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## **Earl R. Oatman papers**

Finding aid prepared by Jamie Madrigal, Student Processing Assistant.

Special Collections & University Archives

The UCR Library

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## 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

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## Preferred Citation

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

## Acquisition Information

Gifts of Dr. Earl R. Oatman, 2007, 2008, 2009.

## Processing History

Processed by Jamie Madrigal, Student Processing Assistant, 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.

## Biographical Note

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 Elsie. 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 Contents

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 Prisoner of War in World War II, photographs

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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.

### **Collection Arrangement**

This collection is arranged into three series as follows:

Series 1. World War II experience, circa 1939-2004, undated

Series 2. Professional life, 1951-2001, undated

Series 3. Personal life, circa 1897-2015, undated

### **Indexing Terms**

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

### **Subjects**

Fassoth, William John

University of California, Riverside

Bataan Death March, Philippines, 1942

Entomology

Prisoners of war

World War, 1939-1945

### **Genres and Forms of Materials**

Correspondence

Manuscripts

Photographs

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### **Series 1. World War II experience circa 1939-2004, undated**

#### **Series Scope and Contents**

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	<b>Manuscript of <i>Behind Japanese Lines With The Oklahoma Kid, The Leon Beck Story</i> by Gordon Browne and copy of the final published version titled "A Fugitive Behind Japanese Lines: Private Leon Beck on Bataan 1941-1945" published in <i>Infantry</i> 1999, undated</b>
Box 1, Folder 2	<b>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</b>
Box 1, Folder 3	<b>Publications, legal documents, transcripts and other material dealing with the American Prisoner of War lawsuit against Japan 1999-2004, undated</b>
Box 1, Folder 4	<b>Handwritten medical record of Earl R. Oatman during the Bataan Death March as recorded by Oatman (photocopies) 1941-1945</b>
Box 1, Folder 6	<b>Correspondence between Earl R. Oatman and others pertaining to the American Prisoner of War lawsuit against Japan 1999-2004</b>
Box 1, Folder 7	<b>Military records including honorable discharge and separation qualification documents from the United States Army (photocopies) 1941-1946</b>
Box 1, Folder 7	<b>Handwritten ledger detailing items purchased by Earl R. Oatman during his service in the United States Army including his credit, debit, and balance undated</b>
Box 1, Folder 8	<b>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</b>
Box 1, Folder 11	<b>Photographs of Earl R. Oatman and his divisions during World War II 1940-1946</b>

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Box 1, Folder 12	<b>Documents and correspondence pertaining to the Bataan Death March and Paul L. Ashton's book <i>Bataan Diary</i> 1988, undated</b>
Box 1, Folder 13	<b>Correspondence with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs pertaining to Earl R. Oatman's medical compensation from injuries sustained during World War II 2009</b>
Box 2, Folder 1	<b>Correspondence and manuscript describing experiences of Earl R. Oatman and others as Prisoners of War during World War II 1966-1967, undated</b>
Box 2, Folder 2	<b>Photographs (portraits) of Earl R. Oatman in uniform 1945, undated</b>
Box 2, Folder 3	<b>Membership and identification cards of Earl R. Oatman for various veteran's associations 1982-2002, undated</b>
Box 2, Folder 5	<b>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</b>
Box 2, Folder 6	<b>Photographs used in <i>Bataan: Only The Beginning</i> by Earl R. Oatman undated</b>
Box 2, Folder 7	<b>Partial manuscript of <i>Bataan: Only The Beginning</i> by Earl R. Oatman undated</b>
Box 2, Folder 8	<b>Plates and captions for <i>Bataan: Only the Beginning</i> by Earl R. Oatman undated</b>
Box 2, Folder 13	<b>Photographs of Earl R. Oatman in military uniform with friends and family 1945</b>
Box 2, Folder 21	<b>Photographs, negatives, and maps pertaining to Earl R. Oatman's time as a Prisoner of War during World War II undated</b>
Box 2, Folder 22	<b>Military rosters including the 34th Pursuit Squadron and American Prisoners of War at Funatsu 1944-2006</b>
Box 3, Folder 1	<b>Dust jackets of <i>Bataan: Only The Beginning</i> by Earl R. Oatman undated</b>
Box 3, Folder 2	<b>Manuscript and related material pertaining to the Fassoth family and Fassoth's Camp compiled by Earl R. Oatman undated</b>
Box 3, Folder 3	<b>Manuscript of <i>Bataan: Only the Beginning</i> signed by Earl R. Oatman 1991</b>
Box 4, Folder 1	<b>Oversize photographs and maps pertaining to Earl R. Oatman's time as a Prisoner of War during World War II undated</b>
Box 4, Folder 3	<b>Photographs of the Philippines undated</b>
Box 4, Folder 5	<b>Newspaper reprint from the Honolulu Star-Bulletin 2nd Extra with headline "Deaths Over 400 on Oahu, Latest Report" from December 7, 1941 1941</b>
	<b>Oral history interviews with Earl R. Oatman regarding his experiences as a Prisoner of War during World War II conducted by Chuck Wilson (digital copies) 2008-2009</b>
	<b>Digital files stored on the Digital Projects server</b>
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## **Series 2. Professional life 1951-2001, undated**

### **Series Scope and Contents**

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	<b>Bibliography of scientific publications (primarily Entomology) by Earl R. Oatman undated</b>
Box 2, Folder 9	<b>Title pages from student theses for which Earl R. Oatman served on the approval committee (photocopies) 1966-1983</b>
Box 2, Folder 15	<b>Documents pertaining to Earl R. Oatman's work as an entomologist at UC Riverside undated</b>
Box 2, Folder 16	<b>Research bulletins by Earl R. Oatman pertaining to insect disease and fruits 1960-1962</b>
Box 2, Folder 17	<b>Photographs of plants and insects taken by Earl R. Oatman undated</b>
Box 2, Folder 19	<b>Program of the University of Missouri Fifth Honors Convocation for Earl R. Oatman's graduation 1951</b>
Box 4, Folder 2	<b>Laminated copies of Earl R. Oatman's educational diplomas and certificates 1951-1957</b>

**Series 3. Personal life circa 1897-2015, undated**

**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.

Box 1, Folder 5	<b>Photographs of Earl R. Oatman with siblings and friends during childhood undated</b>
Box 1, Folder 9	<b>Funeral program and obituary for Karin Virginia Oatman 2009</b>
Box 2, Folder 4	<b>Photographs of Earl R. Oatman and Henry S. Winslow 2003</b>
Box 2, Folder 10	<b>Photographs of Earl R. Oatman's family and family friends including brother Delmer Oatman, mother Ruby Oatman Gomez, and wife Karin Virginia Oatman 1897-1990, undated</b>
Box 2, Folder 11	<b>Photographs of Earl R. Oatman, Karin Oatman, and the Fassoth family post World War II 1994-2008</b>
Box 2, Folder 12	<b>Photographs of the Fassoth family including William, wife Catalina, and their son John undated</b>
Box 2, Folder 14	<b>Announcement and invitation list regarding "Aztec Community Reunion" and city street maps of Omulgee and Henryetta, Oklahoma 1988-1994</b>
Box 2, Folder 17	<b>Photographs of sites in and around Henryetta, Oklahoma, and Sylvester, Texas undated</b>
Box 2, Folder 18	<b>Photographs (portraits) of Earl R. Oatman including his high school graduation 1939-1940</b>
Box 2, Folder 20	<b>Funeral Program for Earl R. Oatman 2015</b>
Box 4, Folder 4	<b>Arrowheads and pottery fragments (in display frame) collected by Earl R. Oatman undated</b>