

Matlock Family Papers, 1936-1946 (.44 cubic feet)

Processed by Luiz E. Simonetti , May 2003

Restrictions

None.

Biographical Sketch

Julian Matlock was born in Lancaster, KY on August 8, 1926. His mother was Virgie Matlock. He joined the US Army on 8 Nov 1944 and was inducted into military service at Camp Atterbury, IN. From there he was sent to California where he joined the 19th Infantry. He fought in the Pacific, first in Mindoro, Philippines, and later in the invasion of the island of Mindanao. In one of the major battles of the Pacific, the 19th Infantry under the 8th Army captured Davao (on the island of Mindanao in the Philippines) on 2 May 1944.

On 8 Oct 1945, the 19th Infantry was sent to Japan as part of the 6th Army. In Japan they were sent to Kochi, and after that to the Island of Shikoku. Sgt. Matlock describe in his letters a lot of patrolling in this area. After almost a year in Japan Sgt. Matlock finally came back to the United States. Sgt Matlock died in a fire at the Sheffield Manor hotel in Chicago, IL. The incident became national news.

Scope and Content Note

Most of the collection consists of letters sent by Sgt. Julian Matlock to his mother, Miss Virgie Matlock. The letters were sent during WWII. The collection also contains letters sent by friends to Sgt. Matlock. Letters from Ivan Matlock can be found in this collection, he was Sgt. Matlock's uncle. He also fought in WWII, but in Europe. In folder 14, an original service diary can be found, but it is not filled. In folder 15, oversize, a Japanese flag and two handkerchiefs with newspaper first pages stamped on it can be found.

Donor Information

Donated by Jim Rodgers (2001-003).

Folder List

f.01

Oct 1944-

Feb 1945

Correspondence from Julian (June) Matlock to his mother, Miss Virgie Matlock of Lancaster, KY. The letters were sent from Camp Atterbury, IN (near Columbus, IN) and Camp Roberts, CA (near Bradley, CA). In his letters, Matlock states that he wanted to go to the Navy but was drafted into the Army. He shares his first impressions of the Army, which are not very flattering, and talks about the routines of daily life in the Army including the usual complaints about the food, the clothing and the training. He also talks about matters at home like the purchase of an automobile and tobacco farming. This folder contains a color postcard with patriotic red, white & blue V for Victory and USA with stars [Tichnor Bros., Inc. © 1941] mentioning that he was “leaving to where I don’t know”, a photograph of a small boy that appears to have been cut from a larger photograph and an address label for sending home his civilian clothes. (21 letters with 19 envelopes, 1 photograph and 1 post card)

f.02

Mar - Sep1945

Correspondence from Sgt. Matlock to his mother, Miss Virgie Matlock of Lancaster, KY. The letters were sent from Mindanao, Province of Davao, Phillipines, Ft. Ord, CA and Camp Roberts, CA. The letters have some descriptions of the locals and the islands, and he talks about the German surrender in Europe, the possibility of the Russians entering the war against Japan and the fact that he mostly has nothing to do and is not in any danger. (24 letters, 21 envelopes and 1 address change card)

f.03

Nov 1945 -

Feb 1946

Correspondence from Sgt. Julian Matlock to his mother, Miss Virgie Matlock of Lancaster, KY. The letters were sent from Japan during the Allied occupation, and they talk about common life in the American bases, and family matters. Include two certificates of souvenir mailing to the U.S.(13 letters with 10 envelopes)

f.04

Jan - Apr 1946

Correspondence from Sgt. Julian Matlock to his mother, Miss Virgie Matlock of Lancaster, KY. The letters were sent from Japan during the Allied occupation, and they talk about common life in the American bases, and family matters. (20 letters with 17 envelopes, and 2 authorizations to mail objects)

f.05

May - Sep 1946

Correspondence from Sgt. Julian Matlock to his mother, Miss Virgie Matlock of Lancaster, KY. The letters were sent from Japan during the Allied occupation, and they talk about common life in the American bases, and family matters. (22 letters with 20 envelopes)

- f.06
Dec 1946-
Feb 1947 Letters and photographs from friends of Sgt. Matlock to his mother, Miss Virgie Matlock of Lancaster, KY. They are Joseph Miano, Russell Johnson, and Ben Peck. The photographs were taken during the occupation of Japan. The letters were sent after his death. (5 letters and 4 envelopes, 3 photographs)
- f.07
Jun 1946-
Nov 1944 Letters from Claribel and Cheek, Burdetta Cosby, Arlene Van Winkle, and Esther N. Bruner, from Nicholasville, KY to Sgt. Matlock. (15 letters and 14 envelopes)
- f.08
Dec 1944 Greeting Cards sent to Sgt. Matlock from his mother, Miss Virgie Matlock and Arlene Van Winkle. (5 greeting cards and 3 envelopes)
- f.09
Dec 1944 Unidentified letters sent by Susie from Circleville, Kansas. Another letter to Bobbei by Joan from Kanko Unzen, Japan; and a poetic letter. (4 letters)
- f.10
Dec- Sep 1944 Letters from Virginia Matlock to Ivan Matlock, her husband. One greeting card from Virgie Matlock to her brother Ivan Matlock. Letter sent by Jewel, Ed., and Bonnie to Ivan Matlock. (3 letters, 3 envelopes, and 1 greeting card)
- f.11
1945-1946 10 empty envelopes and 5 sympathy cards for the funeral of Sgt. Matlock. The folder also contains one receipt and one greeting card. (5 sympathy cards, 1 greeting card, 12 envelopes and 1 receipt)
- f.12
n.d. The folder contain one newspaper article on the death of Sgt. Matlock, one grade report from 1936, a list of names in the 19th Infantry (1st Platoon), and 2 brochures describing the 19th Infantry Regiment.
- f.13
n.d. Photographs of Ivan Matlock, Julian Matlock, Ab Matlock, Virgie Matlock , and photographs of friends taken in Japan. (22 photographs)
- f.14
Nov 1944 My Service Diary, the diary is not filled. Diary given to soldiers during WWII
- f.15
1945-1946 2 commemorative silk handkerchief, both of them are first-page of newspapers

from the period, the main headlines in both of them are “Unconditional surrender by Japs completed at 20-minute ceremony,” a Japanese flag from the same period. Filed **oversize**. (MD/07/03)