

Leonard H. Clark military history collection C0060

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1938-2003



Title Statement

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

C0060

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/120

Unit 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

Clark, Leonard H., 1919-2003

Extent

2 Linear Feet 4 boxes

Physical Location

R26, C1, S1 R26, C1, S3 OSR4, C2, S3 Map Case 11.5

Repository

George Mason University. Libraries. Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no access restrictions.

Use Restrictions

The copyright and related rights status of this collection have not been evaluated (See <http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/CNE/1.0/>)

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. Finding aid updated by Amanda Brent in July 2022.

Preferred Citation

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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.

Related Material

The Special Collections Research Center holds many other collections on World War II and the experiences of military personnel and veterans during the war.

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](#).

Keywords

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

World War, 1939-1945 -- Pacific Area

Correspondence

Photographs

World War, 1939-1945

Scrapbooks

Aerial photographs

Photography of airplanes

United States. Air Force

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

United States. Navy

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in 4 series:

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)

Description of Subordinate Components

Series 1: Documents

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/36120

Unit Date 1938-1968, 2003

Scope and Contents note

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 ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/36121**Unit Date** 1967-1968**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 1 (folder)**Scope and Contents note****Biographical Information/Obituary****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/36122**Unit Date** 2003**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 2 (folder)**Scope and Contents note****Citations and Awards****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/36123**Unit Date** 1938-1968**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 3 (folder)**Scope and Contents note**

Contains a photograph concerning one of the citations.

Correspondence**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/36124**Unit Date** 1941-1945**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 4 (folder)**Scope and Contents note****Correspondence/Military****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/36125**Unit Date** 1945**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 5 (folder)**Scope and Contents note****Documents****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/36126**Unit Date** 1941-1967**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 6 (folder)**Scope and Contents note****Documents****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/36127**Unit Date** 1941-1968**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 7 (folder)**Scope and Contents note**

Evaluations

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/36128

Unit Date 1953-1968

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

Contains a photograph from Leonard Clark's military records.

Flight Logs

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/36129

Unit Date 1942-1963

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

Flight Training

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/36130

Unit Date 1953-1960

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

Miscellaneous Clippings

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/36131

Unit Date 1944-1967

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

Orders

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/36132

Unit Date 1944-1958

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

Personnel Records

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/36133

Unit Date 1940-1953

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

Robert Martin Mathias Documents

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/36134

Unit Date 1946

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

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 ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/36135

Unit Date 1960s

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

Series 2: Photographs

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/36136

Unit Date 1940s-1960s

Scope and Contents note

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 ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/36137

Unit Date 1943-1944

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

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

Aircraft Photographs

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/36138

Unit Date 1950s-1960s

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

Photographs

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/36139

Unit Date 1940s

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

Robert Martin Mathias Photographs

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/36140

Unit Date 1940s

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

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

Oversized Aerial Photographs

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/36141

Unit Date 1940s

Mixed Materials 4 (box)

Scope and Contents note

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

Series 3: Memorabilia

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/36142

Unit Date 1940s-1957

Scope and Contents note

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 ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/36143

Unit Date 1941-1954

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

Identification Cards

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/36144

Unit Date 1940s

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

Insignia

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/36145

Unit Date 1940s

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

Japanese Propaganda

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/36146

Unit Date 1940s

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

Sidi Slimani Air Base, Morocco

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/36147

Unit Date 1957

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

World Currency, World War II

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/36148

Unit Date 1943-1944

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Scope and Contents note

Distinguished Flying Cross

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/36149

Unit Date 1944

Mixed Materials 3 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Series 4: Maps/Oversized

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/36150

Unit Date 1940s

Scope and Contents note

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 ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/36151

Unit Date 1940s

Mixed Materials MC (oversize)

Scope and Contents note

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 ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/36152

Unit Date 1940s

Mixed Materials 4 (oversize)

Scope and Contents note

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