

Ralph Samuel Jaffe collection

AFC 2001/001/20740

Guides to the Collections in the Veterans History Project



**LIBRARY OF
CONGRESS**

**Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
November 2015**

Contact information:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/vhp.contact>

Additional search options available at:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/eadvhp.vh015002>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/2015655441>

Prepared by Carrie Schneider and Laura J. Kells

Collection Summary

Title: Ralph Samuel Jaffe collection, 1924-1945: Veterans History Project (U.S.)

Inclusive Dates: 1924-1945

Bulk Dates: 1944-1945

Call No.: AFC 2001/001/20740

Creator: Jaffe, Ralph Samuel, 1907-1992

Extent: 603 items.

Extent: 6 boxes.

Extent (Photographs): graphic images: 22 photographic prints : black and white ; various sizes.

Extent (Correspondence): correspondence: 40 folders.

Extent (Manuscript): manuscript: 1 diary (29 pages).

Language: In English.

Repository: Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/vhp.home>

Abstract: The Ralph Jaffe collection consists of personal correspondence, newspaper clippings, a diary, a creative work, photographs, and artifacts. The majority of the collection consists of correspondence by Ralph Jaffe to his wife, Betty, and her letters to him during his time in military service.

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

Jaffe, Ralph Samuel, 1907-1992.

Organizations

American Folklife Center.

United States. Army.

Veterans History Project (U.S.) collector.

Subjects

World War, 1939-1945--Personal narratives, American.

World War, 1939-1945--Veterans--Rhode Island.

Form/Genre

Clippings.

Correspondence.

Manuscripts.

Photographs.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

Arranged in three series: Manuscripts, Photographs, and Artifacts. Manuscript materials are arranged alphabetically by subseries. Photographs are arranged in the donor's original order.

Acquisition

Accessioned, 2003.

Copyright Status

Duplication of collection materials may be restricted.

Access and Restrictions

Collection is open for research; access restrictions apply. To request collection materials, please contact the Veterans History Project at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/vhp.contact>

Online Content

The Ralph Samuel Jaffe collection is available on the Library of Congress web site at <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/diglib/vhp/story/loc.natlib.afc2001001.20740/>.

Preferred Citation

Ralph Samuel Jaffe Collection (AFC/2001/001/20740), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress.

Biographical Note

Ralph Samuel Jaffe was born in New York, New York, on February 8, 1907. At the outset of World War II, Jaffe was living in Newport, Rhode Island, with his wife, Betty, and their two children, Rita and Stanley. The proprietor of a hardware store, Jaffe was drafted into the United States Army in 1944 at the age of 37, leaving his wife to attend to the family business. Jaffe served at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Fort Meade, Maryland; and Manila, Philippines. While in the Philippines, he served as a clerk in a recovered personnel detachment. He achieved the rank of Private First Class and was awarded the Good Conduct and Asiatic-Pacific Campaign medals. At the end of his enlistment in 1945, Jaffe returned home to Rhode Island and resumed operation of his store. He died on October 28, 1992.

Scope and Content

The Ralph Jaffe Collection consists of personal correspondence, newspaper clippings, a diary, a creative work, photographs, and a few artifacts. The majority of the collection consists of Ralph Jaffe's letters to his wife, Betty, and her letters to him during his time in military service. Ralph and Betty Jaffe exchanged letters about their business, their children, Ralph's eagerness to get home, military training, his health, recreation, the death of President Roosevelt, Ralph's job duties in the Philippines, daily life, and the end of the war.

Description of Series

Container

Series

Series I: Manuscripts

BOX-FOLDER MSS730/1

Clippings, 1945

MS01: Clippings from the Providence (RI) Journal about the return of veteran's ship (SS Admiral Rodman); stories of POWs; end of the war; status of older Army enlistees and demobilization efforts.

BOX-FOLDER
MSS730/2-9

Correspondence, 1944-1945

MS02: Correspondence from Ralph Jaffe to Betty Jaffe. Topics covered include: expressions of his love for his wife and his eagerness to get home; advising his wife on business details and praising her for her work and success in business; daily details of basic training at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; his rejection of the chance to go to officers school; training in telephone and communications; physical challenges and arthritic knees; work at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland; weekend passes to Sanford and Fayetteville, North Carolina, San Francisco, California, and home to Newport, Rhode Island; efforts to get discharged because of his age; life aboard ship from San Francisco to the Philippines in July 1945; descriptions his surroundings in the Philippines; work as a mail clerk in Manila; washing clothes in the shower; mention of the new atomic bomb; Jewish holidays and religious services; work as a clerk in the Recovered Personnel Detachment in Manila; seeing General MacArthur and the arrival of Japanese peace envoys in August 1945; unhappiness with life in the Army.

BOX-FOLDER
MSS731/1-7

Correspondence, 1944-1945

MS02 (Continued)

BOX-FOLDER
MSS732/1-7

Correspondence, 1944-1945

MS02 (Continued)

BOX-FOLDER
MSS733/1-7

Correspondence, 1944-1945

MS03: Correspondence from Betty Jaffe to Ralph Jaffe, topics covered include: details of daily life for her and the children; activities at the store; her need for hard work while he is away; pep talks to Ralph and warnings not to drink, swear, or gamble; the death of President Roosevelt; request to Senator Theodore Greene that Jaffe not be sent overseas; their son's bar mitzvah; radio coverage of the "new bomb" and the impending victory in Japan; and the end of the war, including a letter from August 14, 1945, which reports hearing the news over the radio and includes lipstick kisses. Other lipstick kisses adorn letters from June through August 1945.

BOX-FOLDER
MSS734/1-7

Correspondence, 1944-1945

MS03 (Continued)

BOX-FOLDER MSS2542/1

Correspondence, 1944-1945

MS04: Correspondence to Jaffe from his daughter, Rita.

BOX-FOLDER MSS2542/2 Correspondence, 1945

MS04: Correspondence to Jaffe from his son, Stanley.

BOX-FOLDER MSS2542/3 Correspondence, 1944

MS04: Correspondence to Jaffe from various friends and family members.

BOX-FOLDER MSS2542/4 Correspondence, 1924-1925

MS05: Correspondence between Ralph and Betty prior to their marriage. Includes his invitation to her sweet 16 party and a letter from Ralph to Betty.

BOX-FOLDER MSS2542/5 Creative Works, undated

MS06: Poem written by the veteran aboard ship.

BOX-FOLDER MSS2542/6 Diaries and journals, September 1945

MS07: Journal written by veteran on board ship and directed to his wife, offering more candid details of his Army experiences and his feelings about them than he could express in letters viewed by censors.

BOX-FOLDER MSS2542/7 Maps, circa 1945

MS08: Map of San Francisco, printed by Clinton Cafeterias, originally housed with 06/18/1945 letter to Betty Jaffe (MS02).

BOX-FOLDER MSS2542/8 Military Papers, 1945

MS09: Enlisted Man's Temporary Pass (06/1945); Domain of the Golden Dragon card (1945). Pass originally housed with correspondence (MS02), 06/08/1945. Domain of the Golden Dragon card originally housed with correspondence (MS02) 07/21-22/1945.

BOX-FOLDER MSS2542/9 Printed Matter, circa 1945

MS10: Ten Centavo notes, issued by the Japanese government.

Series II: Photographs

BOX-FOLDER MSS2542/10 Original photographic print, 1944-1945

PH01-PH22: Images of Ralph Jaffe in uniform, pictures of his wife, Betty, including one inscribed to "my Dream Man," and pictures of his son, Stanley, and daughter, Rita.

Series III: Artifacts

BOX-FOLDER MSS2542/11 Artifact, undated

AR01: Combination Score Book for US Rifles M1903 and M1 and Browning Automatic Rifle M1918A2.

BOX-FOLDER OVZ227/1 Artifact, June 7, 1945

AR02: Handkerchief stained with Betty Jaffe's lipstick.

BOX-FOLDER
MSS2542/12

Artifact, undated

AR03: Assorted notes, receipts and lists.

BOX-FOLDER
MSS2542/13

Artifact, 1924-1945

AR04: Pressed flowers included in 07/23-24/1945 correspondence (MS03) and 12/02/1924 correspondence (MS05).

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BOX-FOLDER MSS730/2-9 Correspondence, 1944-1945
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MS02 (Continued)

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1 folder

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Artifact, undated

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AR03: Assorted notes, receipts and lists.

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1 folder

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