

# Eugene Edwin Johnston Papers

## A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



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Manuscript Division, Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.  
2016

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<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms016012>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm2014085926>

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## Collection Summary

**Title:** Eugene Edwin Johnston Papers

**Span Dates:** 1912-2008

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1940-1963)

**ID No.:** MSS85926

**Creator:** Johnston, Eugene Edwin, 1915-2006

**Extent:** 2,000 items ; 4 containers plus 1 oversize ; 1.6 linear feet ; 182 digital files (9.68 GB)

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**Summary:** Army officer. Correspondence, military papers, writings, photographs, awards, certificates, maps, printed matter, digital files, and other papers relating to Johnston's military career, particularly his service with the 92nd Infantry Division 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.

### People

Johnston family.

Johnston, Alta Ross, 1919-2000--Correspondence.

Johnston, Carolyn, 1948- --Correspondence.

Johnston, Eugene Edwin, 1915-2006.

Smith, Nancy Johnston, 1945- --Correspondence.

### Organizations

United States. Army--African American troops.

United States. Army--Foreign service--Austria.

United States. Army--Foreign service--Taiwan.

United States. Army--Foreign service--Thailand.

United States. Army--Medals, badges, decorations, etc.

United States. Army. Infantry Division, 92nd.

United States. Army. Infantry Regiment, 350th.

### Subjects

African American soldiers.

Bronze Star Medal (U.S.)

Genealogy.

World War, 1939-1945--Italy.

World War, 1939-1945--Participation, African American.

World War, 1939-1945--United States.

### Places

United States--Armed Forces--African Americans.

United States--Race relations.

### Occupations

Army officers.

## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The papers of Eugene Edwin Johnston, army officer, were given to the Library of Congress in 2014.

## Transfers

Audiocassettes have been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division where they are identified as part of the Eugene Edwin Johnston Papers. One book, *My Father's War: Fighting with the Buffalo Soldiers in World War II*, has been made available as part of the Manuscript Division Reading Room reference collection.

## Related Material

Related collections in the Manuscript Division include the [United States Army 92nd Infantry Division Collection](#).

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Eugene Edwin Johnston is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Eugene Edwin Johnston 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.

## Digital Format

Digital files were received as part of the papers of Eugene Edwin Johnston. Reference copies were created from the original digital media. Advanced notice is required for access to digital content; consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division for more information.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number or digital ID number, Eugene Edwin Johnston Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1915, Oct. 10	Born, Chattanooga, Tenn.
1933	Graduated, Chattanooga High School, Chattanooga, Tenn.
1940	Enlisted in United States Army, and assigned to medical detachment hospital, Fort Oglethorpe, Ga.
1942	Graduated, Officer Candidate School, Fort Benning, Ga. Assigned to 371st Infantry Regiment, 92nd Infantry Division, Camp Robinson, Ark.
1943	Operations and training staff officer, 92nd Infantry Division, Fort Huachuca, Ariz. Married Alta Ross
1944-1945	Served as rifle company commander and heavy weapons company commander, 92nd Infantry Division, North Apennines and Po Valley campaigns, Italy
1945	Promoted to captain Awarded Bronze Star Medal, Italy
1946	Promoted to major
1948	S-3 (Operations), 11th Infantry Regiment, 5th Infantry Division, Fort Jackson, S.C.

1950-1953	Assigned to 350th Infantry Regiment, Austria
1953-1955	Army advisor, National Guard, N.C.
1956-1957	Military advisor, Military Assistance Advisory Group, Taiwan
1958-1960	S-4 (Logistics), Combat Development Experimentation Command, 1st Brigade, 10th Infantry, Fort Ord, Calif.
1961-1962	Military advisor, Joint United States Military Advisory Group, Thailand
1962	Recalled from Thailand to assist in re-activation of 1st Armored Division, Fort Hood, Tex.
1963	Retired from U.S. Army as lieutenant colonel
2006, Mar. 12	Died, Cleveland, Tenn.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Eugene Edwin Johnston (1915-2006) span the years 1912-2008, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1940-1963. Correspondence, military papers, writings, photographs, awards, certificates, maps, printed matter, digital files, and other papers document Johnston's military career and focus on his service with the 92nd Infantry Division. The papers are in English. The collection is arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material and therein chronologically.

Johnston served with the 92nd Infantry Division, nicknamed the Buffalo Soldiers Division, during World War II, and the division saw heavy combat in northern Italy from 1944 to 1945. Included in the papers are Johnston's Buffalo Soldier patch, a publication about the division, and documentation regarding his award of a Bronze Star Medal in 1945. As a white, commanding officer in a primarily African-American unit of the segregated United States Army, Johnston wrote to his wife about his dealings with the troops. He was proud of their accomplishments and recommended some for decorations. There are glimpses of the racial dynamics and tensions in the division in Johnston's early correspondence. The full extent of Johnston's experience with the division is discussed in the oral history interviews conducted by Carolyn Johnston, daughter of Eugene Edwin Johnston, from 2001 to 2005. In 2012, Carolyn Johnston used the oral history interviews in her publication *My Father's War: Fighting with the Buffalo Soldiers in World War II*. The oral history interviews are located in the digital files. In addition, Johnston's military papers and personnel 201 file chronicle his service in Austria with the 350th Infantry Regiment from 1950 to 1953 and his role as a military advisor in Taiwan from 1956 to 1957 and in Thailand from 1961 to 1962.

Correspondents include Johnston's wife, Alta Ross Johnston, and his daughters, Carolyn Ross Johnston and Nancy Jean Johnston Smith. Many letters from the World War II era are in V-mail format.

The digital files mainly consist of images of Johnston's correspondence. The images were created in 2014 and are in PDF format. Not all correspondence is digitized. Also included are WAV files containing audio recordings of Johnston's oral history interviews from 2001 to 2005.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material and therein chronologically.

# Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	92nd Infantry Division related material, circa 1945, 2001, 2008
BOX 1	Bronze Star Medal award, 1945
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1938-1945, 1957-1963, 1998, 2004 (5 folders)
BOX 1	Diary of Fred Johnston (father), 1912-1913, 1926-1928
BOX 1	Education and training file, 1934, 1958-1962, 1975
BOX 1	Genealogical file, 1979, undated
BOX 1	Maps, 1944-1948, 1961-1963, undated <a href="#"><i>See Oversize</i></a>
BOX 1	Miscellany, 1961, undated
BOX 2	Military papers
BOX 2	1940-1966 (6 folders)
BOX 3	1969-1970, 1980-1984, 1991
BOX 3	Obituary, 2006
BOX 3	Oil tankers, 1975, undated
BOX 3	Personnel 201 file, 1944-1963 (4 folders)
BOX 4	Photograph albums, circa 1940-1963, undated (2 folders)
BOX 4	Photographs, circa 1940-circa 1963, undated
BOX 4	Writings, circa 1957, 1984-1989, undated
BOX OV 1	Oversize
BOX OV 1	Maps, 1944-1948, 1961-1963, undated (Container 1)
DF	Digital files <b>Digital ID:</b> mss85926_106_001 <b>Digital ID:</b> mss85926_106_002 Correspondence, 1938-1945, 1961-1963 Oral history interview recordings, circa 2001-circa 2005