Descriptive Summary

Title: Earl R. Oatman papers

Date (inclusive): circa 1897-2015, undated.

Date (bulk): 1941-1991

Collection Number: MS 224

Creator: Oatman, Earl R.

Extent: 4.08 Linear Feet (4 boxes)

Repository: Rivera Library. Special Collections Department. Riverside, CA 92517-5900

Abstract: This collection contains photographs, correspondence, military records, and other material pertaining to Earl R. Oatman, a Prisoner of War (POW) during World War II and Professor Emeritus of Entomology at the University of California, Riverside. Includes correspondence and documents related to Oatman’s experience as a POW in World War II, photographs of Oatman and family from childhood to adulthood, and manuscripts of Oatman’s book titled Bataan: Only the Beginning. Material documenting Oatman’s personal life and professional accomplishments before and after World War II are also included.

Languages: The collection is in English.

Access

This collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

Copyright Unknown: Some materials in these collections may be protected by the U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.). In addition, the reproduction, and/or commercial use, of some materials may be restricted by gift or purchase agreements, donor restrictions, privacy and publicity rights, licensing agreement(s), and/or trademark rights. Distribution or reproduction of materials protected by copyright beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. To the extent other restrictions apply, permission for distribution or reproduction from the applicable rights holder is also required. Responsibility for obtaining permissions, and for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

[identification of item], [date if possible]. Earl R. Oatman papers (MS 224). Special Collections & University Archives, University of California, Riverside.

Processing History

Processed by Jamie Madrigal, 2016.

Processing of the Earl R. Oatman papers was completed by undergraduate students from the University of California, Riverside as part of the Special Collections & University Archives Backlog Processing Project started in 2015. This project was funded by the UCR Library and administered by Bergis Jules, University and Political Papers Archivist, and Eric Milenkiewicz, Manuscripts Curator.

Biography

Earl R. Oatman, 1920-2015, was a Prisoner of War during World War II and Professor Emeritus of Entomology at the University of California, Riverside. Oatman was born in Texas and grew up in Oklahoma with his two brothers, Delmar and Olen, and sister Elsia. At the age of 20 he enlisted in the United States military and was stationed at Clark Field in the Philippines when it was attacked by enemy forces on December 8, 1941. Oatman was a Prisoner of War under the Imperial Japanese Army and was part of the Bataan Death March. He was held captive for three years before his rescue and subsequent honorable discharge from the United States Army. After returning home, Oatman earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Missouri and then attended UC Berkeley where he earned his Ph.D. in Entomology. He began working at UC Riverside in 1962 and retired in 1988. Oatman published over 200 research papers during his tenure at UC Riverside and in retirement he wrote the book, Bataan: Only the Beginning, documenting his experiences as a Prisoner of War during World War II.

Collection Scope and Content Summary

This collection contains photographs, correspondence, military records, and other material pertaining to Earl R. Oatman. Includes correspondence and documents related to Oatman’s experience as a POW in World War II, photographs of Oatman and family from childhood to adulthood, and manuscripts of Oatman's book titled Bataan: Only the Beginning. Material documenting Oatman’s personal life and professional accomplishments before and after World War II are also included.

Select items from this collection have been digitized and are available online.
Collection Arrangement
This collection is arranged into the following three series:


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

Subjects
Bataan Death March, Philippines, 1942
Entomology.
Fassoth, William John
Oatman, Earl R.
Prisoner of war
University of California, Riverside
World War II.

Genres and Forms of Materials
Correspondence.
Manuscripts.
Photographs.


Series Scope and Content Summary
This series contains photographs, correspondence, military records and other material pertaining to Earl R. Oatman's military service in World War II with a primary focus on his experiences as a Prisoner of War. Includes manuscripts and photographs pertaining to Oatman's book titled Bataan: Only the Beginning.

Series Arrangement
This series is arranged sequentially by box and folder number.

Box 1, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 2
Correspondence and telegrams from Earl R. Oatman to his parents during World War II including his time spent as a Prisoner of War. 1941-1945.

Box 1, Folder 3

Box 1, Folder 4
Handwritten medical record of Earl R. Oatman during the Bataan Death March as recorded by Oatman (photocopies). 1941-1945.

Box 1, Folder 6
Correspondence between Earl R. Oatman and others pertaining to the American Prisoner of War lawsuit against Japan. 1999-2004.

Box 1, Folder 7
Military records including honorable discharge and separation qualification documents from the United States Army (photocopies). 1941-1946.

Box 1, Folder 7
Handwritten ledger detailing items purchased by Earl R. Oatman during his service in the United States Army including his credit, debit, and balance. undated

Box 1, Folder 8
Medals from the United States Army and Loma Linda VA Medical Center in recognition of Oatman's military service and experiences as a Prisoner of War. undated.

Box 1, Folder 11
Photographs of Earl R. Oatman and his divisions during World War II. 1940-1946.
Box 1, Folder 12 Documents and correspondence pertaining to the Bataan Death March and Paul L. Ashton's book Bataan Diary. 1988, undated.

Box 2, Folder 1 Correspondence and manuscript describing experiences of Earl R. Oatman and others as Prisoners of War during World War II. 1966-1967, undated.

Box 2, Folder 2 Photographs (portraits) of Earl R. Oatman in uniform. 1945, undated.


Box 2, Folder 5 Correspondence between Earl R. Oatman and the United States Department of Defense regarding unpaid quarters and subsistence allowances for guerilla fighters in the Philippine Islands during World War II. 1997.

Box 2, Folder 6 Photographs used in Bataan: Only The Beginning by Earl R. Oatman. undated.

Box 2, Folder 7 Partial manuscript of Bataan: Only The Beginning by Earl R. Oatman. undated.

Box 2, Folder 8 Plates and captions for Bataan: Only The Beginning by Earl R. Oatman. undated.

Box 2, Folder 13 Photographs of Earl R. Oatman in military uniform with friends and family. 1945.

Box 2, Folder 21 Photographs, negatives, and maps pertaining to Earl R. Oatman's time as a Prisoner of War during World War II. undated.

Box 3, Folder 1 Dust jackets of Bataan: Only The Beginning by Earl R. Oatman. undated.

Box 3, Folder 2 Manuscript and related material pertaining to the Fassoth family and Fassoth's Camp compiled by Earl R. Oatman. undated.

Box 3, Folder 3 Manuscript of Bataan: Only the Beginning signed by Earl R. Oatman. 1991.

Box 4, Folder 1 Oversize photographs and maps pertaining to Earl R. Oatman's time as a Prisoner of War during World War II. undated.

Box 4, Folder 3 Photographs of the Philippines. undated.

Box 4, Folder 5 Newspaper reprint from the Honolulu Star-Bulletin 2nd Extra with headline “Deaths Over 400 on Oahu, Latest Report” from December 7, 1941. 1941.


Series Scope and Content Summary
This series includes documents and other material pertaining to Earl R. Oatman's educational achievements and professional career as an Entomologist at UC Riverside.

Series Arrangement
This series is arranged sequentially by box and folder number.

Box 1, Folder 10 Bibliography of scientific publications (primarily Entomology) by Earl R. Oatman. undated.

Box 2, Folder 9 Title pages from student theses for which Earl R. Oatman served on the approval committee (photocopies). 1966-1983.

Box 2, Folder 15 Documents pertaining to Earl R. Oatman's work as an Entomologist at UC Riverside. undated.

Box 2, Folder 16 Research bulletins by Earl R. Oatman pertaining to insect disease and fruits. 1960-1962.

Box 2, Folder 17 Photographs of plants and insects taken by Earl R. Oatman, undated.

Box 2, Folder 19 Program of the University of Missouri Fifth Honors Convocation for Earl R. Oatman's graduation. 1951.

Box 4, Folder 2 Laminated copies of Earl R. Oatman's educational diplomas and certificates. 1951-1957.


Series Scope and Content Summary
This series contains photographs, programs, and other material pertaining to the personal life of Earl R. Oatman. Includes photographs of Oatman with family friends from childhood through adulthood.

Series Arrangement
This series is arranged sequentially by box and folder number.
Photographs of Earl R. Oatman with siblings and friends during childhood. undated.

Funeral program and obituary for Karin Virginia Oatman. 2009.


Photographs and Earl R. Oatman's family and family friends including brother Delmer Oatman, mother Ruby Oatman Gomez, and wife Karin Virginia Oatman. 1897-1990, undated.


Photographs of the Fassoth family including William, wife Catalina, and their son John. undated.

Announcement and invitation list regarding "Aztec Community Reunion" and city street maps of Omulgee and Henryetta, Oklahoma. 1988-1994.

Photographs of sites in and around Henryetta, Oklahoma, and Sylvester, Texas. undated.

Photographs (portraits) of Earl R. Oatman including his high school graduation. 1939-1940.

Funeral Program for Earl R. Oatman. 2015.

Arrowheads and pottery fragments (in display frame) collected by Earl R. Oatman. undated.