

World War II Prisoners of War Letters

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



LIBRARY OF
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Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2015

Contact information:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Additional search options available at:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms016001>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm79046516>

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Collection Summary

Title: World War II Prisoners of War Letters

Span Dates: 1942-1944

ID No.: MSS46516

Extent: 1,000 items ; 7 containers ; 2.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Summary: Photostatic reproductions of letters written by American soldiers, sailors, and airmen interned in German and Japanese prisoner-of-war camps during World War II.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Organizations

Los Baños Internment Camp.

Mukden (Prisoner of war camp)

Santo Tomas Internment Camp (Manila, Philippines)

Stalag Luft II.

Stalag Luft III.

Subjects

Prisoner-of-war camps--China--Mukden.

Prisoner-of-war camps--China--Shanghai.

Prisoner-of-war camps--China.

Prisoner-of-war camps--Germany.

Prisoner-of-war camps--Japan--Fukuoka.

Prisoner-of-war camps--Japan--Kawasaki-shi.

Prisoner-of-war camps--Japan--Kōbe-shi.

Prisoner-of-war camps--Japan--Osaka.

Prisoner-of-war camps--Japan--Tokyo.

Prisoner-of-war camps--Japan--Zentsūji-shi.

Prisoner-of-war camps--Japan.

Prisoner-of-war camps--Philippines--Los Baños.

Prisoner-of-war camps--Philippines--Manila.

Prisoner-of-war camps--Philippines.

Prisoner-of-war camps--Romania--Timiș.

Prisoner-of-war camps--Romania.

Prisoner-of-war camps--Taiwan.

Prisoner-of-war camps.

Prisoners of war--United States--Correspondence.

World War, 1939-1945--Prisoners and prisons, German.

World War, 1939-1945--Prisoners and prisons, Japanese.

Places

United States--Armed Forces.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The World War II Prisoners of War Letters were loaned to the Library of Congress in 1944 by Marion Hale Britton, publisher of the American National Red Cross *Prisoners of War Bulletin*. The Library duplicated the letters and returned the originals to the Red Cross between 1944 and 1965.

Processing History

A finding aid to the World War II Prisoners of War Letters was created in 2000 and revised in 2016.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of the World War II Prisoners of War Letters is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The World War II Prisoners of War Letters are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, World War II Prisoners of War Letters, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The World War II Prisoners of War Letters span the years 1942-1944. The letters were written by American soldiers, sailors, and airmen interned abroad in German and Japanese prisoner-of-war camps to relatives and friends in the United States. The letters were provided to the Library of in 1944 by Marion Hale Britton, publisher of the American National Red Cross Prisoners of War Bulletin. The original letters were returned to the Red Cross after the Library reproduced them photostatically for this collection.

German camps from which letters are principally addressed and occasionally described and illustrated by the correspondents are of Stalag Luft II and Luft III in Germany and Timis in Romania. Japanese camps include internment sites at Mukden and Shanghai, China; Los Baños and Santo Tomas in the Philippines; Fukuoka, Kawasaki-shi, Kōbe-shi, Ōmori, Osaka, Tokyo, and Zentsūji-shi in Japan; and prisoner-of-war camps in Taiwan.

Arrangement of the Papers

These letters were reproduced in the order in which they were received. They do not appear to follow any chronological or other sequence and are not arranged by author or camp or origin. Readers will find it necessary to consult all seven containers in order to view all letters available from any given camp or correspondence for any particular year.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	1942-1944 (2 folders)
BOX 2	(7 folders)
BOX 3	(8 folders)
BOX 4	(5 folders)
BOX 5	(2 folders)
BOX 6	(1 folder)
BOX 7	(1 folder)