

Guide to the Leonard H. Clark military history collection, 1942-1968

Leonard H. Clark military history collection

1938-2003

A Collection in Special Collections and Archives C0060

George Mason University Libraries

2006

Author: Sean Tennant

History

Processed by: Special Collections and Archives Staff

Title Statement

Guide to the Leonard H. Clark military history collection, 1942-1968

Subtitle: Leonard H. Clark

Collection: C0060

Author: Sean Tennant

Publication Statement

Date: 2009 By George Mason University Libraries. All rights reserved.

Publisher: George Mason University Libraries

Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from being created directly into EAD, created by Sean Tennant, January 2009

Language Usage: Description is in English

Revision Description

2019-02-13 Converted to schema conforming EAD by dtd2schema.vh.xsl.

Descriptive Summary

Collection number

C0060

Date

1938-2003

Language

English

Abstract

The collection contains documents, photographs, and memorabilia related to Major Clark's service in the United States Air Force. Most notably, the collection contains military records, Japanese souvenirs from World War II, and aerial photographs made by Clark of military operations in the Philippines. The collection contains material from 1938-1968 and 2003.

Creator

Leonard H. Clark, 1919-2003

Physical Characteristics

2 linear feet (4 boxes)

Repository

George Mason University. Special Collections and Archives

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no access restrictions.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions on personal use. Permission to publish material from the Leonard H. Clark military history collection must be obtained from the Special Collections Research Center, George Mason University Libraries.

Acquisition Information

Donated by Susan Lanson in 2008, on behalf of Anna Mae Clark, Robin Clark, and Barbara Clark Gregg.

Processing Information

Processed by Sean Tennant in December 2008 and January 2009. EAD markup completed by Sean Tennant in January 2009.

Preferred Citation

Leonard H. Clark military history collection, C0060, Special Collections and Archives, George Mason University Libraries.

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

Special Collections and Archives also holds the [John C. Becher Soldier Show collection](#), which contains entertainment materials written by and for the United States military during and immediately following World War II.

More information about the 43rd Bombing Group and the 403rd Squadron can be found on the [Ken's Men website](#). More information about the Distinguished Flying Cross can be found on the [Distinguished Flying Cross Society website](#).

Biographical Information

Leonard H. Clark was born in England in 1919 and served in the United States Air Force from 1941 to 1968. During World War II, Clark began his service as a test pilot and was assigned to the 43rd Bomb Group of the 403rd Bomb Squadron in the 5th Air Force. In 1944, Clark assumed command of the 403rd Bomb Squadron. In total, Clark participated in 73 combat missions against Japanese forces in the Pacific Theater. Tokyo Rose nicknamed the 403rd the "Mareeba Butchers," the only nickname bestowed by the Japanese propaganda broadcast on a military service group. In 1945, Clark was involved in a plane crash off the coast of Japan, breaking his leg and waiting six days for rescue. During the war, Clark was promoted to the rank of Major and awarded multiple commendations and awards, including the Distinguished Unit Badge and the Distinguished Flying Cross. During the Korean War, Clark served with the 3906th Combat Support Group as a pilot. Clark was again called to serve in the Vietnam War. Major Clark died in Florida in 2003.

Scope and Content

The collection contains the military service and medical records of Leonard H. Clark, his correspondence, photographs, and memorabilia from Leonard H. Clark's service in the United States military. Robert Mathias, a relative of Clark's, gave him photographs and papers that document his time as a member of the United States Navy during World War II. The collection also contains materials in Japanese and Arabic. The collection is arranged into four series and covers a period from 1938 to 2003.

Series 1 contains the documents from the collection, including training logs, service records, medical documents, and correspondence. The series also contains documentation regarding awards and commendations, as well as newspaper clippings. The series covers the period from 1938 to 1968 and 2003 and is arranged in 1.5 boxes.

Series 2 contains photographs from Clark's military service. The series contains personal photographs, as well as publicity photographs of training exercises and aerial photographs of military operations in the Philippines. The series covers the period from the 1940s to the 1960s and is contained in 2 boxes.

Series 3 contains the miscellaneous memorabilia of the collection. Notably, the series contains a collection of currency collected during and after World War II, maps of portions of the Pacific Theater of Operations, and souvenirs from various locations around the world. The series also contains Clark's Distinguished Flying Cross. The series covers the period from the 1940s to 1957 and is contained in 2 boxes.

Series 4 contains the oversized materials from the collection, such as oversized silk maps, a Japanese flag belonging to a Kamikaze pilot, and a scrapbook. The scrapbook contains military training photographs, nose art photographs, Japanese surrender photographs, and newspaper clippings of Clark's training and service in World War II. The scrapbook is particularly interesting because of the documentation of a single squadron. Additionally, the scrapbook contains satirical drawings made during the war. The series covers the period of the 1940s and is contained in 1 box and the oversized map cases.

Index Terms

Persons:

Clark, Leonard H., 1919-2003.

Corporate Names:

United States. Air Force.

United States. Army Air Forces. Bomb Group, 43rd.

Geographical Names:

Philippines--History--Japanese occupation, 1942-1945.

Subjects:

World War, 1939-1945--Pacific Area.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in 4 series:

- Series 1: Documents, 1938-1968, 2003 (Boxes 1-2)
- Series 2: Photographs, 1940s-1960s (Boxes 2, 4)
- Series 3: Memorabilia, 1940s-1957 (Boxes 2-3)
- Series 4: Maps/Oversize, 1940s (Box 4, Oversize Map Cases)

Contents List

Series 1: Documents,

Unit Date 1938-1968, 2003

Scope and Content

Series 1 contains the documents of the collection, including service records, flight logs, medical records, and correspondence. Additionally, the series contains documents concerning Robert Mathias, a relative of Leonard H. Clark. The series is contained in 1.5 boxes. The series covers the time period from 1938-1968, with some materials from 2003.

Aircrew Standardization/Evaluation Records,

Unit Date 1967-1968

Container 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Biographical Information/Obituary,

Unit Date 2003

Container 1 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Citations and Awards,

Unit Date 1938-1968

Container 1 (Box)

Container 3 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Contains a photograph concerning one of the citations.

Correspondence,

Unit Date 1941-1945

Container 1 (Box)

Container 4 (Folder)

Correspondence/Military,

Unit Date 1945

Container 1 (Box)

Container 5 (Folder)

Documents,

Unit Date 1941-1967

Container 1 (Box)

Container 6 (Folder)

Documents,

Unit Date 1941-1968

Container 1 (Box)

Container 7 (Folder)

Evaluations,

Unit Date 1953-1968

Container 1 (Box)

Container 8 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Contains a photograph from Leonard Clark's military records.

Flight Logs,

Unit Date 1942-1963

Container 1 (Box)

Container 9 (Folder)

Flight Training,

Unit Date 1953-1960

Container 1 (Box)

Container 10 (Folder)

Miscellaneous Clippings,

Unit Date 1944-1967

Container 1 (Box)

Container 11 (Folder)

Orders,

Unit Date 1944-1958

Container 1 (Box)

Container 12 (Folder)

Personnel Records,

Unit Date 1940-1953

Container 2 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Robert Martin Mathias Documents,

Unit Date 1946

Container 2 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Scope and Content

This folder contains documents relating to Robert Mathias, a relative of Leonard Clark's and a sailor on the USS Boston. The materials in this folder accompany the Robert Mathias photographs in Series 2.

Veterans' Benefits,

Unit Date 1960s

Container 2 (Box)

Container 3 (Folder)

Series 2: Photographs,

Unit Date 1940s-1960s

Scope and Content

Series 2 contains the photographs of the collection. Notably, the series contains aerial photographs from combat operations, as well as photographs linked to the Robert Mathias documents. The series is contained in 2 boxes and covers the period from the 1940s to the 1960s.

Aerial Photographs,

Unit Date 1943-1944

Container 2 (Box)

Container 4 (Folder)

Scope and Content

Aerial observation photographs of air operations in the Philippines, particularly of operations around Rabaul.

Aircraft Photographs,

Unit Date 1950s-1960s

Container 2 (Box)

Container 5 (Folder)

Photographs,

Unit Date 1940s

Container 2 (Box)

Container 6 (Folder)

Robert Martin Mathias Photographs,

Unit Date 1940s

Container 2 (Box)

Container 7 (Folder)

Scope and Content

This folder contains photographs of Robert Mathias and is associated with the Robert Mathias documents in Series 1.

Oversized Aerial Photographs,

Unit Date 1940s

Container 4 (Box)

Scope and Content

Aerial observation photographs made by Clark of air operations in the Philippines, particularly of operations around Rabaul.

Series 3: Memorabilia,

Unit Date 1940s-1957

Scope and Content

Series 3 contains the various items and souvenirs collected by Clark during his tenure in the military, including global currency, Japanese souvenirs, and his Distinguished Flying Cross. The series is contained in 2 boxes and contains material from the 1940s to 1957.

Air Force Base Guides/Souvenirs,

Unit Date 1941-1954

Container 2 (Box)

Container 8 (Folder)

Identification Cards,

Unit Date 1940s

Container 2 (Box)

Container 9 (Folder)

Insignia,

Unit Date 1940s

Container 2 (Box)

Container 10 (Folder)

Japanese Propaganda,

Unit Date 1940s

Container 2 (Box)

Container 11 (Folder)

Sidi Slimani Air Base, Morocco,

Unit Date 1957

Container 2 (Box)

Container 12 (Folder)

World Currency, World War II,

Unit Date 1943-1944

Container 2 (Box)

Container 13 (Folder)

Distinguished Flying Cross,

Unit Date 1944

Container 3 (Box)

Series 4: Maps/Oversized,

Unit Date 1940s

Scope and Content

Series 4 contains the oversized materials from the collection. Notably, the series contains a Japanese flag, silk maps, and a scrapbook. The series is contained in one box and in a folder labeled "Clark Collection" in the "Miscellaneous" map case drawer. The series contains material from the 1940s.

Maps/Oversized,

Unit Date 1940s

Container MC (Oversize)

Scope and Content

Contains oversized silk maps used by Clark and a Japanese flag with writing. The flag was labelled as a Kamikaze pilot's sash.

Scrapbook,

Unit Date 1940s

Container 4 (Oversize)

Scope and Content

Contains photographs, newspaper clippings, and drawings concerning Leonard Clark's service in World War II.