

WILLIAM CALVIN CUNNINGHAM PAPERS, 1942-1945

Collection #
SC 2401

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Processed by
Charles Latham
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USER INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 5 folders

COLLECTION DATES: 1942-1945

PROVENANCE: Philip Prenzel, Nashville TN, 27 August 1993

RESTRICTIONS: None

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

ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

OTHER FINDING AIDS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: See numerous catalog listings for World War II

ACCESSION NUMBER: 93.0519

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

William Calvin (Cal) Cunningham (born ca 1924) lived in Tell City, Indiana, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Casper S. Cunningham. The father worked in Evansville; at one time during World War II he was at the Chrysler plant putting treads on tanks, and at another making incendiary bombs.

Cal Cunningham graduated from Tell City High School in 1942. By May 1944 he was in the Air Force at the Advanced Bombardier School in Big Springs, Texas. After receiving a commission in January 1945, he became an instructor at the same school. Among his students were two Brazilians. In June 1945 he began an eight-week course on B-29 Bombers at Harlingen, Texas. Completing the course in August, he was transferred to Lincoln, Nebraska, probably in preparation for going overseas. His enlisted number was 35732625, his officer's number O-2077600.

While Cunningham was in Big Springs he wrote frequently of a female friend named Beth. At Harlingen he transferred his affections to a young lady named Norene, "the Wading Queen of Texas."

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection, filling four folders, contains a high school graduation invitation from 1942 and letters written during 1944-1945 by Calvin Cunningham in Texas to his parents in Tell City, Indiana. A photograph of Cunningham in uniform, enclosed with an invitation to his graduation from bombardier school, is stored in Visual Collections. There are also two letters written by Private Oswald R. (Bob) Martin, one from Alabama and one from Missouri, to Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Robertson, care of Cunningham's parents.

Cunningham's letters are simple and straightforward, commenting both on his none-too-arduous duties as instructor and student and his adventures with his second-hand car, and also on matters at home: a flood in Tell City, his father's job, his grandfather's health, and his brother's social life.

Private Martin's two letters are more colorful, describing arduous bivouacs and escapades such as commandeering his captain's Jeep and driver.

FOLDER LISTING

Folder

- 1 1942, Letters May-December 1945
 - 2 (VC) Graduation photograph, January 1945
 - 3 Letters January-March 1945
 - 4 Letters April-May 1945
 - 5 Letters June-July 1945
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CATALOGUING INFORMATION

MAIN ENTRY: Cunningham, Calvin (William Calvin), 1924-

SUBJECT ENTRIES: Cunningham, Calvin (William Calvin), 1924-

United States. Air Force--Military life

World War, 1939-1945--Indiana

World War, 1939-1945--Texas

World War, 1939-1945--Indiana--Evansville--Equipment and supplies

Bombardiers--Texas

Soldiers--Indiana--Tell City--Family relationships

Military training camps--Texas

Floods--Indiana--Tell City

Tell City (Ind.)

Big Spring (Tex.)

END