

Monteith, Jimmie W., Jr., Collection

Jimmie W. Monteith, Jr., Collection

1933-1997



Title Statement

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1990.062

Unit Date

1933-1997

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

Jimmie W. Monteith, Jr. (1919-1944) was a Lieutenant in the U. S. Army during World War II. He served his country bravely and was killed on the beaches of Normandy during the D-Day invasion of 1944. He was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. Collection consists primarily of his letters home during World War II. Also includes letters of condolence sent to the family following his death, congratulatory letters for being awarded the Medal of Honor, newspaper clippings, and photographs. Collection also contains the correspondence of his brother, Robert P. Monteith, letters of sympathy following the death of his brother and his father, Jimmie Sr., as well as other letters to and from some of his family members. In addition, there are the letters and notes of John Coulter, who wrote a biography about Monteith.

Creator

Monteith, Jimmie W., Jr., 1919-1944

Creator

Monteith, Robert P.

Extent

1 Cubic Feet 1 box

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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Source of Acquisition

The Jimmie W. Monteith, Jr., Collection was donated to Special Collections in 1990. Additional materials were donated and added to the collection in 2000.

Processing Information

The original collection was inventoried in 1990. The collection was reprocessed to include the new materials, and the final arrangement was completed in September 2006.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Jimmie W. Monteith, Jr., Collection, Ms1990-062, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

Jimmie W. Monteith, Jr., was born in Lowmoor, Virginia, in 1919 and raised in Richmond. Monteith attended Virginia Tech from 1937 through 1939 as a student in mechanical engineering. On 4 October 1941, Monteith entered the army and, after basic training, attended one of the first officer training programs at Fort Benning. Assigned to the First Infantry Division and after serving in North Africa and the Sicily campaign, Jimmie Monteith and the 16th Infantry Regiment hit Omaha Beach on D-day at Normandy, France. In charge of 51 men, Monteith guided his troops through the barbed wire and mines that littered the beach under heavy fire from the Germans. After getting his men into position, Monteith went back down the beach and lead two tanks through the mine field and directed them to take out two German machine gun nests. After continuing the assault, Monteith was caught in the crossfire and killed. Less than a year later, his mother accepted the Congressional Medal of Honor for his bravery. A reserve training center in Richmond and an amphitheater in Alabama were both named in his honor. Virginia Tech named a dormitory building after him.

Scope and Contents

The Jimmie W. Monteith, Jr., Collection consists of the letters Monteith wrote home while enlisted in the U.S. Army, as well as cards and correspondence from those wishing to express their sympathy over his death. Also contained in the collection are the letters of his brother, Robert P. Monteith who served in the Pacific during World War II. The collection also includes many other letters and cards, including sympathy cards sent concerning the death of both Robert P. Monteith and Jimmie Monteith, Sr., letters sent to Nancy Monteith from R. Pierce Lumpkin and the typescript of letters from H.P. Straker, the son of Monteith's cousin, Clara Straker. An important part of this collection is the notes of John Coulter, a former Virginia Tech student who researched Jimmie Monteith's life and write a short biography about him.

Keywords

Medal of Honor
Students and alumni
University History
World War, 1939-1945
Monteith, Jimmie W., Jr., 1919-1944
Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College and Polytechnic Institute (1896-1944)
Virginia Polytechnic Institute (1944-1970)
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (1970-)

Existence and Location of Copies

The collection has been digitized and is available online.

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Arrangement

The collection is separated into five different series, each arranged chronologically.

Series I: Correspondence from Jimmie W. Monteith, Jr., contains letters written by Jimmie W. Monteith, Jr., while at war.

Series II: Correspondence and Letters following death of Jimmie W. Monteith, Jr., contains letters of condolences, sympathy cards and information about awards and honors sent following Jimmie W. Monteith, Jr.'s death in 1944.

Series III: Correspondence to/from Robert P. Monteith contains letters to and from Jimmie's brother Robert P. Monteith as well as the letters of condolences sent following his death in 1954.

Series IV: Family Correspondence contains correspondence of Monteith family members.

Series V: Collected Information about Jimmie W. Monteith, Jr., and Family contains newspaper clippings about Jimmie Monteith, Jr., family members, and friends. It also includes the correspondence and notes of John Coulter, the author of a biography about Jimmie W. Monteith, Jr.

Description of Subordinate Components

Series I: Correspondence from Jimmie W. Monteith, Jr.

Unit Date 1941-1944

Unit Date 4 Oct 1941 - 28 Dec 1941

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Unit Date 16 Jan 1942 - 27 Apr 1942

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Unit Date 15 May 1942 - 29 July 1942

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Unit Date 13 Aug 1942 - 30 Sept 1942

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Unit Date 7 Oct 1942 - 27 Dec 1942

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Unit Date 1 Jan 1943 - 27 Dec 1943

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Unit Date 1 Jan 1944 - 21 May 1944

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Undated letters

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

V-Mail

Unit Date 1 May 1943 - 31 May 1944

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Series II: Correspondence and letters following death of Jimmie W. Monteith, Jr.

Unit Date 1944-1962

Letters regarding honors and awards

Unit Date 10 July 1944 - 25 Sept 1962

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Correspondence concerning death of J.W. Monteith, Jr.

Unit Date 6 July 1944 - 26 July 1944

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 11-14 (folder)

Correspondence concerning death of J.W. Monteith, Jr.

Unit Date 2 Aug 1944 - 4 July 1945

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Sympathy cards sent to Mrs. Jimmie W. Monteith, Sr.

Unit Date 6 July 1944 - 3 Aug 1944

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Sympathy cards sent to Miss Nancy Monteith

Unit Date 7 July 1944 - 3 Aug 1944

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

Florist cards from funeral of J.W. Monteith, Jr.

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 18 (folder)

Series III: Correspondence to/from Robert P. Monteith

Unit Date 1935-1954

Unit Date 18 Dec 1942 - 27 Apr 1943

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 19 (folder)

Unit Date 12 May 1943 - 14 Dec 1943

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 20 (folder)

Unit Date 16 Jan 1944 - 27 July 1944

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 21 (folder)

Unit Date 1 Aug 1944 - 25 Dec 1944

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 22 (folder)

Unit Date 3 Jan 1945 - 9 Aug 1945

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 23 (folder)

Letters to Robert P. Monteith

Unit Date 8 Nov 1935 - 16 Sept 1943

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 24 (folder)

Correspondence concerning death of R.P. Monteith

Unit Date 21 May 1954 - 24 May 1954

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 25 (folder)

Series IV: Family Correspondence

Unit Date 1933-1956

Correspondence concerning death of J.W. Monteith, Sr.

Unit Date 2 Aug 1942 - 17 Aug 1942

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 26 (folder)

Letters and notes of Mrs. J.W. Monteith

Unit Date 30 May 1942 - 18 May 1956

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 27 (folder)

Letters and notes of Miss Nancy Monteith

Unit Date 12 Jan 1933 - 13 Feb 1945

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 28 (folder)

Correspondence of R. Pierce Lumpkin to Nancy Monteith

Unit Date 7 Apr 1936 - 23 Aug 1936

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 29 (folder)

Typescript of WWII letters of H.P. Straker

Unit Date 28 July 1940 - 20 Sept 1940

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 30 (folder)

Series V: Collected Information about Jimmie W. Monteith, Jr., and Family

Newspaper and Magazine Articles

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 31 (folder)

Biography of Jimmie W. Monteith, Jr.

Unit Date Fall 1994

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 32 (folder)

Citation, Medal of Honor

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 33 (folder)

Photographs

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 34 (folder)

Correspondence and Notes of John Coulter

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 35 (folder)

Information and Maps, D-day Invasion

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 36 (folder)