Inventory of the Paul Junji Toshima Collection SPC.2018.009

Danielle A Trujillo
California State University Dominguez Hills, Gerth Archives and Special Collections
2020-04-27
University Library South -5039 (Fifth Floor)
1000 E. Victoria St.
Carson, CA 90747
archives@csudh.edu
URL: https://www.csudh.edu/libarchives/
Contributing Institution: California State University Dominguez Hills, Gerth Archives and Special Collections
Title: Paul Junji Toshima Collection
Creator: Toshima, Paul Junji , 1930-2010
Identifier/Call Number: SPC.2018.009
Physical Description: 1 box
Date (inclusive): 1942-1953
Abstract: The Paul Junji Toshima collection consists of four photograph albums primarily related to the Korean War and a painting of an incarceration camp.
Scope and Contents
The Paul Junji Toshima Collection (1942-1953) contains 640 photographs and a painting belonging to Paul Junji Toshima. The bulk of the photographs were taken during the Korean War when Toshima served in a military intelligence unit. The images within the albums include photographs of Prisoners of War and the shelters they were held, secret military mission code-named Operation Little Switch, a variety of photographs of the truce talks and switching of Prisoners of War on both sides, an 8x10 inch photograph of a captured communist platoon leader and 12 pieces of propaganda- two of which are attached to reports with translations and interpretations. The collection also includes a handwritten chart listing all officers and enlisted men; photographs of high ranking military and government officials including Far East Commander and Chief General Mark Clak and Secretary of Defense Anna Rosenberg; photographs of the landscape and signs along the 38th parallel; and an image of the President of South Korea Sygman Rhee and his wife. Additional photographs include Tokyo, Japan; Seoul, Korea in 1953; government buildings; shrines; bombed neighborhoods; rural scenes and farm life; and a photograph taken in November 1953 of Hiroshima, Japan.
The collection also contains an original painting of an incarceration camp and an original photograph of children at an incarceration camp.
Biographical / Historical
Paul Junji Toshima (1930-2010) was a Japanese American soldier who served in a special military intelligence unit. Toshima was a lifelong resident of Alhambra, California, and was among the Nisei (second-generation Japanese Americans) officers and soldiers who made vital contributions during the Korean War by operating behind enemy lines as interrogators, translators, and message interceptors. Toshima was the unofficial documentarian of his unit. Many of the photographs within the collection are hand-annotated, and the albums are signed yearbook style by the men he served with.
Conditions Governing Use
All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Director of Archives and Special Collections. Permission for publication is given on behalf of Special Collections as the owner of the physical materials and not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained.
Preferred Citation
[title of item] Paul Junji Toshima Collection, Courtesy of the Gerth Archives and Special Collections. California State University, Dominguez Hills.
Conditions Governing Access
There are no access restrictions on this collection.
Related Materials
This collection is part of the California State University Japanese American Digitization Project. For more information: CSU
Japanese American Digitization Project.
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Japanese American soldiers -- History -- 20th century
Japanese Americans
Korean War, 1950-1953
Japanese Americans -- Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945
**Album 1 1952**

*Scope and Contents*
This album consists of black and white photographs taken of 523rd Military Intelligence Service Company in Korea. Included are photographs of Prisoners of War, service members, and landscape images of the 38th parallel.

**Album 2 and Propaganda Items 1952-1953**


*Scope and Contents*
This album includes photographs of soldiers upon the USS General Mann, Japan, South Korea, and servicemen; propaganda in English and Japanese; and newspaper clippings regarding the Korean War. It also includes twelve propaganda items, two of which are translations and interpretations. The leaflets written in English are targeted towards African American soldiers.

**Album 3 1952-1953**

*Scope and Contents*
This album contains photographs of the 2nd Republic of Korea Division, servicemen, landscapes, the center of the Atomic bomb blast in Hiroshima, Japan; Mount Fuji; and South Korean soldiers. It also includes yearbook-style inscriptions to Toshima from fellow servicemen and news clippings.

**Album 4 1953**


*Scope and Contents*
This album contains photographs of Seoul, Korea's buildings, shrines, landscapes, bombings; anti-communist protests; servicemen; farm life; the 38th parallel; as well as yearbook-style inscriptions to Toshima.

**Individual Photographs 1942**


*Scope and Contents*
Individual items include photographs of planes flying over Mount Fuji; a 16x12 painting of a World War II incarceration camp; and a photo of children at a World War II incarceration camp.