

Hord, Robert, Jr., Papers

Robert E. Hord, Jr., Papers
1942-1945, n.d.



Title Statement

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.2011.058

Unit Date

1942-1945, n.d.

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

This collection consists primarily of correspondence written by Robert Hord, Jr., of Richmond, Virginia, to his parents, Gladys and Robert Hord, Sr. It also includes a scrapbook and photographs of the Hord family. Robert Hord, Jr., was born in 1920; he attended the Virginia Polytechnic Institute's Engineering Extension school in Richmond from 1937 to 1939. In April 1942, Hord enlisted in the Army where he served in the 302nd Ordinance Regiment before being transferred to the 758th Railway Shop Battalion. Hord was stationed in a number of camps across the United States before his unit was sent overseas in December of 1943. Hord spent the remainder of World War II repairing trains and railroads in Dibrugarh, Assam, India before being sent home. Hord was discharged from the army in November 1945. Hord went on to complete a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering in 1949 and a Master's in Power and Fuel Engineering in 1950. Hord went on to a successful career working for the railroad before passing away in December 2010.

Creator

Hord, Robert E., Jr., 1920-2010

Extent

1 Cubic Feet 3 boxes, 1 oversize folder

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

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Source of Acquisition

The Robert E. Hord, Jr., Papers were purchased by Special Collections and University Archives in 2011.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Robert E. Hord, Jr., Papers was completed in June 2011. The processing of an addition was completed in September 2011.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Robert E. Hord, Jr., Papers, Ms2011-058, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

Robert "Bobby" E. Hord, Jr., was born in 1920 to Gladys Bauer Hord and Robert E. Hord, Sr., in Richmond, Virginia. Hord, Jr., attended class at the Richmond branch of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute Engineering Extension Division from 1937 to 1939.

Hord enlisted in the Army in April of 1942 and was assigned to Company G, 2nd Battalion of the 302nd Ordinance Regiment. Hord completed his training at numerous bases throughout the United States including: Camp Sutton in Monroe, North Carolina; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Camp Young in Indio, California; Camp Pickett, Virginia, and Camp McCain in Mississippi. While he was serving in Mississippi, Hord received a much-anticipated transfer to Company A of the 758th Railway Shop Battalion. He spent a brief period at Camp Harrahan in New Orleans, Louisiana where the battalion was activated before being transferred to Camp Millard in Bucyrus, Ohio to complete training. In December of 1943, Hord and the rest of the 758th were sent overseas to Dibrugarh, Assam, India. Hord spent the remainder of his service in the China-Burma-India theater before returning state-side for discharge in November of 1945.

After the war, Robert Hord, Jr., completed his studies at VPI receiving a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering in 1949 and continuing to complete a Masters in Power and Fuel Engineering in 1950. Hord spent the remainder of his life living in Richmond, Virginia and channeling his love for the railroad into a successful career working for the Norfolk and Western Railroad and later, the Richmond, Fredericksburg, and Potomac Railroad. Robert Hord, Jr., died on December 13, 2010.

Additional Information about 758th Railway Battalion found here: 758th Railway Shop Battalion by David Kauffman, <http://militaryrailwayservice.blogspot.com/2010/01/758th-by-dave-kauffman.html>, retrieved June 2011.

Scope and Content

The Robert E. Hord, Jr., Papers have been divided into two series based upon material type. Series I consist primarily of letters written by Robert E. Hord, Jr., to his parents, Robert and Gladys Hord while serving in the army during World War II. Also present are two letters written to Robert Hord, Jr. by "Cousin Otto" and Al Bungardner. There are a few letters written to Robert Hord, Jr.'s parents on Robert's behalf. Also included are newspapers and advertisements which were included with Robert's letters home.

The majority of the letters speak directly to Hord's mother and center around discussions of camp life and the types of equipment he is working on while serving with the 302nd Ordnance Regiment. There are extensive discussions of Hord's efforts to secure a transfer to the Railway Shop Battalion. After the transfer, the letters settle into a kind of routine discussion of interesting events in camp, the types of trains he is working on, and responses to the homefront news that his mother shares with him in her letters. The letters offer a unique perspective on the war and a glimpse into camp life for soldiers stationed in the China-Burma-India theater during World War II.

Series II of the collection consists of a scrapbook and loose photographs of the Hord family. Photographs include Mr. and Mrs. Granville Hord, Robert Hord's grandparents. The scrapbook includes images from the campus of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and images of the camp where Hord was stationed in India. The majority of individual photographs are unidentified.

Keywords

Railroad
Students and alumni
University History
World War, 1939-1945
Hord, Robert E., Jr., 1920-2010
Hord family (Richmond, Va)
Virginia Polytechnic Institute (1944-1970)

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Arrangement

The collection is divided into two series by material type.

Series I includes the correspondence written by Robert Hord, Jr., arranged chronologically followed by the other letters and materials which are also arranged chronologically.

Series II includes the photographs and scrapbook.

Description of Subordinate Components

Series I: Correspondence

Unit Date 1942-1945

Correspondence

Unit Date May 12, 1942 - July 2, 1942

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit Date July 6, 1942 - September 6, 1942

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit Date September 8, 1942 - December 7, 1942

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit Date January 8, 1943 - May 1, 1943

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit Date May 4, 1943 - June 10, 1943

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit Date July 1, 1943 - October 4, 1943

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit Date October 8, 1943 - December 2, 1943

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit Date February 10, 1944 - April 4, 1944

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit Date April 6, 1944 - May 10, 1944

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit Date May 16, 1944 - July 2, 1944

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit Date July 3, 1944 - October 8, 1944

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit Date October 15, 1944 - December 31, 1944

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit Date January 7, 1945 - April 30, 1945

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Correspondence**Unit Date** May 4, 1945 - July 29, 1945**box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 6 (folder)**Correspondence****Unit Date** August 5, 1945 - October 3, 1945**box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 7 (folder)**Correspondence - Letters written to Robert Hord, Jr.****Unit Date** September 16, 1942 - October 27, 1942**box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 9 (folder)**Notices and Correspondence sent to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hord****Unit Date** April 12, 1943 - August 31, 1945**box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 8 (folder)**Newspaper clippings and advertisements****Unit Date** March 1944 - January 1945**oversize** 1 (folder)**Ephemera****Unit Date** n.d.**box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 10 (folder)**Series II: Photographs****Unit Date** n.d.**Photographs - Mr. & Mrs. Granville Hord; James E. Lyle; Hattie E. Meylert****Unit Date** n.d.**box-folder** 3 (box)**Container** 1 (folder)**Photographs - unidentified groups****Unit Date** n.d.**box-folder** 3 (box)**Container** 2 (folder)**Photographs - unidentified individuals****Unit Date** n.d.**box-folder** 3 (box)**Container** 3 (folder)**Photographs - unidentified children****Unit Date** n.d.**box-folder** 3 (box)**Container** 4 (folder)

Unidentified photographs**Unit Date** n.d.**box-folder** 3 (box)**Container** 5 (folder)**Hord family scrapbook****Unit Date** n.d.**box** 3