

WILLIAM FORBES BELCHER PAPERS, 1945

Collection #
SC 2353

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Processed by
Charles Latham
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USER INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 items

COLLECTION DATES: 1945

PROVERNANCE: Stephen Belcher, Indianapolis IN, 29 August 1979 (via Tom Krasean)

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ACCESSION NUMBER: 92.0177

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

William Forbes Belcher lived in Indianapolis, and was serving as a major in Okinawa in 1945.

Franklin Vonnegut (1856-1952) was the son of Clemens Vonnegut, a German immigrant who came to Indianapolis and founded a hardware store, which was a city institution for over a hundred years. He was president of the company from 1908 to 1940. He was involved in numerous civic institutions: a founder and later president of the Commercial Club; a founder and longtime director of Indianapolis Area Red Cross; leader of Community Fund and supporter of several German gymnastic organizations.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection consists of two letters, one from and one to William Forbes Belcher when he was serving in the Pacific

in World War II. The letter from Belcher (a Xerox copy) is to his sons Stephen and David-- a father's letter of advice to very young sons whom he feels he may never see again. It includes a poem to "My Boys." The second letter is from Franklin Vonnegut (aged 88) to Belcher, a typical "home front" letter to an officer at the front. The two letters together exemplify some of the kinder moments in a nation at war.

CATALOGUING INFORMATION

MAIN ENTRY: Belcher, William Forbes

SUBJECT ENTRIES: World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns--Japan--Okinawa Island

World War, 1939-1945--Indiana--Indianapolis

Soldiers--Indiana--Indianapolis

Fathers and sons--Indiana--Indianapolis

ADDED ENTRIES: Vonnegut, Franklin, 1856-1952

END