

Collection #
M 1211

BYFORD LEE REED, KOREAN WAR MATERIALS
CA 1944-1954, 2009

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Processed by

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January, 2016

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 half size manuscript box, 1 photograph box, 2 color photograph folders, 1 120mm acetate film bin with 5 envelopes

COLLECTION DATES: Circa 1944-1954, 2009

PROVENANCE: Byford Lee Reed

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2015.0377

NOTES: Color photographs are stored in cold storage and will take additional time for retrieval.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Byford Lee Reed was born in 1929 in Lamar, Indiana, son of Allan O. Reed and Blanche Reed (Roos), and brother to Lois Reed (later Fruits). He attended Dale High School in Dale, Indiana where he participated in track, football, and basketball. He received his bachelor's from Indiana State University, where he continued to play football and track. Reed was drafted into the United States Army at the age of twenty-three years old. He was stationed in Korea with the 15th Field Artillery Battalion during the Korean War from 1952 to 1953. In June of 1957 Reed married Jessie Ahrens with whom he had four children and numerous grandchildren. Reed attended graduate school at the Indiana University Dental School, where he obtained his Doctorate of Dental Surgery (DDS) in 1960. Upon graduating he opened a dental office in Greenwood, Indiana. Reed was a member of the Rotary, the Police Merit Commission, and involved in local politics. He was also an active participant in the Boy Scouts of America and was awarded the Silver Beaver Award in 1981. In his seventies, Reed resumed competitive running, competing in the Penn Relays in Philadelphia in 2008, where he was ranked fifth in the 80-84 age bracket with a time of 11.81 for the 60 meter dash. He has competed in over seventy races and won more than fifty medals.

Korean War and the 15th Field Artillery Battalion

The Korean War began as an internal conflict between North and South Korea from 1950 to 1953. North Korea was aided by communist governments of China and the Soviet Union while South Korea was aided by the United Nations, led by United States military forces. The 15th Field Artillery Battalion, constituted on July 1, 1916, participated in the war and engaged in a number of significant military battles. The battalion was awarded with ten campaign participation credits from the United States Armed Forces: UN Defensive; UN Offensive; CCF Intervention; First UN Counteroffensive; CCF Spring Offensive; UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea, Summer-Fall 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

Sources:

Material in the collection.

U.S. Army Center of Military History, "15th Field Artillery Regiment, Lineage and Honors Information." Accessed Jan. 26, 2016. Web.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection is comprised of correspondence, photographs, and ephemera from Byford Lee Reed's participation in the Korean War, specifically with the 15th Field Artillery Battalion. The correspondence is from Reed to his mother, Blanche, during his time serving in the United States Army. The correspondence spans June 1951 to May 1953 and is written from Fort Custer, Michigan, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Camp Chaffee, Arkansas, Fort Lawton Processing Center in Seattle, Washington, and Korea and Japan. Official United States Army and Veteran Administration documents are included within the collection, pertaining to reserve status, disability compensation, and employment. The photographic material includes black and white prints, 35mm and 120 mm negatives, and color slide transparencies. The photographs are grouped together based on information obtained from annotations. If location of the photograph was not known, it was placed within folders 2–4 labeled "15th Field Artillery Battalion, Korean War, ca. 1952-1953." Some images within these folders are stateside, possibly from Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Several are from Dallas, Texas including the Cotton Bowl stadium. If the location was known to be Korea, but no exact city was identified, they are within folders 5–8 labeled "15th Field Artillery Battalion, Korean War, Korea, ca. 1952–1953." The bulk of the images are of members of the 15th, including Byford L. Reed. Subjects include their camp, barracks, army vehicles, landscapes, U.S.O. performance, buildings in Korea and Japan, and Korean military and civilians.

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