

Collection #
M 0862

STALLINGS FAMILY CORRESPONDENCE, 1936–1945

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Processed by

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Indiana Historical Society
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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	2 manuscript boxes, 2 photograph folders, 2 artifacts
COLLECTION DATES:	1936–1945 (bulk 1940–1945)
PROVENANCE:	Charles Apfelbaum Rare Manuscripts, Watchung, NJ, November 2000
RESTRICTIONS:	None
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ALTERNATE FORMATS:	None

RELATED
HOLDINGS:
ACCESSION 2001.0096
NUMBER:
NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Harold Truman Stallings (also known as "Hallie" or "Truman") was born on 24 July 1915 and died on 2 July 1988. His parents were Truman Homer Stallings and Luella "Lollie" Stallings. The family resided in New Harmony, Posey County, Indiana. Truman H. Stallings was employed as a bridge toll collector in New Harmony and the family appears to have tended a farm as well. Harold was a member of a Masonic organization, the Arctic Lodge No. 394, F. & A.M. in New Harmony.

Harold joined the army as a private in August 1941. He was sent to Fort Benjamin Harrison Reception Center in Indiana, and then to Fort Thomas, Kentucky. In September 1941 Harold was with the 87th Battalion, Company C at Camp Roberts, California. He later moved to the 80th Infantry Training Battalion, Company D, and then in December transferred to the 184th Infantry, Company F. After the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, the 184th Infantry moved to San Diego to defend against a possible attack on the West Coast. While in California, Harold was assigned to play the bugle for his company.

In April 1942, the 184th went to Fort Lewis, Washington and then back to California to the Presidio in San Francisco in June 1942 as part of the Western Defense Command. Harold performed guard duty for airplane factories alternately at the Benecia Arsenal, the Presidio, and Hamilton Field, and was promoted to Private First Class in July 1942.

In October Harold was at Fort Funston and in November, the 184th moved to Fort Ord. At Fort Ord, they became part of Amphibious Training Force 9, 184th Regimental Combat Team and were assigned to the Japanese-held Aleutian Islands in July 1943. In October 1943, the 184th was in Hawaii.

Harold was transferred in December 1943 to the Anti-Tank Company, 160th Infantry. He was stationed in Guadalcanal early in 1944 and later in New Britain in April 1944. From spring 1945 until the end of his time in the service, Harold was stationed in the Philippines on Panay Island, Luzon, and Negros. During this time, he was ill for approximately one month with "yellow jaundice."

Harold was discharged from the army in November 1945 and returned home to New Harmony.

Sources:

Information in the collection

"Roots Web." Website search for "Harold Stallings." Available from <http://www.rootsweb.com>. Accessed 20 November 2005.

"California State Military Museum" website. <http://www.militarymuseum.org/184th.html>. Accessed 28 November 2005.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists mainly of letters written between New Harmony, Indiana resident Harold Truman Stallings and his parents, Truman H. and Luella Stallings, while Harold served in the Army. Other frequent correspondents include Maurice Anderson, Helen Cleveland, Wilma Mills, and Felix Mills. Occurring during the World War II years, this correspondence provides insight into everyday life in 1940s New Harmony, Indiana, life in the service, and reactions to the war. Some racial stereotyping is witnessed throughout the correspondence.

The correspondence is arranged chronologically by author with Series 1 focusing on correspondence between Harold, Truman, and Luella. The first section of folders contains letters written from Harold to Luella and Truman; the next,

letters written from Luella and Truman to Harold. Series 2 contains general correspondence addressed to Harold from friends, family, and girlfriends, and a few letters written by Harold. Series 3 contains general correspondence addressed to Luella and Truman from friends and family, and a few letters written by Luella and Truman. Series 4 contains general Stalling materials such as receipts, pay stubs, newspaper clippings relating to the war, and some newspapers published by the 160th Infantry. Series 4 also contains a postcard of cock-fighting from the Philippines and some pictures of unidentified individuals.

Harold's correspondence to his parents describes the cities and barracks in which he is stationed, the quality of food, routine duties, training (bugle, tear gas, and rifle), weapons assigned, interactions with the Japanese soldiers in his unit, and social activities such as dances, musicals, movies, and encounters with famous entertainers like Gabby Hayes, Buddy Rogers, and Zasu Pitts. Harold describes his time in the Southwest Pacific, including the Philippines, his relationships with Filipinos, and his participation in cock-fighting.

Luella and Truman's correspondence to Harold relates local New Harmony news such as deaths, marriages, scandals, prices, social interactions, and names of local men who have enlisted. Luella describes her chores and Truman's job as toll collector at the New Harmony Bridge. Brief mention is made of the Masons and the O.E.S. (Order of the Eastern Star).

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Correspondence between Harold T. Stallings and Luella / Truman H. Stallings

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Harold T. Stallings / Luella and Truman H. Stallings Correspondence, January–April, 1942	Box 1, Folder 2
Harold T. Stallings / Luella and Truman H. Stallings Correspondence, May–August, 1942	Box 1, Folder 3
Harold T. Stallings / Luella and Truman H. Stallings Correspondence, September–December 1942	Box 1, Folder 4
Harold T. Stallings / Luella and Truman H. Stallings Correspondence, January–June 1943	Box 1, Folder 5
Harold T. Stallings / Luella and Truman H. Stallings Correspondence, July 1943–January 1944	Box 1, Folder 6
Harold T. Stallings / Luella and Truman H. Stallings Correspondence, February–April 1944	Box 1, Folder 7
Harold T. Stallings / Luella and Truman H. Stallings Correspondence, May–July 1944	Box 1, Folder 8
Harold T. Stallings / Luella and Truman H. Stallings Correspondence, August–October 1944	Box 1, Folder 9
Harold T. Stallings / Luella and Truman H. Stallings Correspondence, November 1944–February 1945	Box 1, Folder 10
Harold T. Stallings / Luella and Truman H. Stallings Correspondence, March–November 1945; n.d.	Box 1, Folder 11
Luella and Truman H. Stallings / Harold T. Stallings Correspondence, August–September 1941	Box 1, Folder 12
Luella and Truman H. Stallings / Harold T. Stallings Correspondence, October–November 1941	Box 1, Folder 13
Luella and Truman H. Stallings / Harold T. Stallings	Box 1, Folder 14

Correspondence, December 1941–January 1942	
Luella and Truman H. Stallings / Harold T. Stallings	Box 2, Folder 15
Correspondence, February 1942–September 1942	
Receipt removed from 22 October 1941 letter from Harold T. Stallings / Luella and Truman H. Stallings	Box 2, Folder 16
Pass removed from 27 October 1941 letter from Harold T. Stallings / Luella and Truman H. Stallings	Box 2, Folder 17
Camp Roberts information removed from 6 November 1941 letter from Harold T. Stallings / Luella and Truman H. Stallings	Box 2, Folder 18
Coupon book removed from 24 November 1941 letter from Harold T. Stallings / Luella and Truman H. Stallings	Box 2, Folder 19
San Juan Capistrano information removed from 16 February 1942 letter from Harold T. Stallings / Luella and Truman H. Stallings	Box 2, Folder 20
Post orders removed from 21 February 1942 letter from Harold T. Stallings / Luella and Truman H. Stallings	Box 2, Folder 21
Matchbook cover removed from 20 June 1942 letter from Harold T. Stallings / Luella and Truman H. Stallings	Box 2, Folder 22
Advertising card removed from 3 March 1943 letter from Harold T. Stallings / Luella and Truman H. Stallings	Box 2, Folder 23
“Greenbacks” advertisement removed from 27 September 1944 letter from Harold T. Stallings / Luella and Truman H. Stallings	Box 2, Folder 24
Camp stove clipping removed from 2 October 1944 letter from Harold T. Stallings / Luella and Truman H. Stallings	Box 2, Folder 25
Clipping removed from 16 November 1944 letter from Harold T. Stallings / Luella and Truman H. Stallings	Box 2, Folder 26
Clipping removed from 20 December 1944 letter from Harold T. Stallings / Luella and Truman H. Stallings	Box 2, Folder 27
Clipping removed from 15 April 1945 letter from Harold T. Stallings / Luella and Truman H. Stallings	Box 2, Folder 28
Items removed from [23?] September 1941 letter from Luella and Truman H. Stallings / Harold T. Stallings	Box 2, Folder 29
Items removed from 29 September 1941 letter from Luella and Truman H. Stallings / Harold T. Stallings	Box 2, Folder 30
Clippings removed from 13 October 1941 letter from Luella and Truman H. Stallings / Harold T. Stallings	Box 2, Folder 31
Clipping removed from 3 November 1941 letter from Luella and Truman H. Stallings / Harold T. Stallings	Box 2, Folder 32
Clippings removed from 1 January 1942 letter from Luella and Truman H. Stallings / Harold T. Stallings	Box 2, Folder 33
Clipping removed from 14 January 1942 letter from Luella and Truman H. Stallings / Harold T. Stallings	Box 2, Folder 34
Clipping removed from 19 January 1942 letter from Luella and Truman H. Stallings / Harold T. Stallings	Box 2, Folder 35
Clippings removed from 25 January 1942 letter from Luella and Truman H. Stallings / Harold T. Stallings	Box 2, Folder 36
Clippings removed from 27–28 January 1942 letter from Luella and Truman H. Stallings / Harold T. Stallings	Box 2, Folder 37
Clippings removed from 4 February 1942 letter from Luella and Truman H. Stallings / Harold T. Stallings	Box 2, Folder 38
Clipping removed from 13 April 1942 letter from Luella and Truman H. Stallings / Harold T. Stallings	Box 2, Folder 39

Clippings removed from envelope dated 4 May 1942 from Luella and Truman H. Stallings / Harold T. Stallings	Box 2, Folder 40
Clipping removed from 8–9 February 1942 letter from Luella and Truman H. Stallings / Harold T. Stallings	Box 2, Folder 41

Series 2: Correspondence of Harold T. Stallings

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General correspondence addressed to Harold T. Stallings, August–September 1941	Box 2, Folder 42
General correspondence addressed to Harold T. Stallings, October–November 1941	Box 2, Folder 43
General correspondence addressed to Harold T. Stallings, December 1941	Box 2, Folder 44
General correspondence addressed to Harold T. Stallings, January–August 1942	Box 2, Folder 45
General correspondence addressed to Harold T. Stallings, September 1942–June 1945; n.d.	Box 2, Folder 46
Correspondence written by Harold T. Stallings, May–November 1944	Box 2, Folder 47
Clipping removed from 21 January 1942 letter to Harold Stallings from Arctic Lodge No. 394	Box 2, Folder 48
Clipping removed from 16 September 1942 letter from Minnie Russell to Harold T. Stallings	Box 2, Folder 49
Clipping removed from 12 October 1942 letter from Minnie Russell to Harold T. Stallings	Box 2, Folder 50

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Series 3: Correspondence of Luella and Truman Stallings

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General correspondence addressed to Luella and Truman Stallings, April 1936–December 1942	Box 2, Folder 51
General correspondence addressed to Luella and Truman Stallings, January 1943–September 1944	Box 2, Folder 52
General correspondence addressed to Luella and Truman Stallings, October 1944–June 1945; n.d.	Box 2, Folder 53
Correspondence written by Luella and Truman Stallings, November 1944 and n.d.	Box 2, Folder 54
Clipping removed from 28 July 1942 letter from Clara Wilson to Luella and Truman Stallings	Box 2, Folder 55
Clipping removed from 4 September 1944 letter from Clara Wilson to Luella and Truman Stallings	Box 2, Folder 56
Postcard dated 14 November 1941 addressed to Luella and Truman Stallings	Visual Collections: Photographs, Folder 1

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Series 4: General Stallings family materials

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Metal removed from 4 March 1942 letter from Harold Stallings to Luella and Truman Stallings	Artifacts: R2111
Cloth map entitled “AAF Cloth Map – Southwest Pacific Area, Chart No. 17 New Britain”	Artifacts: R2110 Flat File 37-h
General Stallings family documents, February 1940–December 1941; n.d.	Box 2, Folder 57

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Pay stubs, June 1941–January 1943; n.d.
Newspaper clippings, January–September 1943; n.d.
Military newspapers, June–August 1944; n.d.
General Stallings family correspondence, n.d.
Photographs of unidentified individuals, 1947 and
n.d.

Box 2, Folder 58
Box 2, Folder 59
Box 2, Folder 60
Box 2, Folder 61
Visual Collections:
Photographs, Folder 2

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://opac.indianahistory.org/>
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 0862).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.