



The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

World War II letters from African-American Soldiers

1940-1945

Sc MG 429

Processed by Janice Quinter, October 19, 2011.

Summary

Title: World War II letters from African-American Soldiers

Date: 1940-1945

Size: 0.83 linear feet (2 boxes)

Source: Gift of Edgar Thomas Williams, 2011.

Abstract: The World War II letters from African-American Soldiers collection consists of letters from African-American servicemen to Elnora (Nora) Bing Williams and her husband, Edgar Thomas (Ned) Williams of Brooklyn, New York. The correspondents are relatives and friends, and the letters describe their social and recreational activities on and off U.S. military bases. The soldiers share news about other family members and friends back home as well as those also in the military. In only a few letters were their lives as African-American servicemen portrayed, or their relationships with white military men or townspeople described. The letters from friends also describe training to become non-commissioned officers. All of the servicemen had been drafted; a few men attained the rank of sergeant, corporal and lieutenant. Several were stationed in the Pacific and Europe, and obliquely wrote about general conditions there.

Preferred citation: [Item], World War II letters from African-American Soldiers, Sc MG 429, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Janice Quinter, October 19, 2011.

Scope and Content Note

The World War II letters from African-American Soldiers collection consists of letters from African-American servicemen to Elnora (Nora) Bing Williams and her husband, Edgar Thomas (Ned) Williams of Brooklyn, New York. The correspondents are relatives and friends, and the letters describe their social and recreational activities on and off U.S. military bases. The soldiers share news about other family members and friends back home as well as those also in the military. In only a few letters were their lives as African-American servicemen portrayed, or their relationships with white military men or

townspeople described. The letters from friends also describe training to become non-commissioned officers. All of the servicemen had been drafted; a few men attained the rank of sergeant, corporal and lieutenant. Several were stationed in the Pacific and Europe, and obliquely wrote about general conditions there.

Arrangement: Arranged into two series: (1) Family and (2) Friends.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American families
African American soldiers
Authors, Black

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Letters (correspondence)

Geographic Names

United States -- Armed Forces -- African Americans -- History

Container List

Family

- b. 1 f. 1 Bing, Alonzo, Jr 1941 November-1943 May
- Bing, Herman A
- b. 1 f. 2 1942 August-1943 March
- b. 1 f. 3 1943 March-October
- b. 1 f. 4 1943 October-1944 April
- b. 1 f. 5 1944 May-December
- b. 1 f. 6 1945 January-October
- Bing, Thomas Edward
- b. 1 f. 7 1941 March-1942 July
- b. 1 f. 8 1942 March-1944 March
- b. 1 f. 9 1944 June-1945 September
- b. 1 f. 10 Jackson, Herbert S 1942 December-1944 November
- b. 1 f. 11 Jackson, Mark 1942 November-1945 February
- b. 1 f. 12 Wilcot, Guy 1942 November-1943 March
- b. 1 f. 13 Williams, John C 1941 September-1945 September

Friends

- b. 2 f. 1 Drayton, Joseph F 1943 February-1945 November
- b. 2 f. 2 Foster, Alfred 1943 March-1945 August
- b. 2 f. 3 Grant, Mark S 1941 November-1944 March
- b. 2 f. 4 Gray, James M 1944 February-October
- b. 2 f. 5 Hammond, William J 1943 March-August
- b. 2 f. 6 Hollinsed, Winfield 1942 November-1945 August
- b. 2 f. 7 Holmes, William C 1942 December-1945 May
- b. 2 f. 8 Nanton, Clifton 1945 February-September
- Scruggs, William P
- b. 2 f. 9 1940 November-1942 December
- b. 2 f. 10 And Scruggs, Annabelle 1943 January-1944 June
- b. 2 f. 11 1944 July-1945 December
- b. 2 f. 12-13 Simmons, Edward 1942 September-1943 March
- b. 2 f. 14 Smith, Robert 1941 March-1943 June
- b. 2 f. 15 Baird, Gloria; Davis, Lester A.; Foster, Jacques W.; and Hammond, William J 1942-1943