

**The New York Public Library  
Humanities and Social Sciences Library  
Manuscripts and Archives Division**

**Hansen Family Papers  
1942-1946**

**Alix Ross  
November 2003**

## Table of Contents

<b>Summary</b> .....	<b>iii</b>
<b>Biographical note</b> .....	<b>iv</b>
<b>Scope and content note</b> .....	<b>v</b>
<b>Arrangement note</b> .....	<b>v</b>
<b>Series descriptions and container list</b> .....	<b>1</b>
SERIES I. CORRESPONDENCE .....	1
SERIES II. PHOTOGRAPHS .....	1

## Summary

<b>Main entry:</b>	Hansen family
<b>Title:</b>	Hansen Family Papers, 1942-1946
<b>Size:</b>	1.67 linear feet (4 boxes)
<b>Source:</b>	Purchased from Charles Apfelbaum Rare Manuscripts and Archives, April 2002.
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Hansen Family Papers comprise over 500 letters written from 1943 to 1946, chiefly by Walter and Edward Hansen, two young soldiers in the United States Army, to their mother, Anna Hansen, and their sister, Florence, of Brooklyn, New York. The letters provide not only a picture of the routine, everyday life of young soldiers during wartime, but also offer a glimpse of life on the home front as the Hansen brothers reflect on the letters they have received. The papers also include a family album containing over 100 photographs.
<b>Access:</b>	Apply in the Special Collections Office for admission to the Manuscripts and Archives Division.
<b>Preferred citation:</b>	Hansen Family Papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.
<b>Special formats</b>	Photograph albums.

## Biographical note

The Hansen family of Brooklyn, New York consisted of Anna, a widow, and her three children, Walter (b. 1923), Edward (b. 1925) and the youngest child, Florence. The Hansen's owned a two-family house which they shared with a grandmother and an uncle, Carl Pierson. The family attended a Lutheran church, and all three children were active in local scout troops. Neither Walter nor Edward, who attended New Utrecht High School in Brooklyn, had graduated by the time they entered the armed forces.

Walter Hansen entered the army in December of 1942. After brief postings in Fort Dix, New Jersey, and Miami Beach, Florida, he attended the Army Technical School in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Walter trained as a radio engineer and in July of 1943 was promoted to corporal. For the remainder of 1943, he moved around to various bases in Wisconsin, California, Utah and Washington. Late in 1943 or early in 1944 Walter was sent to the Aleutian Islands where he was based with the 11th Fighter Control Squadron, XI Command for the remainder of his tour of duty.

Edward Hansen entered the service in November of 1943, at Camp Upton on Long Island. He trained in Greensboro, North Carolina, various camps in Florida and Camp Livingston, Louisiana before he was deployed to Europe in June of 1945 with the 3rd Division of the 7th Army. He traveled with the 7th Army through France, Germany and Austria until April of 1946 and was discharged in May of 1946 as a private first class.

## Scope and content note

The Hansen Family Papers comprise over 500 letters written from 1943 to 1946, chiefly by Walter and Edward Hansen, two young soldiers in the United States Army, to their mother, Anna Hansen, and their sister, Florence, of Brooklyn, New York. The letters provide not only a picture of the routine, everyday life of young soldiers during wartime, but also offer a glimpse of life on the home front as the Hansen brothers reflect on the letters they have received. The papers also include a family photograph album.

Walter Hansen's letters date from December 1942, when he entered the army at Fort Dix, New Jersey, to January 1946 as he is returning home on a train from the west coast.

Edward Hansen's correspondence begins in November 1943 at Camp Upton on Long Island and ends with a letter from Germany in April 1946.

Other correspondents in the collection include members of the Callinan family. Anna Hansen's nephews, Dermot, Bob and Larry Callinan served in the armed forces during World War II and wrote occasionally to the Hansen family. A few letters from Lydia Callinan to her sister Anna Hansen are also included.

The letters in this collection have been arranged in strict chronological order to mimic as closely as possible the order in which Anna and Florence Hansen received the letters. If a letter was undated, the postmark on the accompanying envelope, if available, was used to date the letter.

One folder contains official correspondence (1943-1946) related to Edward Hansen's military service as well as some miscellaneous papers.

The family album contains over 100 photographs. Most of the photos are black and white snapshots, unlabeled and undated. Many of the photos appear to be of the Hansens and their extended family in Brooklyn. Over 30 of the photos appear to have been taken while Walter was posted in Alaska. A few appear to have been taken by or for Edward in Europe.

## Arrangement note

The Hansen Family Papers are organized in the following series:

- Series I. Correspondence
- Series II. Photographs

## Container list

### Series I. Correspondence

3 boxes

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
1	1-7	Correspondence, 1942-1943
2	1-9	Correspondence, 1944
3	1-9	Correspondence, 1945-1946; undated

### Series II. Photographs

<u>Box</u>	<u>Vol</u>	
4		Photograph album (one volume)
<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
4	1	Loose photographs