Guide to the Albert M. Forbes Civil War Letters MS.M.055

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Note
Area, Interdisciplinary, and Ethnic Studies--American StudiesGeographical (By Place)--United StatesHistory--United States and North American History
Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: Special Collections and Archives, University of California, Irvine Libraries
Title: Albert M. Forbes Civil War letters
Creator: Forbes, Albert M.
Identifier/Call Number: MS.M.055
Physical Description: 0.1 Linear Feet (1 oversize folder)
Date (inclusive): 1862
Abstract: This collection comprises seven letters sent from Albert M. Forbes, Lieutenant, Member Company of the 2nd Illinois Light Artillery, to his family in 1862 during the Civil War. The letters provide a first-hand, detailed account of skirmishes in Tennessee and Mississippi. He describes battle preparations, soldier life in camps and the harsh living conditions, and long marches through Memphis and other areas. He repeatedly urges his younger brother not to enlist. Forbes also mentions the work of his officers and peers, describes troop movements under the direction of Generals William Tecumseh Sherman and John McClernand, and criticizes General Ulysses S. Grant for his tactical decisions. Four of the letters were apparently written while Forbes’ troop was encamped near battle sites.
Physical Description: 0.1 linear feet (1 oversize folder)
Access
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Preferred Citation
For the benefit of current and future researchers, please cite any additional information about sources consulted in this collection, including permanent URLs, item or folder descriptions, and box/folder locations.
Acquisition Information
Gift of unknown donor, ca. 1967.
Processing History
Biography
Albert M. Forbes was a Union soldier in the Civil War who served as a Lieutenant in Member Company of the 2nd Illinois Light Artillery. His Company was active in Tennessee. When the first of these letters were written on April 16, 1862, Forbes was stationed at Boltons Battery, after moving from Benton Barracks. By November of that same year, he was camped at La Grange with an army of over 100,000 Union soldiers, where they clashed fiercely with Confederate soldiers in Holly Springs. The last letter in this collection was apparently written during the winter of 1862.
Collection Scope and Content Summary
This collection comprises seven letters sent from Albert M. Forbes, Lieutenant, Member Company of the 2nd Illinois Light Artillery, to his family in 1862 during the Civil War. The letters provide a first-hand, detailed account of skirmishes in Tennessee and Mississippi. He describes battle preparations, soldier life in camps and the harsh living conditions, and long marches through Memphis and other areas. He repeatedly urges his younger brother not to enlist. Forbes also mentions the work of his officers and peers, describes troop movements under the direction of Generals William Tecumseh Sherman and John McClernand, and criticizes General Ulysses S. Grant for his tactical decisions. Four of the letters were apparently written while Forbes’ troop was encamped near battle sites.
Subjects and Indexing Terms
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Personal narratives -- Correspondence.
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Attitudes -- Correspondence.
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Campaigns -- Correspondence.
Soldiers.
Forbes, Albert M.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box-Folder</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Scope and Contents Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FB-22:5</td>
<td>1862 April 16.</td>
<td>Letter to mother and father from Pittsburg Landing describing battle preparations, fighting, and war devastation in the area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FB-22:5</td>
<td>1862 April 23.</td>
<td>Letter to brother and sister from Pittsburg Landing, similar in content to April 16 letter; also describes arrival of reinforcements under direction of General Pope and Fremont and camp living conditions.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>