Finding aid for the Norio Mitsuoka Papers

Collection number: 97.308

Japanese American National Museum
Los Angeles, California

Processed by:
Lauren Zuchowski
Date Completed:
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Encoded by:
Lauren Zuchowski

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Norio Mitsuoka papers
Dates: 1936-1984
Bulk Dates: 1940-1945
Collection number: 97.308
Creator: Mitsuoka, Norio, 1917-2010
Collection Size: 1.25 linear feet, 2 oversized newspapers, 16 artifacts
Repository: Japanese American National Museum (Los Angeles, Calif.)
Los Angeles, California 90012
Abstract: Norio Mitsuoka (1917-2010) was discharged from the Air Corps following Pearl Harbor and was subsequently incarcerated in Minidoka, where he worked at the fire station. This collection is largely comprised of letters sent to Norio from friends who were incarcerated or serving in the 442nd Infantry Regiment. It also includes government documents, photographs, Norio's postcard collection, and materials related to his work at the canneries before the World War II.
Physical location: Japanese American National Museum 100 North Central Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90012
Access
By appointment only. Please Contact the Collections Management and Access Unit by email (collections@janm.org) or telephone (213-830-5615).
Publication Rights
All requests for permission to publish, reproduce, or quote from materials in this collection must be submitted to the Hirasaki National Resource Center at the Japanese American National Museum (collections@janm.org).
Preferred Citation
Acquisition Information
Biography / Administrative History
Norio Mitsuoka was born in the Seattle, Washington area in 1917. He graduated from Garfield High School in the Seattle Public Schools district. Mitsuoka worked at a cannery as an oysterman along the coast of Alaska after high school. Mitsuoka enlisted in the Air Corps on September 17, 1941. In December 1942 Mitsuoka was attending the Weather Observer’s course at Chanute Field in Illinois. Upon graduation Mitsuoka was assigned to Merced Basic Flying Field in January 1942, bringing him to the Western Defense Council with General John L. Dewitt. Dewitt was best known as a key-figure leading up to the incarceration of Japanese Americans and his vocal support on the matter.
On February 17, 1942 Mitsuoka was transferred to the Enlisted Reserve Corp and taken off active duty under a provision called “For the Convenience of the Government”. Once he was processed out Mitsuoka hitch-hiked from Merced to Los Angeles. After spending around a week in the Little Tokyo area he bought a bus ticket to San Francisco and then Sacramento. His original plan was to visit the Army Headquarters in San Francisco to see what could be done about his transfer to the Reserves but during the bus ride decided to continue on to Sacramento without stopping. Mitsuoka
continued to hitch-hike from Sacramento to Portland, Oregon where he met up with his friend Richard Murakami. Together, they drove to Seattle, Washington, where Mitsuoka stayed until evacuation began.

After arriving in Seattle, Mitsuoka stayed with the Yorozu family and assisted with their gardening business while waiting for news from the government. Eventually, Mitsuoka helped families store their belongings in parts of their homes or the Buddhist Church before leaving for the incarceration camps. On May 9, 1942 Mitsuoka and other families gathered at Collins playground and boarded buses that took them to Puyallup Fairgrounds. Mitsuoka was eventually incarcerated at Minidoka, Idaho and served as the chief of the Fire Department during his time at camp.


Scope and Content of Collection
This collection helps paint a narrative of young men in their early twenties before, during, and after World War II. Perhaps the most illuminating items in the collection are the letters sent to Norio between 1936 and 1984. Pre-war letters often discuss Norio’s work with Kadiak Fisheries in Alaska, regularly thanking him for sending oysters. Letters dated between 1941 and 1945 offer insights into camp life, the draft, and the war. The letters represent an interesting variety of World War II experiences as Norio himself worked as a firefighter in Minidoka and some letters are written from female friends at other concentration camps or his male friends serving in the 442nd Infantry Regiment. Even after Norio left Minidoka he continued to receive letters from those who stayed behind until the camp closed. Letters after 1945 tell more of relocation and adjustment to life outside of the camps or European tours with the 442nd following the war’s end. These letters are particularly important because they reflect not only the male and female Nisei perspective but also the camp and soldier experiences as well.

Although the collection is largely comprised of letters and holiday cards sent to Norio, there is also much value in the official documents that help tell the story of Norio’s service in the army and work with the canneries. There is also a small collection of photographs that seem to have been mailed to Norio from his scattered group of friends during the war years. Coupled with the various artifacts from Norio’s service in the armed forces, it is possible to piece together the very different experiences of a young group of friends during the war.

Arrangement
Items have been arranged chronologically when applicable with undated materials at the end of each series.

Series 1 : Letters to Norio Mitsuoka
Series 2: Holiday Cards to Norio Mitsuoka
Series 3: Postcard Collection
Series 4: Official Documents
Subseries 1: Government
Subseries 2: Cannery Workers and Farm Labor Union
Series 5: Photographs
Series 6: Miscellaneous
Series 7: Artifacts

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library’s online public access catalog.

Mitsuoka, Norio, 1917-2010
Japanese Americans
United State. Army
Minidoka Relocation Center
World War II
Cannery Workers and Farm Laborers Union
United States. Army. Air Corps
United States. Army. Infantry Regiment, 442nd
Minidoka (Idaho)
Hunt (Idaho)
Letters to Norio Mitsuoka 1936-1984

Physical Description: 0.65 Linear feet
General Physical Description note: 49 folders with 132 letters total.

Scope and Contents note
Letters sent to Norio Mitsuoka from his friends all over the world. The bulk of the letters occur during World War II from friends incarcerated in concentration camps or serving with the 442nd Infantry Regiment.

Box 1, Folder 1  
August 1936
General Physical Description note: 1 letter.
Scope and Contents note
One letter sent on August 25, 1936 from his sister. Includes item numbered 97.308.17.

Box 1, Folder 2  
September 1936
General Physical Description note: 2 letters
Scope and Contents note
One letter sent on September 18, 1936 from Stella (97.308.18A-B) and one letter dated September 29, 1936 from Mas Nakashima (97.308.19A-B). Includes items numbered 97.308.18A-.19B.

Box 1, Folder 3  
November 1936
General Physical Description note: 2 letters.
Scope and Contents note
One letter sent on November 13, 1936 from Henry Yorozu (97.308.20A-B) and one letter dated November 22, 1936 from [W. Masuda] (97.308.21A-B). Includes items numbered 97.308.20A-.21B.

Box 1, Folder 4  
January 1937
General Physical Description note: 1 letter.
Scope and Contents note
One letter dated January 17, 1937 from Mas Nakashima. Includes items numbered 97.308.22A-B.

Box 1, Folder 5  
February 1937
General Physical Description note: 1 letter.
Scope and Contents note
One letter dated February 3, 1937 from Hiroshi Watanabe. Includes items numbered 97.308.23A-B.

Box 1, Folder 6  
March 1938
General Physical Description note: 1 letter.
Scope and Contents note
One letter dated March 27, 1938 from Masa Yoshimura. Includes items numbered 97.308.24A-B.
Box 1, Folder 7  
**December 1938**

*General Physical Description note:* 1 letter.

*Scope and Contents note*

One letter dated December 1, 1938 from [Geo] Okamoto about his father’s upcoming trip to Japan. Includes item numbered 97.308.25A-B.

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Box 1, Folder 8  
**April 1939**

*General Physical Description note:* 1 letter.

*Scope and Contents note*

One letter dated April 25, 1939 from “Sox” with details of Norio’s family in Japan. Includes items numbered 97.308.26A-B.

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Box 1, Folder 9  
**August 1939**

*General Physical Description note:* 2 letters.

*Scope and Contents note*

One letter dated August 15, 1939 from “E.R.” with a joke survey (97.308.27A-B). One letter dated August 24, 1939 from Mary Hirasawa (97.308.28A-B). Includes items numbered 97.308.27A-B.

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Box 1, Folder 10  
**September 1939**

*General Physical Description note:* 5 letters.

*Scope and Contents note*

Letter from Henry Yorozu dated September 15, 1939 about his sister’s upcoming trip to Japan (97.308.29A-B). Letter from George (Geo M. Nakao.) dated September 16, 1939 discussing George’s job at the mill, a girl he likes, and the stomach flu (97.308.30A-B). Letter from [Hisaka] dated September 16, 1939 about Lily Yorozu’s trip to Japan and general life updates (97.308.31A-B). Letter from Lily Yorozu postmarked September 16, 1939 about her upcoming trip to Japan and what Norio would like her to bring to his mother (97.308.32A-B). Letter from “Sox” about Lily Yorozu’s goodbye party (97.308.32A-B). Includes items numbered 97.308.29A-B.

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Box 1, Folder 11  
**October 1939**

*General Physical Description note:* 3 letters.

*Scope and Contents note*

Letter from George Nakao dated October 5, 1939 in which he discusses work at the mill, making progress with a girl’s parents, and feeling depressed (97.308.34A-B). Letter from Mas Nakashima dated October 6, 1939 about Mas’ move from Tacoma, Washington to Los Angeles, California as well as his visit to Japan to visit his parents (97.308.35A-B). Another letter from George Nakao dated October 26, 1939 about how work has gotten him blue (97.308.36A-B).

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Box 1, Folder 12  
**November 1939**

*General Physical Description note:* 5 letters.

*Scope and Contents note*

Letter from George Nakao dated November 2, 1939 about girls and work (97.308.37A-B). Letter from E.L. Chambers, student director at Aero Industries Technical Institute, dated November 3, 1939 about how Norio cannot be accepted to the program because he is not white (97.308.38A-B). Another letter from E.L. Chambers dated November 16, 1939 with recommendations for Norio’s future aviation education (97.308.39A-B). Letter from Lily Yorozu dated November 18, 1939 about how her family wants Norio to visit them for Thanksgiving (97.308.40A-B). Letter from Lily Yorozu postmarked November 224, 1939 about religion (97.308.41A-B). Includes items numbered 97.308.37A-97.308.41B.
November 1939

General Physical Description note: 1 letter.
Scope and Contents note
One letter from George Nakao dated November 14, 1939 about the recent earthquake and his troubles finding a job. George describes how his adviser suggested he just go back to Japan because he won’t be considered for jobs in the U.S. but he feels better because some of the white kids with better grades than his also haven’t gotten jobs either. He also gives Norio technical generator advice. Includes items numbered 97.308.67A-B.

December 1939

General Physical Description note: 4 letters.
Scope and Contents note
One letter from George Nakao dated December 2, 1939 about how bored he is and how he should give the gossips something to talk about. Also writes about how they should go into business together (97.308.42A-B). One letter from Lily Yorozu dated December 3, 1939 about her recent church activities and her sister’s upcoming trip to Japan (97.308.43A-B). One letter from [Hisaka] dated December 19, 1939 about how he is not working after fracturing his leg (97.308.44A-B). One letter from Hiroshi Watanabe dated December 19, 1939 and briefly discusses current affairs in Europe and thanking Norio for the oysters (97.308.45A-B). Includes items numbered 97.308.42A-.45B.

1939

General Physical Description note: 1 letter.
Language of Materials note: Japanese
Scope and Contents note
One letter written in Japanese. Includes items numbered 97.308.46A-B.

February 1940

General Physical Description note: 2 letters.
Scope and Contents note
One letter sent from [Fran] Yonago dated February 21, 1940 about her time in Japan (97.308.47A-B). One letter from George [Najiri] dated February 28, 1940 about the mill closing for two weeks and trying to get together for skiing (97.308.48A-B). Includes items numbered 97.308.47A-48B.

March 1940

General Physical Description note: 1 letter.
Scope and Contents note
One wedding invitation to the wedding of Emiko Nakao and Kazuo Kimoshita on March 19, 1940 (97.308.49A-B). Includes items numbered 97.308.49A-B.

April 1940

General Physical Description note: 2 letters.
Scope and Contents note
One letter from Hiroshi dated April 24, 1940 with a general life update (97.308.50A-B). One letter from George Nakao dated April 29, 1940 about his draft number (97.308.51A-B). Includes items numbered 97.308.50A-51B.
May 1940

General Physical Description note: 2 letters.
Scope and Contents note
One letter from George Nakao dated May 13, 1940 about their recent visit and someone in Seattle who is drying wasabi to send to Japanese soldiers. The letter includes a picture of George skiing. (97.308.52A-B). One letter from Mary [Hirasawa] dated May 30, 1940 about her work picking berries, how tan she is, and her new hair style. She also asks Norio his opinions on marriage (97.308.53A-B).

June 1940

General Physical Description note: 2 letters.
Scope and Contents note
One letter from Lily Yorozu dated June 11, 1940 catching Norio up about her life (97.308.54A-B). One letter from Mary [Yorozu] dated June 12, 1940 thanking Norio for showing her around in Seattle and telling him about how hot it is in Spokane, Washington (97.308.55A-B). Includes items numbered 97.308.54A-55B.

July 1940

General Physical Description note: 2 letters.
Scope and Contents note
One letter from Libby McNeill dated July 17, 1940 (97.308.56A). One letter from Henry [Matsuro] dated July 25, 1940 updating Norio about a new cannery job that he began recently (97.308.57A-B). Includes items numbered 97.308.56A-.57B.

August 1940

General Physical Description note: 1 letter.
Scope and Contents note
One letter from George Nakao dated August 5, 1940 talking about Norio’s luck with ladies and how he was placed on the eligible list for the draft. Includes items numbered 97.308.58A-B.

September 1940

General Physical Description note: 2 letters.
Scope and Contents note
One letter from Turk Fujiye dated September 7, 1940 about Norio’s good luck with women and his trip back to Seattle. Turk also talks about the slow work in the past oyster season (97.308.59A). One letter from George Nakao dated September 10, 1940 about Norio working in Yakima, their opinions on country versus city girls, and whether or not he will go to Japan (97.308.60A-B). Includes items numbered 97.308.59A-60B.
Box 1, Folder 23  October 1940
General Physical Description note: 6 letters.
Scope and Contents note
One letter from George [Nakao] dated October 1, 1940 about waiting for his passport to
arrive (97.308.61A-B). One letter from George Nakao dated October 7, 1940 about how
he never got his passport and will not be going to Japan but received a letter from the
navy asking if he was interested in a position (97.308.62A-B). One letter from [Matsuko]
dated October 14, 1940 thanking Norio for the oysters and giving him a general update
about life (97.308.63A-B). One letter from Turk dated October 23, 1940 mostly about girls
but also mentions the draft towards the end of the letter (97.308.64A-B). One letter from
George Nakao dated October 27, 1940 about his first ski of the season and if the draft
doesn’t “get” both of them they will have a great skiing season that winter. He also talks
about the cancellation of his sister’s passport and how she couldn’t sail to Japan and how
unsure he is about the future (97.308.65A-B). One letter from [Art Nakamura] dated
October 29, 1940 asking Norio about any jobs he may know of in his area (97.308.66A-B).
Includes items numbered 61A-66B.

Box 1, Folder 25  May 1941
General Physical Description note: 2 letters.
Scope and Contents note
One letter from John [Matsudania] postmarked May 26, 1941 about how his father is
wondering if Norio is leaving for the cannery with crew 1 or crew 2 (97.308.68A-B). One
postcard postmarked May 26, 1941 with information about Port Bailey crews and offering
Norio his previous job if he wants it (97.308.69). Includes items numbered 61A-69.

Box 1, Folder 26  November 1941
General Physical Description note: 1 item.
Scope and Contents note
One stamp booklet mailed to Norio from the Japanese American Courier, postmarked
November 25, 1941 (97.308.70A-B). Includes items numbered 97.308.70A-B.

Box 1, Folder 27  March 1942
General Physical Description note: 3 letters.
Scope and Contents note
One letter from J.R. Gabriel dated March 11, 1942 about life in Texas at the Air Corps
Advanced Flying School (97.308.71A-B). One letter from Ray Glassco (signed “George”)
dated March 17, 1942 about how “George” passed his qualification test for the Third
Weather Squadron and will be leaving for Chanute [Kansas] in a week (97.308.72A-B).
One letter from Chiye Sugar Sato (signed Sugar) dated March 24, 1942.
Sugar tells Norio how sorry she is that he was discharged from the army and how unfair
the Isseis and Niseis have been treated by the government. She also explains her
nickname, “Sugar” (97.308.73A-B). Includes items numbered 97.308.71A-73B.

Box 1, Folder 28  May 1942
General Physical Description note: 2 letters.
Scope and Contents note
One letter from Pat dated May 23, 1942 asking about how Norio is doing (97.308.74A-B).
One postcard postmarked May 1, 1942 and May 26, 1942 (97.308.75). Includes items
numbered 97.308.74A-75.
November 1944
General Physical Description note: 1 letter.
Scope and Contents note
One letter from Roy dated November 27, 1944 telling Norio about his move to Chicago and asking about camp life (97.308.76A-B). Includes items numbered 97.308.76A-B.

December 1944
General Physical Description note: 1 letter.
Scope and Contents note
One letter from Tooru Hideshima dated December 24, 1944. Tooru writes from Crystal City about his intellectual struggles of both secular and religious perplexities (97.308.77A-B). Includes items numbered 97.308.77A-B.

February 1945
General Physical Description note: 2 letters.
Scope and Contents note

March 1945
General Physical Description note: 1 letter.
Scope and Contents note
One letter dated March 7, 1945 about life after camp, encouraging Norio to try to get out (97.308.79A-B). Includes items numbered 97.308.79A-B.

May 1945
General Physical Description note: 1 letter.
Language of Materials note: Japanese
Scope and Contents note
One letter in Japanese postmarked May 16, 1945 (97.308.80A-B). Includes items numbered 97.308.80A-B.

July 1945
General Physical Description note: 2 letters.
Scope and Contents note
One letter from Masaru Odoi dated July 15, 1945 about seeing the world with the 44nd after Germany’s surrender (97.308.81A-B). One letter from [Toru] dated July 23, 1945. The letter thanks Norio for pictures from camp and of the fire department and discusses Norio’s provost marshal’s clearance (97.308.82A-B). Includes items numbered 97.308.81A-.82B.
August 1945

General Physical Description note: 10 letters.

Scope and Contents note

One postcard from Shiro Iwana while in Heidelberg, Germany with the 522nd. The postcard is dated August 11, 1945 and about his recent trips to Luxemburg and Belgium. He talks about how Heidelberg was intact but its neighboring town (Heilbronn, Germany) was flattened like he’d never seen before (97.308.83). One letter from Shiro Iwana from a different German town about his travels throughout Europe and V-J Day, dated August 14, 1945 (97.308.84A-B). One letter from Shira Iwana (August 15, 1945) about V-J Day, hearing the radio broadcasts from New York and Chicago about Japan’s surrender, and his hopes to be home by Christmas time (97.308.85A-B). One letter from [Dango] dated August 16, 1945 about how he expects to head home soon and asks Norio to tell his father not to worry about him (97.308.86A-B). One letter from Tad [Sato] (August 21, 1945) about how he is learning to repair cameras at present time but hasn’t learned much about photography (97.308.87A-B). One letter from [Chicke] date August 23, 1945 asking Norio if he plans to stay at Minidoka until they officially close the date and reflecting on the relocation process and camp memories (97.308.88.A-B). One telegram from Bob Nakao (August 26, 1945) about how it is okay for Norio to come but to write the exact time and date of arrival (97.308.89). One letter from [Toru] dated August 27, 1945 with advice about class registration for Norio and making general arrangements for his arrival in Seattle (97.308.90A-B). One letter from [Dango] dated August 31, 1945 about his recent rest in Venice (97.308.91A-B). One postcard from Shiro Iwana dated August 31, 1945 about his living conditions in Mertingen, Germany (97.308.92). Includes items numbered 97.308.83-92.
September 1945

General Physical Description note: 18 letters.
Scope and Contents note
One letter from [Aimey Sakaguchi] dated September 5, 1945 about her family’s return home from camp and the community’s reactions to Japanese Americans. The letter also discusses her job working for the Federal Public Housing Authority in Seattle (97.308.93A-B). One letter from ‘Bosco’ Yoshi Ukada postmarked September 6, 1945. Bosco details his arrival in Chicago after having a difficult journey on the train (97.308.94A-B). One letter from [Noburu] Nakamura dated September 7, 1945 asking Norio to tell the boys at the fire station he just arrived and hasn’t had time to do anything yet (97.308.95A-B). One letter from [Dango] postmarked September 8, 1945 (97.308.96A-B). One letter from [Dango] dated September 15, 1945 asking Norio about camp and giving him a brief update (97.308.97A-B). One letter from Masaru Odoi dated September 17, 1945 from Livorno, Italy. He describes working at regimental headquarters and how the 442nd is slowly getting more honors. The letter concludes by Masaru asking if Norio is still at camp and advising him to pave the way for other Nisei men to get jobs by setting a good example rather than giving the government a hard time (97.308.98A-B). One letter from Dango dated September 18, 1945 about how he hopes this will be his last letter from Italy before heading home (97.308.99A-B). One postcard from Shiro Iwana dated September 18, 1945 about his visit to Salzburg, Austria (97.308.100). One letter from [Amy] dated September 21, 1945 (97.308.101A-B). One letter from Father Joe at The Church of the Holy Apostles in Hunt, Idaho dated September 22, 1945 about Norio’s new life outside of Minidoka (97.308.102A-B). One postcard from Tak dated September 22, 1945 about leaving camp and traveling to Portland, Oregon with Bob (97.308.103). One postcard from Tak dated September 24, 1945 about reading Seattle and staying with the Okamoto family (97.308.104). One letter from Tad Fujihira dated September 24, 1945 (97.308.105A-B). One letter dated September 24, 1945 from Helen and Elmer at The Church of the Holy Apostles in Hunt, Idaho (97.308.106A-B). One letter from Amy dated September 24, 1945 (97.308.107A-B). One letter from Tadashi Sato dated September 25, 1945 about his surprise to hear that Norio relocated to East Lansing, Michigan but happy that he is taking advantage of the G.I. Bill to go to school (97.308.108A-B). One postcard from Amy dated September 26, 1945 from Minidoka about Father Joe (97.308.109). One V-mail from [Dango] dated September 27, 1945 about how he is still in Italy but waiting to be sent home (97.308.110). Includes items numbered 97.308.93A-.110.

October 1945

General Physical Description note: 12 letters.
Scope and Contents note
November 1945

General Physical Description note: 11 letters.
Scope and Contents note

December 1945

General Physical Description note: 5 letters.
Scope and Contents note
One letter from Masaru Odoi dated December 4, 1945 about how it sounds like Norio may be in love and that Masaru is taking classes on sociology, philosophy, and art at the G.I University in Florence, Italy (97.308.135A-B). One letter from Shiro Iwana dated December 21, 1945 with an update on his travels since rejoining the 522nd (97.308.136A-B). One letter from Masaru Odoi dated December 22, 1945 describing his trip with Horoshi to Switzerland (97.308.137A-B). One holiday letter dated Christmas 1945 from J. Kitagawa with a general update of his work after leaving Minidoka in October 1945 (97.308.138A-B). One letter from Tooru Hideshima dated December 29, 1945 discussing the amount of Japanese Americans in Crystal City leaving for Japan (97.308.155A-B). Includes items numbered 97.308.135A-.138B and 97.308.155A-B.

c. 1945

General Physical Description note: 1 letter.
Scope and Contents note
One postcard from Shiro Iwana about his 7 day tour of Switzerland. This postcard was most likely mailed in December 1945, corresponding with Masaru Odoi’s tour of Switzerland (97.308.139). Includes item numbered 97.308.139.

January 1945

General Physical Description note: 4 letters.
Scope and Contents note
March 1946

General Physical Description note: 2 letters.
Scope and Contents note
One letter from Yoshiko O. postmarked March 1, 1946 thanking Norio for sending stamps and pictures. He also updates Norio on his most recent report card (97.308.144A-B). One thank-you card from Hatsuko dated March 4, 1946 (97.308.145A-B). Includes items numbered 97.308.144A-.145B.

March 1947

General Physical Description note: 1 letter.
Scope and Contents note
One letter from Amy dated March 19, 1947 about how she is now living with her parents (97.308.146A-B). Includes items numbered 97.308.146A-B.

June 1948

General Physical Description note: 1 letter.
Scope and Contents note
One letter from Vic dated June 12, 1948 (97.308.147A-B). Includes items numbered 97.308.147A-B.

October 1948

General Physical Description note: 1 letter.
Scope and Contents note
One letter from Bob dated October 13, 1948 in which he discusses cousins (97.308.148A-B). Includes items numbered 97.308.148A-B.

December 1953

General Physical Description note: 2 letters.
Scope and Contents note
One letter from Gordon [G.M. Minnomo] dated December 27, 1956 telling Norio that he has a good looking family and how he can’t believe that Norio has a six year old child (97.308.149A-B). One letter from Gordon [G.M. Minnomo] dated December 31, 1948 asking for an update on Norio’s life since he is a married man now (97.308.150A-B). Includes items numbered 97.308.149A-.150B.

January 1958

General Physical Description note: 1 letter.
Scope and Contents note

November 1984

General Physical Description note: 1 letter.
Scope and Contents note
One letter from W.P. Collins of Del E. Webb Construction Services Company dated November 2, 1984. The letter is responded to an inquiry made by Norio about a construction project at Poston, Arizona. Includes items numbered 97.308.152A-B.
Box 2, Folder 13  
**Undated**

General Physical Description note: 2 letters.

Scope and Contents note
One postcard from Lily Yorozu with an update of when she will be seeing Norio’s family in Japan (97.308.153). One card from Amy with a letter thanking Norio (97.308.154A-B). Includes items 97.308.153-.154B.

**Holiday Cards to Norio Mitsuoka 1936-1947**

General Physical Description note: 9 folders.

Scope and Contents note
Collection of holiday cards sent to Norio Mitsuoka between 1936 and 1947, with the bulk of the collection being from 1945.

Box 2, Folder 14  
**1936**

General Physical Description note: 1 card.

Scope and Contents note
One holiday card from Yoshio Sakahashi. Includes items numbered 97.308.155A-B.

Box 2, Folder 15  
**1938**

General Physical Description note: 8 cards.

Scope and Contents note
Holiday cards from Takeuchi, the [Aieo] family, Mas [Yanguachi], Mr. and Mrs. R.Y. Nakao and children, Hisato Yano, Mr. Harry R. Hata, Hiroshi Kanazawa, and Mars Uchimura. Includes items numbered 97.308.156A-.163B.

Box 2, Folder 16  
**1939**

General Physical Description note: 2 cards.

Scope and Contents note
Holiday cards from Dorothy and Ruth, and Hisato Yano. Includes items numbered 97.308.164A-.165B.

Box 2, Folder 17  
**1945**

General Physical Description note: 8 cards.

Scope and Contents note
Holiday cards from Toru Araki, Jane Okamoto, Pete, Eddie [Nabuye], Tad (Tadashi) Sato, ‘Bosco’ Yosh Akada, [Chihio], and “Socks” Okamoto. Includes items numbered 97.308.166A-173B.

Box 2, Folder 18  
**1945**

General Physical Description note: 8 cards.

Scope and Contents note
Holiday cards from Dango [Matsui], Mr. and Mrs. K. Sato and family, Amy, Yoshiko Okamoto, Roy, Bob S., Mr. and Mrs. S. Nakao, and [Gene]. Includes items numbered 97.308.174A-181B.

Box 2, Folder 19  
**1945**

General Physical Description note: 8 cards.

Scope and Contents note
Holiday cards from Tooru Hideshima, the Fajima family (Geo, Hon, Sumi, and Wayne), [Michiko], Mr. and Mrs. G. [Tanemura], Tak, Mr. and Mrs. M. Shibata, Mr. and Mrs. William S. Yorozu, and the Okamoto family. Includes items numbered 97.308.182A-.189B.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 2, Folder 20</th>
<th><strong>1945</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Physical Description note: 8 cards.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scope and Contents note</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holiday cards from Helen, [Jeannie Aya], Mr. and Mrs. M Nakata, Roy Okamoto, Richard Murakami and family, and Amy S. Two cards are unsigned. Includes items 97.308.190A-197B.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Box 2, Folder 21</th>
<th><strong>1947</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Physical Description note: 1 card.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Contents note</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holiday card (without envelope) from the students, faculty, and staff of the Army Language School. Includes item numbered 97.308.198.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 2, Folder 22</th>
<th><strong>Undated</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Physical Description note: 4 cards.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Contents note</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four blank holiday cards that have not been signed and do not have envelopes. Includes items 97.308.199-202.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Postcard Collection**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 3, Folder 1</th>
<th><strong>Futamiguara</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Physical Description note: 19 items.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Contents note</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 unused postcards of Futamigaura beach in Japan with the original envelope that held the postcards. Includes items numbered 97.308.203A-S.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 3, Folder 2</th>
<th><strong>Nippon</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Physical Description note: 9 items.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Contents note</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 unused postcards with the original envelope that held the postcards. Each postcard says &quot;Ise is the only country in Nippon where the people visits and worships at the Kotajingu&quot; in both English and Japanese. Includes items numbered 97.308.204A-I.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 3, Folder 3</th>
<th><strong>Nara</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Physical Description note: 9 items.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Contents note</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 unused postcards of the Todai-ji temple complex in Nara, Japan with the original envelope that held the postcards. Includes images of the Daibutsu temple, a bronze statue of Buddha, Tengaimon, Okane, the Akasgarbha-Bodhisattva in the Daibutsu temple, a passageway at the foot of a column in the complex, an aerial view of Daibutsu temple, and the Tamonten in Daibutsu temple. Includes items numbered 97.308.205A-I.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 3, Folder 4</th>
<th><strong>Nagoya</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Physical Description note: 9 items.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Contents note</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 unused postcards of the Edo period Nagoya Castle in central Japan with the original envelope that held the postcards. Includes items numbered 97.308.206A-I.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Box 3, Folder 5  
**N.Y.K. Liners**  
General Physical Description note: 3 items.  
Scope and Contents note  
Two color postcard depicting N.Y.K. Liners, and a white N.Y.K. envelope that held them. One postcard depicts the children’s room on the N.Y.K. Liners with a nun supervising activities (97.308.207A). The other postcard depicts couples dancing on the decks of N.Y.K. Liners (97.308.207B). Includes items numbered 97.308.207A-C.

**Official Documents 1941-1948**  
General Physical Description note: 3 folders.

**Government 1941-1948**  
General Physical Description note: 2 folders.

Box 3, Folder 6  
**W.R.A. 1945**  
General Physical Description note: 6 items.  
Scope and Contents note  
Multiple items mailed to Norio from the War Relocation Authority: one copy of the War Relocation Evacuee Property Report (97.308.208A), one copy of the War Relocation Authority Request for Storage of Property (97.308.208B), one copy of Administrative Notice No. 264 (97.308.208C), one copy of a receipt to the War Relocation Authority from Norio in regards to the property listed in the Evacuee Property Report (97.308.208D), one memorandum addressed to Norio in regards to his Evacuee Property Report (97.308.208E), one envelope addressed to Norio in Hunt, Idaho (97.308.208F). Includes items numbered 97.308.208A-F.

Box 3, Folder 7  
**United States Army 1941-1948**  
General Physical Description note: 9 items.  
Scope and Contents note  
One request for permission to attend a Japanese movie signed by Ronald T. Chagami (97.308.209), one permit of local board for registrant to depart from the United States (97.308.210), one visitation pass from the Office of the Provost Marshal of the Metropolitan Tokyo area (97.308.211), one assignment card and meal ticket for Norio (97.308.212), one ration card for the eighth army exchange (97.308.213), one ticket stub for a train ride from Osaka from Hiroshima (97.308.214), one ticket stub for a train ride from Kyoto to Tokyo (97.308.215), one ticket stub for a train ride from Hiroshima to Osaka (97.308.216), one ticket stub for a train ride from Osaka to Tokyo (97.308.217). Includes items numbered 97.308.209-.217.

**Cannery Workers and Farm Labor Union 1941**  
General Physical Description note: 1 folder.

Box 3, Folder 8  
**1941**  
General Physical Description note: 3 items.  
Scope and Contents note  
One certification for Norio’s health (97.308.218), one clearance working card for Kadiak Fisheries in Shearwater, Alaska (97.308.219), one Cannery Workers & Farm Laborers Union that included multiple photographs of Norio and one note slipped into the plastic casing (97.308.220). Includes items numbered 97.308.218-.220.
Photographs Undated

General Physical Description note: 1 folder
Scope and Contents note
Unidentified photographs most likely sent to Norio Mitsuoka with the letter collection. There is a total of 11 photographs.

Box 3, Folder 9  ca. 1930-1950

General Physical Description note: 11 items.
Scope and Contents note
One photograph of an unidentified American soldier in front of a Nazi plane. The photograph has a note on the back to Norio but is unsigned. Dated April 1945 (97.308.221). Another photograph of the same unidentified American soldier travelling through Germany in April 1945. The soldiers are travelling by tanks. (97.308.222). Two images on one sheet of paper showing two Japanese American men in what looks like a kitchen or mess hall (97.308.223). One photograph of four unidentified men (97.308.223). One photograph of men in acrobatic poses (97.308.225). One photograph of two unidentified men (97.308.226). One portrait of an unidentified girl. The photograph has illegible writing on it (97.308.227). One photograph of a water tower (97.308.228). One photograph of four unidentified men (97.308.230). One photograph of a landscape with a water tower and barracks (97.308.230). One photograph of a landscape with barracks (97.308.231). Includes items numbered 97.308.221-.231.

Miscellaneous

General Physical Description note: 8 folders.

Box 3, Folder 10 Christmas Materials 1948

General Physical Description note: 2 items.
Scope and Contents note

Box 3, Folder 11, Box 3, Folder 12 N.Y.K. Liners

General Physical Description note: 2 items.
Language of Materials note: Japanese
Scope and Contents note
Two different booklets made by N.Y.K. Lines with images of liners on the covers. Text is in Japanese. 97.308.235 was printed by Shueishia Printing Co. in Japan. Includes items numbered 97.398.324-325.

Box 3, Folder 13 Army Language School

General Physical Description note: 1 item.
Scope and Contents note
One list of 881 characters for educational use made by the Army Language School. One page is in English with the rest in Japanese. Includes items numbered 97.308.236.

Box 3, Folder 14 General Leroy Elitage

General Physical Description note: 1 item.
Scope and Contents note
One souvenir edition of a newsletter titled Fantail Flutter for the General Leroy Elitage ship with Cartoons, a history of the ship, and messages for the crew. Includes items numbered 97.308.237.
**Personal Materials**

General Physical Description note: 2 items.

Scope and Contents note

One address book (97.308.238) and one handwritten list with prices (97.308.239).

Includes items 97.308.238-.239.

**In Sea and River**

General Physical Description note: 2 items.

Scope and Contents note


Two copies. Includes items numbered 97.308.240.

**Artifacts**

General Physical Description note: 18 three dimensional artifacts.

Scope and Contents note

97.308.1: American Defense Service Medal. 1 bronze medal awarded to United States Army personnel for activity duty service from September 8, 1939 to December 7, 1941 for a period of twelve months or longer.

97.308.2: American Defense Service Ribbon. 1 pin awarded to Norio Mitsuoka with his American Defense Service Medal.

97.308.3: World War II Victory Medal. 1 bronze medal awarded to all military personnel for service between December 7, 1941 and December 31, 1946.

97.308.4: World War II Victory Service Ribbon. 1 pin given to Norio Mitsuoka with his World War II Victory Medal.

97.308.5: Pin. 1 brass lapel pin with “U.S.” in relief.

97.308.6: Pin. 1 brass lapel pin with “U.S.” in relief.

97.308.7: Field Artillery Pin. 1 brass lapel pin with two crossed rifles in relief.

97.308.8: Field Artillery Pin. 1 brass lapel pin with two crossed rifles in relief.

97.308.9: Ruptured Duck Pin. 1 small gold and silver hued round pin with an eagle spreading wings within a circle. The pin was issued to discharged United States Army soldiers and worn over the R breast pocket, allowing the returning GI to wear his uniform home and not be ordered around by an officer.

97.308.10: Button. 1 navy presidential campaign button with gold lettering, "Goldwater for president 1964".

97.308.11: Camera. 1 Mamiya Six IV made in Occupied Japan with Zuiko lens and two rangefinder windows.

97.308.12: Camera case. 1 brown leather camera case for the Mamiya Six IV. Norio Mitsuoka is written in black ink on interior of leather strap.

97.308.13: Lens. 1 auto-focusing close up attachment called the “Auto-up” for a Mamiya Six IV.

97.308.14A: Light meter. 1 Exposure meter (Type DW-58) for a Mamiya Six IV.

97.308.14B: Case. 1 brown leather case for a light exposure meter.

97.308.15: Sewing kit. 1 army sewing kit with buttons, two bobbins, one thimble, needles, and safety pins.

97.308.16: Lens. 1 lens for the Mamiya Six IV.

97.308.241: Patch. 1 MISLS Student patch.