

**Collection #  
M 0272**

**FRANK W. SUMMERS  
PAPERS, 1940–1960**

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Processed by

Robert W. Smith  
Paul Brockman, Supervisor  
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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department  
William Henry Smith Memorial Library  
Indiana Historical Society  
450 West Ohio Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

[www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org)

## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 3 document cases, 1 photograph, 5 artifacts

COLLECTION DATES: 1940–1960

PROVENANCE: Frank W. Summers, Richmond, Indiana, August 1974

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1974.0802

NOTES:

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Frank Wallace Summers (1923–1986) was born in Indianapolis, Indiana. His grandfather, William Wallace Spencer, was involved with writing the election laws for the state of Indiana. Frank married Juanita Mae Coleman and they had five children. Mr. Summers moved to the Richmond, Indiana, area in 1953.

During World War II, Summers served with the 4<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Squadron of the 12<sup>th</sup> Air Force in North Africa, Sicily, and Italy. He attained the rank of sergeant.

Sources:

Information in collection.

*Ancestry Plus* <http://search.ancestry.com>. Accessed 20 May 2004

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The bulk of the collection consists of correspondence between Frank Wallace Summers serving with the U.S. Army Air Corps and his siblings Harriett Bartlett, Bill Summers, and Janie Summers in Indianapolis, Indiana, 1940–46. Frank writes from training camps and schools including Ft. Benjamin Harrison (near Indianapolis); Iowa City, Iowa; McClellan Field (near Sacramento California); Florence, South Carolina; and Kellogg Field, Michigan. Most of these letters contain humorous sketches and describe his training, classes, and leisure time, August 1940–August 1942.

This letter exchange continues when Summers is shipped overseas with the 4<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Squadron of the 12<sup>th</sup> Air Force in England (September–November 1942); North Africa (December 1942–August 1943); Sicily (December 1943–January 1944); and Italy (February 1944–Aug. 1945). Summers discusses his daily activities, the places he was assigned to, and light-hearted subjects in his world. He states that he neither blames nor dislikes the German soldier that they were only trying to do their jobs unless they are dropping bombs on him.

Postwar correspondence includes cards and family correspondence from 1946 and 1960. There also are a number of copies of special orders issued by Summers' unit that involves his assignments, unit citations, promotions, and awards such as the Good Conduct Medal.

The papers also contain documents and printed materials relevant to Summers's military career. There are various identification cards, orders, and passes, many of which are from his assignment in Italy. There also are programs, flyers, and other types of remembrances from performances and tourist attractions visited by Summers while in the military including the Soldiers Guide for both North Africa and Italy.

## **SERIES CONTENTS**

### **Series 1: Correspondence, 1940–1960**

#### CONTENTS

Correspondence, 1940; Jan.–May 1941

Correspondence, June–July 1941

Correspondence, Aug.–Sept. 1941

Correspondence, Oct.–Dec. 1941

Correspondence, Jan.–May 1942

Photograph of Frank Summers enclosed in 7 March 1942 letter

Correspondence, June–Dec. 1942

Correspondence, 1943

Correspondence, 1944

Correspondence, Jan.–April 1945

Correspondence, May–Aug. 1945

Correspondence, Sept.–Dec. 1945; 1946; Aug. 1960

Correspondence, n.d.

Orders and Correspondence, 1942–45

#### CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 2

Box 1, Folder 3

Box 1, Folder 4

Box 1, Folder 5

Visual Collections:  
Photographs, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 6

Box 1, Folder 7

Box 1, Folder 8

Box 1, Folder 9

Box 2, Folder 1

Box 2, Folder 2

Box 2, Folder 3

Box 2, Folder 4

### **Series 2: Documents, Artifacts, and Printed Materials, 1942–1945**

#### CONTENTS

Identification, Passes and Related Papers, 1942–45

Military Insignias: 12<sup>th</sup> Air Force and “MAAF”

2 Samples of Bluebeard Razor Blades; Colorado  
Retail Sales Tax Token, n.d.

Printed Materials, 1942–45

#### CONTAINER

Box 2, Folder 5

Artifacts: 1974.0802

Artifacts: 1974.0802

Box 2, Folder 6

Pamphlet, North Africa Soldiers Guide, ca. 1942	Box 2, Folder 7
Pamphlet, Palermo Travel Guide, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 8
Pamphlet, Italy Soldiers Guide, 1943	Box 2, Folder 9
<i>Time</i> (“Mediterranean Pony Edition”), 3 April and 18 June 1945	Box 2, Folder 10
<i>Strange Fruit</i> , 1944 (Armed Forces Book Edition)	Box 3, Folder 1
Army Newspapers, 1940–1944	Box 3, Folder 2
Army Newspapers, 1945	Box 3, Folder 3
<i>Yank</i> (Magazine), 1945	Box 3, Folder 4