

Fountain, W.A. Letters to Evelyn Lanphere

W. A. Fountain Letters to Evelyn Lanphere

1945 February - July

Title Statement

Fountain, W.A. Letters to Evelyn LanphereGuide to the W.A. Fountain Letters to Evelyn Lanphere MS 00220

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MS 00220

Unit ID

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Unit Date

1945 February - July

Mixed Materials

1 (Box)

Language

English

source

Gary Alonzo Barranger

Creator

Fountain, W. A.

Extent

0.5 Linear Feet

Repository

Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

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Biographical / Historical

W.A. (Wilfred Allen) Fountain was born in Milligan, Florida and worked for the Civilian Conservation Corps before World War II. During the war, he was a Navy Seaman parachute rigger at the United States Naval Air Station (U.S.N.A.S) Klamath Falls in Oregon. His letters mention his mother Kate and an older brother Douglas. Evelyn Ruth Lanphere is the recipient of Fountain's correspondence, though the collection does not include her letters. Lanphere was a high school student who lived in Coupeville, Washington (located on Whidbey Island). On July 25, 1945, Fountain and Lanphere were married in Coupeville. When Fountain retired from the Navy in 1963, he and Lanphere returned to Whidbey Island. Fountain died in 1994; Lanphere died in 2018. Both are buried in Coupeville, Washington.

Content Description

This collection consists of over 85 handwritten letters and 3 photographs. It documents the final year of World War II (1945) from the perspective of a United States Navy parachute rigger stationed at U.S.N.A.S. Klamath Falls in Oregon. W.A. (Wilfred Allen or Al) Fountain wrote to Evelyn Ruth Lanphere, who lived in Coupeville, on Whidbey Island, in Washington State. Few letters are dated; envelope postmarks detail the letters' chronology.

The end of World War II is often discussed. Fountain writes about the cessation of fighting in Europe and "German treasure" discovered by the Allies. The Pacific theater is frequently mentioned, as Fountain watches air force preparations to attack Japan. Fountain also laments Franklin Delano Roosevelt's death, comments on Harry Truman's presidency, and acknowledges V-E Day celebrations.

Fountain describes Klamath Falls Naval Station and his work as a Navy parachute rigger with Carrier Aircraft Service Unit (CASU) 68. His rank is Seaman, and he details his responsibilities at the float shop. Fountain primarily works on the station, though he does mention being off shore in May 1945. Lanphere is on Whidbey Island, where she first met Fountain when he was stationed there before Klamath Falls. Much of the correspondence details leisure activities: movies, dances, drinking socially, family time and photography. Fountain sends Lanphere camera film, purchased at the station, to take photographs with her camera. Fountain also discusses his brother, Douglas Fountain, who is with 640th Bombardment Squadron, 409th Bombardment Group (later 9th Army Air Forces) in Europe.

The photographs depict Evelyn as a baby, circa 1928; as a young girl in 1934; and her parents' home in Coupeville, Washington.

Keywords

World War, 1939-1945

United States. Navy

V-E Day, 1945

Navy-yards and naval stations -- United States

Gary Alonzo Barranger

Description of Subordinate Components

Correspondence, 1945 February 28 - March 9

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/268185

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Language English

Correspondence, 1945 March 9 - March 16

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/276984

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Language English

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/276985

Unit Date 1945 March 19 - March 26

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 3 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/276986

Unit Date 1945 March 27 - March 31

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 4 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/276987

Unit Date 1945 April 2 - April 6

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 5 (Folder)

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/276988

Unit Date 1945 April 7 - April 10

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 6 (Folder)

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/276989

Unit Date 1945 April 11 - April 15

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 7 (Folder)

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/276990

Unit Date 1945 April 16 - April 20

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 8 (Folder)

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/276991

Unit Date 1945 April 22- April 30

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 9 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/276992

Unit Date 1945 May 1 - May 8

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 10 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/276993

Unit Date 1945 May 9 - May 14

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 11 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/276994

Unit Date 1945 May 15 - May 21

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 12 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/276995

Unit Date 1945 May 22 - May 26

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 13 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/276996

Unit Date 1945 May 27 - May 31

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 14 (Folder)

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/276997

Unit Date 1945 June 1 - June 5

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 15 (Folder)

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/276998

Unit Date 1945 June 7 - June 12

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 16 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/276999

Unit Date 1945 June 13 - June 19

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 17 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/277000

Unit Date 1945 June 20 - June 25

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 18 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/277001

Unit Date 1945 June 26 - June 4

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 19 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/277002

Unit Date 1945 - 1946

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 20 (Folder)

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/277003

Unit Date Photographs, 1928 - 1934

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 21 (folder)