

Collection #  
M 0750  
BV 3307–3308

## CHARLES WILLIAM WALTERS PAPERS, 1941–1999

[Collection Information](#)

[Biographical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Series Contents](#)

[Cataloging Information](#)

Processed by

Kristen R. Sanders

31 July 2000

Revised 5 October 2001

Updated 9 March 2004

Manuscripts 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: 2 manuscript boxes, 2 bound volumes, 9 folders

COLLECTION  
DATES: 1941–1999

PROVENANCE: Marthana M. Walters, 5934 N. College Avenue, Indianapolis, IN  
46220-2554

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT: Owned by Marthana M. Walters

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection  
must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS: *Letters from an American Soldier 1941-1946* edited by  
Marthana McWhir Walters, 1999 (BV 3308)

RELATED HOLDINGS: None

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2000.0421 and 2000.0937

NOTES: None

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Charles William Walters was born on 2 July 1914 to Josephine Iliff Walters and Harrison Walters in Indianapolis, Indiana. He grew up at 5934 North College Avenue. In 1931 Walters began his freshman year at Purdue University and then transferred to Butler University at the beginning of his sophomore year in 1932. He graduated from Butler in 1935 with a Bachelor of Science. He then went on to the University of Chicago to pursue graduate coursework in chemistry.

Starting in 1938 Walters was employed as a research chemist with P.R. Mallory and Company, where he worked for forty-eight years. The time he served in the armed services was his only long-term absence from the company.

In 1941 Walters entered the United States Army at Fort Benjamin Harrison. He was assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Chemical Company at Edgewood Arsenal in Edgewood, Maryland. While stationed there he did an extensive amount of traveling along the Mid-Atlantic coast, visiting cities such as New York City, Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia. At Edgewood Arsenal Walters was involved with the testing of chemicals designed for use in chemical warfare.

At the end of 1942 Walters secured an appointment to New York University's Department of Meteorology, in its College of Engineering. He entered as an officer candidate in 1943 and graduated a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Army Air Corps later that same year.

His first assignment as an officer was at Stuttgart Army Air Field, Stuttgart, Arkansas, in September 1943. While here he worked in the meteorology office, predicting weather conditions for the pilots who flew into and out of the area.

In 1944 Walters was sent to Fort Benning, Georgia, for training at the infantry school. After completion of his training at Fort Benning Charles returned to Stuttgart Army Air Field. He was soon reassigned to the weather station in Ardmore, Oklahoma, where he performed duties comparable to the ones he had at Stuttgart Air Field.

He was in Ardmore just a few months before being transferred again in April 1944 to the Army Air Forces Advanced Flying School, Office of the Base Weather Officer, Foster Field, Texas. June 1944 found Walters once again transferred, this time to Waco Air Field, Waco, Texas.

Towards the end of 1944 Walters received secret orders to report for service in the South Pacific. In November 1944 he was somewhere in New Guinea predicting weather for missions flown against the Japanese. The end of 1944 saw Walters move on to the Admiralty Islands. While there he was promoted to 1st Lieutenant. Once a victory was secured

in June 1945 he was able to report home where he had actually been stationed in previous months, which at the time of victory was Los Negros in the Admiralty Islands. After V-J Day, Walters became part of the occupational forces in the Pacific, stationed in Manila and Okinawa. Walters was honorably discharged from the United States Army Air Force in January 1946.

Once Walters returned home he went back to work for P.R. Mallory, where he went on to become a pioneer in the field of laser technology and electro-chemistry. He received several patents from the U.S. Patent Office for his work through P.R. Mallory and its many subsequent parent companies.

Walters married Marthana McWhir in June 1957. The couple had a son, David, born in 1958, and a daughter, Flora Ann, born in 1960. Charles Walters retired from his research in 1984. He was an active member of Tabernacle Presbyterian Church, where he volunteered in its weekly soup kitchen program and where he was involved in the installation of its pipe organ. Charles William Walters died on 18 December 1996.

Sources: Information in the collection; Marthana M. Walters.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Series I contains the majority of the papers of Charles William Walters. These papers consist of his World War II correspondence with his family in Indianapolis, Indiana. The letters start in April 1941 and continue until just before Walters's honorable discharge from the United States Army Air Force in January 1946. They are arranged in chronological order and cover his assignments throughout the United States and in the Pacific Theater. The letters contain descriptions of his duties, his impressions of his surroundings, and his opinions regarding politics during the Second World War.

Series II contains miscellaneous items from Walters's military service, including newspaper and magazine articles relating to his overseas assignments; several photographs of Walters; and a map of Okinawa. Series II is arranged in alphabetical order. Series II also contains two bound volumes from the World War II period: BV 3307 is Walters' yearbook from NYU, and BV 3308 contains transcripts of the original letters sent by Walters to his family back home in Indianapolis. Also contained in this series are several photographic images of Charles Walters.

## SERIES CONTENTS

### Series 1: Papers 1941–23 June 1945

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Charles William Walters Army physical medical records dated 14 April 1941	Box 1, Folder 1
Correspondence from Walters to his family, 1941	Box 1, Folder 2
Photograph of Walters resting after a march, 5 June 1941	Visual Collections: Manuscript Photographs, Folder 1
Photograph of Walters posing in front of the Capitol Building, 23 June 1941	Visual Collections: Manuscript Photographs, Folder 2
Washington D.C. (photograph) 23 June 1941	Visual Collections: Manuscript Photographs, Folder 3
Photograph of Walters in uniform, June 1941	Visual Collections: Manuscript Photographs,

	Folder 4
Christmas dinner menu, 25 December 1941	Box 1, Folder 3
Correspondence from Walters to his family, 1942	Box 1, Folder 4
Photograph of Walters at a Russian restaurant with Mr. Clark, 17 February 1942	Visual Collections: Manuscript Photographs, Folder 5
Identification photo of Walters, 6 May 1942	Visual Collections: Manuscript Photographs, Folder 6
Walters (photograph), 7 July 1942	Visual Collections: Manuscript Photographs, Folder 7
Correspondence from Walters to his family, 19 January 1943- 29 March 1943	Box 1, Folder 5
Correspondence from Walters to his family, 9 April 1943- 9 December 1943	Box 1, Folder 6
<i>Synopsis: Army Air Forces Training Command, School of Meteorology, New York University, February 1943 (yearbook). Editor-in-Chief, Jerome R. Fogel</i>	BV 3307
Correspondence from Walters to his family, 4 January 1944-10 August 1944	Box 1, Folder 7
Church Service Programs, 6 February 1944 and undated	Box 1, Folder 8
Identification photo of Walters, 6 June 1944	Visual Collections: Manuscript Photographs, Folder 8
Correspondence from Walters to his family, 2 September 1944- 4 December 1944	Box 1, Folder 9
Correspondence from Walters to his family, 1 January 1945- 23 June 1945	Box 1, Folder 10
Correspondence from Walters to his family, 30 June 1945- 16 December 1945	Box 2, Folder 1
“Naturalist Sketchbook of the Solomons,” Chicago <i>Sunday Tribune</i> , 26 August 1945	Box 2, Folder 2
Emma (?) graduation photograph, 6 October 1945	Visual Collections: Manuscript Photographs, Folder 9

Correspondence from Walters to his family, 1946 Box 2, Folder 3

## Series 2: Miscellaneous World War II material

### CONTENTS

### CONTAINER

EMHART 1981 Annual Report: Part 2 "Operating Profile." Box 2, Folder 4

*Letters from an American Soldier 1941-1946* edited by Marthana McWhir Walters, 1999. Transcript of the letters in the collection BV 3308

Air Forces Manual no. 21W) *On Land Jungle-Desert- Arctic Army Air Forces Survival*, prepared by Arctic, Desert, and Tropic Information Center Box 2, Folder 5

"Chemistry in Warfare: a Recent Address to the Students and Faculty of William and Mary College," by Col. Maurice E. Barker, Technical Director, Edgewood Arsenal Box 2, Folder 6

Draft extension protest materials Box 2, Folder 7

"How to Use Your War Ration Book" (leaflet) Box 2, Folder 8

Miscellaneous Box 2, Folder 9

Pictorial Revue Fort Benning, Georgia: Benning at War Box 2, Folder 10

"Okinawa Now," Photography by Larry Keighley. (A *Saturday Evening Post* picture story.) Box 2, Folder 11

Map of Okinawa Box 2, Folder 12

World War II Memorial- "Images of War: The Pacific Theater," prepared especially for charter members of the World War II Memorial Society Box 2, Folder 13

## CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://157.91.92.2/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 0750).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for

related materials.