5 Linear Feet(13 Folders)
Date (inclusive): 1928-1952
Abstract: This collection contains various soldier correspondence to Lola Cannon Pefley, and ephemera during the Second World War.
Leatherby Libraries, Special Collections, CAWL Archives.
Storage Unit: Pefley Box 1
Storage Unit: 1-12
Biographical / Historical
Information found on www.findagrave.com:
Lola Margarete Thomas was born on August 7, 1911 in Elkins, Texas. She was the oldest of three daughters of Ora Welch and Forrest Thomas. Forest Forest Thomas was born in Texas but his father was born in Arkansas and his mother in Georgia. Sidney Forest Thomas was a mechanic by trade.
According to a 1937 letter that Lola had written to Lester Welch, John Byrd Welch's son and her cousin, she stated that she had just married Leroy "Roy" Cannon, a supposedly well-known singer and that they were going to travel the country to put on musical programs. I am just now finding out much about him.
She married Daniel Alexander Pefley on June 3, 1941. They had no children. "She was a member of the Reorganized Church of the Latter Day Saints. She had lived in Brownwood for a year and one half before her death and had previously lived in Arlington, Texas for the past 30 years.
Lola had graduated from Brownwood High School in 1930 and was the Valedictorian of her class. Survivors included her husband, a sister Mrs. James Teague of Fort Worth and a half-sister, Jackie Keith of Morgan Hill, California.
Lola Pefley died on January 3, 1977 at the Brownwood Community Hospital after a four month illness and was buried in the Ebony Cemetery in Mills County.
Conditions Governing Access
This collection is open for research.
Conditions Governing Use
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Immediate Source of Acquisition
Gift of Cherri Silcox. Legacy collection from Andrew Carroll.
Preferred Citation
[Item title, Box number, Folder number], Lola Cannon Pefley Second World War Correspondence (2017.013.w.r), Center for American War Letters Archives, Chapman University, CA.
Scope and Contents
This collection consists of correspondence from various soldiers to Lola Cannon Pefley during the Second World War. The collection also includes photographs, postcards, and newspaper clippings.
Arrangement
This collection is arranged by material type, author, and date. Series 1: Correspondence from Ben Morasco - Series 2: Correspondence from Edward C. Stewart - Series 3: Correspondence from John T. Harris -- Series 4: Correspondence from Edward Rivas -- Series 5: Correspondence from Chase E. Harlan -- Series 6: Correspondence from Lynn "Alfalfa" Wells -- Series 7: Correspondence from Various Authors -- Series 8: Newspaper Clippings -- Series 9: Photographs -- Series 10: Ephemera
Subjects and Indexing Terms
World War II
Correspondence -- World War, 1939-1945
World War, 1939-1945

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<th>Document Box</th>
<th>Series Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pefley</td>
<td>Series 1: Correspondence from Ben Morasco 1942-03-18-1946-02</td>
<td>Physical Description: .025 Linear Feet (1 Folder)</td>
<td>This series contains written correspondence from US Army, Pvt. Ben Morasco to Lola Cannon Pefley, which includes 20 written and typed correspondence, two postcards and one V-Mail, during the Second World War. The author sought information regarding mutual friends Graham, Doyle, Kent and Alfalfa. He continually asked if &quot;Red&quot; had been enlisted in the war. He wondered if men, like Red, would have to enlist when they would become 38 years old. He said he read that Congress may be changing that law but he wasn't sure. He wrote about how he felt that he didn't fit in well with infantry or artillery and wanted to be considered for quartermaster. He also reminisced about Camp Bowie, TX in which he stated, &quot;Bowie will always be 'Home Sweet Home' to me,&quot; (11-23-1942). He hoped to be discharged after his 100 day furlough due to his age. He was 38. In a letter dated 10-25-45, he states that he had gotten married that month on 10-19-44 to Jackie.</td>
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<td>Pefley</td>
<td>Series 2: Correspondence from Edward C. Stewart 1942-08-16-1946-01-28</td>
<td>Physical Description: .025 Linear Feet (1 Folder)</td>
<td>This series contains written correspondence from US Army, Lt. Edward C. Stewart to Lola Cannon Pefley during the Second World War, which includes 15 correspondence, one V-Mail during 1942-1946. The author wanted to know any information on their mutual friends &quot;Big Eddie,&quot; &quot;Black Eddie,&quot; Parker, and Chase Cunningham. He also spoke of the rationing of food that the US was involved during the war and how much he disliked coffee. He also agreed that Lola's thoughts on the war were correct, &quot;...absolutely right about the war and the attitude of the American people. We are head and shoulders above everyone else in common sense as well as our fighting ability and equipment,&quot; (7-22-43). He also thanked Lola for being able to keep track of all their friends' locations that they mutually knew.</td>
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<td>Pefley</td>
<td>Series 3: Correspondence from John T. Harris 1942-10-29-1943-01-30</td>
<td>Physical Description: .025 Linear Feet (1 Folder)</td>
<td>This series contains six written correspondence from US Marine Corp., PFC John T. Harris to Lola Cannon Pefley during the Second World War. The author wrote about their common friends, Ken and Jack. He wrote that he was nicknamed &quot;Tex&quot; or &quot;Rugged Texan.&quot; He wanted to know about Brownwood, TX and how much the city has grown.</td>
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<td>Pefley</td>
<td>Series 4: Correspondence from Edward Rivas 1942-08-30-1943-08-14</td>
<td>Physical Description: .025 Linear Feet (1 Folder)</td>
<td>This series contains written correspondence from US Army, Pvt. Edward Rivas, a.k.a. &quot;Black Eddie,&quot; to Lola Cannon Pefley during the Second World War, which includes six letters in this series. Correspondence about life in service and common friends. Enclosed is a song written that was in a letter, sung by the Australians when the American soldiers were stationed in Australia during the Second World War titled, &quot;When They Send The Last Yank Home.&quot; In a letter 09-24-42, the author spoke of him capturing his brother and he didn't know it was publicized until his sister told him in a letter. In a letter on 04-28-43, the author spoke briefly of the Aboriginal Australians and who they are. The envelope of this letter contained a quote on the flap, &quot;Via a low-winged, streamlined, flying machine with a jiving motor.&quot; He was also known for parachute jumping in the service.</td>
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Series 5: Correspondence from Chase E. Harlan 1943-05-18-1944-04-28

Physical Description: .025 Linear Feet(1 Folder)

Scope and Contents
This series contains written correspondence from US Army, S/Sgt. Chase E. Harlan, a.k.a "Squirt" and "Litle Eddie," to Lola Cannon Pefley during the Second World War. This series includes five letters and one V-Mail. He corresponded about Army life and some mutual friends, Big Eddie and Black Eddie. He writes about missing and enjoying the holidays with "the gang of the service club," (11-29-43). In the letter dated 09/01/43, he mentions an "interesting story of natives" from the South Pacific where he is stationed. He writes about a ritual on 15 year old boys and a delicacy enjoyed by the natives, "unhatched chickens." On 11-02-43, the author writes how he was passed up for a promotion and his disappointment with their decision for his hard work. A letter written on 12-03-1943 stated the news that he found out Black Eddie had passed on.

Series 6: Correspondence from Lynn "Alfalfa" Wells 1943-01-13-1946-01-13

Physical Description: .025 Linear Feet(1 Folder)

Scope and Contents
This series contains written correspondence from US Army, PFC Lynn "Alfalfa" Wells to Lola Cannon Pefley during the Second World War, which includes six letters and one V-Mail. Correspondence about mutual friends and how much he appreciated Lola writing to him. He briefly wrote about the big reunion of the 36.
Series 7: Correspondence from Various Authors 1928-05-13-1952-08-02

Physical Description: .025 Linear Feet(3 Folders)

Scope and Contents
This series contains three folders with written correspondence from various military soldiers to Lola Cannon Pefley during the Second World War, which includes correspondence from 1928-1952. This series contains 61 written correspondence, 12 V-Mail, 18 postcards, one holiday card and four addressed envelopes with no letter attached. Correspondence about life in service and mutual friends. Folder 7 - Letters to Margaret Thomas from Bell Chambers, 05-13-28 and 01-05-29 regarding work, school and gift exchanging. Letters from Sgt. Charles A. Cunningham (07-28-42), where he states to Lola Pefley, "I am happy to know that you keep in touch with so many of the boys and know they appreicaite it just as much as I do" and also, "On the serious side of the ledger, you find so little of your spiritual altruism being practiced any more. It is perhaps what we need more than anything else. It is a complete absence of it that makes our world the unsafe place that it is to live in and that makes for so much unhappiness," (09-08-42). Cpl. Ben L. Lewis wrote that he was able to interview General Persons in Louisiana after he had to find him "deep in the maneuver jungle" of training. He also spoke of meeting up with "old gal Gloria," drinking sherry and having an interlude with Gloria's mom, (09-25-42). Sgt. Kent Thornton wrote about a little not to Lola about being in the hospital for a few days and how mental depression seems "like a nightmare," (09-28-42). V-mail from Lafayette Newcome, commented to Lola that she never stated she was married, (11-11-42). Folder 8 - V-mail valentine drawing from Walter. A graduation card from Candidate Ed Beebe, Second Lieutenant US Army, (03-03-43). A letter from Cpl. George E. Thomas a.k.a. "Big Eddie," (05-12-43) and another one on 05-21-43 with an enclosed poem to Red, Lola's husband, titled "Chinese Talk." A V-Mail written by Cpl. W. H. Granham stated, "What do you think of the war news now? Isn't it good and just think how sad Hitler must be now. They are getting repaid for everything they started, and there is more to come here after, too," (05-16-43). Brief information was given about Lola writing a book from Cpl. James Rawlins Thompson, US Army, (07-21-43), and also on 08-27-43. Most letters spoke of the furloughs the soldiers were waiting for. Folder 9 - V-Mail from Lamar Conant, 02-08-44, spoke of Black Eddie’s death and how he was the first one to get to Black Eddie and how "He never suffered at all." He also stated that demotions were being issued to soldiers, incluing himself. A letter from Aunt Dixie, Big Eddie. Two letters from Sge. Vincent A. Aaron where he speaks of his malaria that he has in Italy, (01-17-45), and a soldier named "Smith" who was killed in an accident on Christmas Eve, 1944. Postcards received by friends.

Series 8: Newspaper Clippings 1942

Physical Description: .025 Linear Feet(1 Folder)

Scope and Contents
This series contains five newspaper clippings on soldiers that Lola Cannon Pefley had possession of during the Second World War. Only one of the clippings has a date: the story in The Star Telegram newspaper from May 14, 1942. Two other clippings provide a date but not the year: Jan. 3 and May 6 and were in an unidentified newspaper. The other three clippings included information about soldiers who were wounded, coming home, visitng family or had a new rank in their title.

Series 9: Photographs 1928-1952

Physical Description: .025 Linear Feet(1 Folder)

Scope and Contents
This series contains one undated photograph of a soldier at camp. This photograph was in possession of Lola Cannon Pefley during the Second World War. No letter was included with the photograph. A soldier is standing in the doorway of small building in his swimsuit or underwear. The image shows a make shift shower.
Series 10: Ephemera 1928-1952

Physical Description: .025 Linear Feet (1 Folder)

Scope and Contents

This series contain eight pieces of ephemeral items saved by Lola Cannon Pefley during the Second World War. Included are two stickers (Harold's Club, Reno); five picture postcards of Arizona; a drawing of a woman by Haskell Baker (Co.A,142 inf); a brochure from Southwestern Bell Telephone Company for Camp Howze, Texas; two holiday picture postcards from Ruby L. Couch and Caralyn. Also included is a song titled "Keep 'em Flying" composed by Jack B. Peterkin, Lt. Inf. A. f. and also, Phil "Agne" at Camp Bowie, 1941 and a typed up story about the "Dead End Kids," a group of soldiers who goofed off at camp, which included Alan and Buddy.