

MS-63: Frederic Earl Ford Papers

Collection Number: MS-63

Title: Frederic Earl Ford Papers

Dates: 1930-1945

Creator: Ford, Frederic Earl, 1920-1978

Summary/Abstract:

Ford served with the 5th Bomb Wing in the Pacific Theater during World War II. He was the commander of the photography group. The papers in this collection consist primarily of photographs and negatives, most taken during the latter part of World War II, 1943-1945. The photographs show many aspects of camp and military life as well as the customs and traditions of the native peoples where Ford was stationed. All images are identified and dated on back. Also included is a small amount of printed material.

Quantity/Physical Description: 3 linear feet

Language(s): English

Repository: Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435-0001, (937) 775-2092

Restrictions on Access:

There are no donor-imposed restrictions on accessing material in this collection; however, due to preservation concerns, only reference copies of original audio and video materials can be accessed in the reading room. Items without reference copies can be digitized at the request of a patron for the cost of creating a digital copy. Please provide us **at least two weeks advance notice** if you would like to request an audio or video reference copy. Call (937) 775-2092 or e-mail us at archives@www.libraries.wright.edu. Use of digitized content is subject to conditions governing use.

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Preferred Citation:

[Description of item, Date, Box #, Folder #], MS-63, Frederic Earl Ford Papers, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio

Acquisition:

The materials were donated to Special Collections and Archives by Mrs. Barbara J. Ford, Frederic's wife, in September 1978.

Separated Material:

The following books are catalogued and placed in the reading-research room with the section of books on aviation:

1. Lippincott, Benjamin E., Kenneth E. Duffey, et al. *From Fiji through the Philippines with the Thirteenth Air Force*. San Angelo, TX: Newsfoto Pub. Co., [1948].
2. United States, Army Air Forces, 5th Bombardment Group (Heavy). *The Story of the Fifth Bombardment Group (Heavy)*. n.p.: Hillsborough House, 1946.
3. United States, Army Air Forces, 17th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron. *17th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron, 13th U.S. Army Air Force*. 13th U.S. Army Air Force, 1945.
4. United States Strategic Bombing Survey. *The Campaigns of the Pacific War*. [Washington] U.S. Strategic Bombing Survey (Pacific) Naval Analysis Division, [1946].

Additionally, a small number of nitrate negatives and other negatives in poor condition were digitized for preservation and subsequently discarded. Reference prints for the images can be found in the relevant folders, and high resolution scans of the digitized images are available upon request.

Other Finding Aid:

The finding aid is available on the Special Collections & Archives, Wright State University Libraries web site at http://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/collection_guides/guide_files/ms63.pdf. It is also available in the OhioLINK Finding Aid Repository at <http://ead.ohiolink.edu/xtf-ead/>.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:

This collection contains original analog audio/video materials, which must be digitized prior to access, due to preservation concerns.

Processing Information:

This collection was originally filed in 9 boxes, but at some point between 1978 and 2017, this was condensed down to 6 boxes. Researchers finding old references to boxes numbered 7-9 should note that all of these materials can still be found in the collection, but the box and folder numbers for nearly all materials in the collection have changed from what they were originally.

Processed by:

Processed by Susan Smith, November 1978; finding aid revised according to DACS standards by Lisa Rickey, October 2017.

Arrangement:

The collection is arranged in a single series.

Biographical/Historical Note:

Frederic Earl Ford, Lt. Col. Ret., U.S.A.F. was born in Dayton, Ohio, on August 14, 1920. He was the son of Earl and Sara Ruth Ford. He attended college at Purdue University in 1938, then attended the University of Vermont. He received his B.S. degree in chemistry, then attended the University of Virginia for graduate work. He completed his Master's degree in chemistry in 1950.

Ford served in the 5th Bomb Wing in the Pacific theater in World War II. He was the commander of the photography group, receiving many medals and commendations including the bronze star. His major field was research and development. After the war, held research and administrative positions as an officer with the Air Force in Alaska, California, Ohio and in Arlington, Virginia, where he retired in 1968 after 20 years of military service.

On December 27, 1948, he married Barbara Jean Suter of Little Rock, Arkansas. They had three children: Lucy Karen Ford, Janet Sharon Ford, and Gary Wayne Ford.

Fred Ford was an avid naturalist and photographer. After he retired he served as volunteer and teacher at the Aullwood Audubon Nature Center, worked with the Museum of Natural History, the YMCA Travel Series and the Nomad Club.

Lt. Col. Fred Ford died at his home in Beaver Creek Township, Xenia, Ohio, on January 2, 1978.

Scope and Content Note:

The Frederic Earl Ford papers consist mostly of photographs and negatives. Booklets, reels of 16mm home movie film, hard-bound books, and leaflets are also included. The earliest document dates 1935 and the latest 1945. Most photographs are dated in the latter part of WW II: 1943-1945. There are approximately 2,586 items in the collection.

The researcher should be aware of the following before using the collection:

1. Three photograph albums were included in the collection. The processor preserved the original order used by Fred Ford; so photographs are listed by album and file number as they had been found.
2. All photographs are identified and dated on the back, as written by Fred Ford.
3. The Photographs show many aspects of military and camp life, as well as customs and traditions of the people in the area that Fred was stationed.

Subject Terms

Persons/Families

Ford, Frederic Earl, 1920-1978

Subjects (General)

World War, 1939-1945 -- Photography

Collection Inventory

Box	File	Description	Date
1	1	Students Negative Data Sheet	1942
1	2	Two booklets listing negatives	1943-1945
1	3	Two photographs in booklets	Circa 1945
1	4	Negatives of Purdue University and Niagara Falls	Undated
1	5	Negatives of Fred's days at camp	Circa 1938
1	6	Negatives of Fred in uniform – some of his friends	Undated
1	7	Negatives of Pacific area and action	Circa 1943-1945
1	8	Negatives of lifestyles of natives, Pacific Theater action, camp life	Circa 1943-1945
1	9	Negatives of Philippine action	Circa 1943-1945
1	10	Miscellaneous photographs	1930-1935
1	11	Miscellaneous photographs	1936
1	12	Miscellaneous photographs	1937-1938
1	13	Miscellaneous photographs	1939-1940
1	14	Miscellaneous photographs	1941
1	15	Miscellaneous photographs	1942-1943
1	16	Unidentified photographs	Undated
		<i>(The following contains all photographs)</i>	
		Album 1	
2	1	Friends and Family in Woodbine, Vermont	1938
2	2	Officer's Club in Guadalcanal	1943
2	3	Officer's Club in Guadalcanal	1943
2	4	Military life in Mirotai	1945
2	5	Military life in Mirotai	1945
2	6	Military life in Mirotai	1945
2	7	Military life in Mirotai	1945
2	8	Military life in Mirotai	1945
2	9	Military life in Mirotai	1945
2	10	USO Show - Mirotai	1945
2	11	Guadalcanal Band 1943; USO Show	1944-1945
2	12	USO Show Girls	1944-1945
2	13	GI Show; USO Show – Guadalcanal	1943-1944
2	14	USO Show - Guadalcanal	1943
2	15	USO Show - Guadalcanal	1943
2	16	GI Show - Guadalcanal	1943
2	17	Catholic Services - Guadalcanal	1943
2	18	USO Show - Los Negros	1944
2	19	Military Life - Noemfoor	1944
2	20	Camp Life - Noemfoor	1944
2	21	Camp Life - Noemfoor	1944

Box	File	Description	Date
2	22	Military Life - Munda, N. Georgia	1944
2	23	Military Life - Los Negros	1944
2	24	Military Life - Samar	1945
2	25	Military Life - Samar	1945
2	26	Military Life - Munda, N. Georgia	1944
2	27	Military Life - Los Negros	1944
2	28	Military Life - Wakde, Samar	1944-1945
2	29	Military Life - Wakde	1944
2	30	Military Life - Munda, Noemfoor	1944
2	31	Military Life - Noemfoor, Los Negros	1944
2	32	Military Life - Mirotai	1944
2	33	Military Life - Los Negros	1944
2	34	Military Life - Mirotai	1945
2	35	Military Life - Munda	1944
2	36	Military Life - Guadalcanal	1943
2	37	Military Life - Wakde	1944
2	38	Munda, Los Negros, Guadalcanal	1944-1945
2	39	Military Life - Munda	1944
2	40	Military Life - Samar	1945
2	41	Military Life - Samar	1945
2	42	Military Life - Samar	1945
2	43	Military Life - Samar	1945
2	44	5th Bomber Group - Samar	1945
2	45	Native Life - Los Negros	1944
3	1	Native Life - Los Negros, N. Guinea	1943-1945
3	2	Native Life - N. Guinea	1944
3	3	Military Life - Guadalcanal, N. Guinea	1943-1944
3	4	Samar-Cartoon Sketches	1943-1945
3	5	Fiji	1942
3	6	Lake Placid, N.Y.	1947
3	7	Military Life - N. Hebrides, N. Caledonia	1942-1943
3	8	Military Life - N. Caledonia	1942
3	9	Military Life - N. Hebrides	1943
3	10	Military Life - Guadalcanal	1943
3	11	Military Life	1944-1945
3	12	Military Life - Mirotai, Samar	1944-1945
3	13	Miscellaneous	1936-1945
3	14	Denver, Colorado	1942
3	15	Family Members	1936-1947
3	16	Family Members and Friends	1935-1937
3	17	Photographs of Francis Kenton, a Friend	1942
3	18	Denver, Colorado	1942

Box	File	Description	Date
3	19	Denver, Colorado	1942
3	20	Pike's Peak, Colorado	1942
3	21	Pike's Peak, Colorado	1942
3	22	Mountain Cavalry at Pike's Peak	1942
3	23	Frederic Earl Ford	1942
3	24	Military Life-N. Georgia, Samar	1944-1945
3	25	Bombing of N. Briton	1943-1944
		<u>Album 2</u>	
3	26	N. Georgia	1943-1944
3	27	Woleai	1944
3	28	Bombing Raids on Ceran, Halmekera, Woleai, Borneo	1944
3	29	Bomb Raid on Borneo	1944
3	30	Bomb Raid on Borneo	1944
3	31	Sulu Sea, Pacific Island	1944
3	32	Leyte	1944
3	33	Borneo	1944
3	34	Bomb Raid - Tarakin	1944
3	35	Bomb Raid - Mindanao	1944
3	36	Tarakin, Los Negros	1944
3	37	Bomb Raids - Los Negros, Borneo	1944
4	1	Kurur Island and Luzon	1944-1945
4	2	Bombing - Los Negros	1945
4	3	Bombing - Los Negros	1945
4	4	Bombing - Luzon	1945
4	5	Bombing - Borneo	1945
4	6	Bombing - Cebu, Kolumbangara, Samar	1944-1945
4	7	B-24's - Samar	1944
4	8	Manila, Yap	1945
4	9	5th Bomb Group Blueprints	1944-1945
4	10	Bomb Plans - Borneo	1944
4	11	Makassar St., Negros	1944
4	12	Brunei Bay	1944
4	13	Bomb Raid - Cebu	1944
4	14	Bomb Raid - Borneo, Luzon	1944
4	15	Luzon	1945
4	16	Cavite, Naurv	1943-1945
4	17	Naurv, Examples of Bombardment Photography	1943-1945
4	18	N. Britain	1944
4	19	N. Britain, Woleai, Truk	1944
4	20	Biak	1944
4	21	Sulu Sea, Pacific Islands	1944

Box	File	Description	Date
4	22	Sulu Sea, Pacific Islands	1944
4	23	Borneo and Surrounding Areas	1944
4	24	Hickham Field, Hawaii	1941
4	25	Mindanao	1945
4	26	B-24 Designs	1943-1944
4	27	B-24 Designs	1943-1944
4	28	B-24 Designs	1943-1944
4	29	B-24 Designs	1943-1944
4	30	5 BG Ship enroute from Hawaii to Sopo	1942-1943
4	31	Guadalcanal	1943
4	32	Guadalcanal, Mirotai	1943-1945
4	33	Woodbine, VT - Ft. Lauderdale, FL	1943-1944
4	34	Florida-Charlottesville, Va	1944-1945
4	35	Friends and Relatives	1942-1945
4	36	Samar	1945
4	37	N. Briton	1944
4	38	Bougainville, N. Briton	1943-1944
		<i>(Note: Photographs listed below deal with military and camp life)</i>	
5	1	Truk, Guadalcanal, Solomon, N. Briton	1943-1944
5	2	Truk	1944
5	3	Biak, Truk	1944
5	4	Biak	1944
5	5	Guadalcanal	1943
5	6	Guadalcanal	1943
5	7	Guadalcanal	1943
5	8	N. Caledonia	1942
5	9	N. Caledonia, Espiritv Santos	1942-1943
		<u>Album 3</u>	
5	10	Guadalcanal	1943
5	11	Guadalcanal	1943
5	12	Guadalcanal	1943
5	13	Guadalcanal	1943
5	14	Guadalcanal	1943
5	15	Guadalcanal	1943
5	16	Guadalcanal	1943
5	17	Guadalcanal	1943
5	18	Fiji Islands	1942
5	19	N. Hebrides	1943
5	20	N. Hebrides	1943
5	21	N. Hebrides	1943

Box	File	Description	Date
5	22	N. Hebrides	1943
5	23	N. Hebrides	1943
5	24	N. Hebrides	1943
5	25	N. Hebrides	1943
5	26	N. Hebrides	1943
5	27	N. Caledonia	1942
5	28	Guadalcanal	1943
5	29	New Georgia	1944
5	30	N. Caledonia, Guadalcanal	1942-1943
5	31	Guadalcanal	1943
5	32	N. Hebrides	1943
5	33	N. Hebrides	1943
5	34	Guadalcanal	1943
5	35	Fiji Islands	1942
5	36	N. Hebrides	1943
5	37	Stewart Islands	1943
5	38	Guadalcanal	1943
5	39	N. Caledonia	1942
5	40	N. Hebrides	1943
5	41	Guadalcanal	1943
5	42	N. Caledonia	1942
5	43	Guadalcanal	1943
5	44	Samar	1945
5	45	Los Negros, Samar	1944-1945
5	46	Guadalcanal	1943
5	47	N. Hebrides	1943
5	48	Guadalcanal	1943
5	49	Los Negros	1944
5	50	Los Negros	1944
5	51	Guadalcanal, N. Georgia	1943-1944
5	52	New Georgia	1944
5	53	Oaku	1941
6	1	Guadalcanal	1943
6	2	Guadalcanal	1943
6	3	Guadalcanal	1943
6	4	Guadalcanal	1943
6	5	Munda, N. Georgia	1943
6	6	Munda, N. Georgia	1943
6	7	Munda, N. Georgia	1943
6	8	Munda, N. Georgia	1943
6	9	Guadalcanal	1943
6	10	Bomber Aircraft	1943-1945

Box	File	Description	Date
6	11	Kolumbangara	1944
6	12	Guadalcanal, Kolumbangara	1943-1944
6	13	Noemfoor	1944
6	14	Guadalcanal	1943
6	15	Mirotai	1944
6	16	Wakde	1944
6	17	Biak	1944
6	18	Guadalcanal, Biak	1943-1944
6	19	Guadalcanal	1943
6	20	Awards in Guadalcanal	1943
6	21	Guadalcanal, Munda, N. Georgia	1943-1944
6	22	Guadalcanal	1943-1944
6	23	Guadalcanal	1943
6	24	Mirotai, Munda, Los Negros	1943-1944
6	25	Guadalcanal, Mirotai	1943-1945
6	26	Guadalcanal, Los Negros, Noemfoor, Samar	1943-1945
6	27	16mm films: B-24 and Guadalcanal (3 reels)	1943
6	28	16mm films: Pike's Peak, B-24's (3 reels)	1942-1944
6	29	Reference Prints from Negatives: B-24's (5 images)	Circa 1942-1944
6	30	Reference Prints from Negatives: A friend of Fred's	Circa 1942-1944