

University of Oklahoma Libraries
Western History Collections

Earl Roaine Rhoads Collection

Rhoads, Earl Roaine. Papers, 1936–1949. .33 foot.

U.S. Marine. Correspondence (1936–1944) from Rhoads to his brother Sherman, his sister-in-law Ruth, and his nieces Shirley and Gaytha, from military posts in the United States, Iceland, and Guam. The collection also includes correspondence between family members including Rhoads's parents, Shirley and Lettie Rhoads, and his sister Della. The collection contains a diary (1942) kept by Rhoads while in Iceland; funeral register pages and a funeral announcement (1949) when his body was returned to the United States along with the U.S. flag covering his coffin; Rhoads's military identification card; six medals, including the Purple Heart; and war ration books used by the Rhoads family during the war.

Box R-46

Folder:

1. Correspondence, 1936-1939

Post cards to Sherman Rhoads and family from other family members re: general events and mother's illness

2. Correspondence, 1940

Letters and post cards to Sherman Rhoads and family from Roaine Rhoads re: his training as a Marine in San Diego, California. He specifically discusses such things as achieving "Expert pistol shot," the German invasion of Denmark and Norway, his pride in the Marine Corps, field maneuvers on the San Clemente Islands, and serving as a "waitress" at an officer's banquet

3. Correspondence, 1941

Letters and post cards to Sherman Rhoads and family from Roaine Rhoads re: being stationed in Iceland and trying to get in the Polar Bear squad - "all they do is stand guard around camp and keep the Polar Bears out."

4. Correspondence, 1942

Letters to Sherman Rhoads and family from Roaine Rhoads from stations in San Diego, California and New River, North Carolina. Roaine tells about maneuvers aboard the U.S.S. Crescent City, machine-gun school, weekend trips to Los Angeles and Culver City, grenade throwing, a marine who won the Congressional Medal of Honor, his promotion to sergeant, his desire to see action - "you can bet

you're last buck before they can get me there will be a few thousand (Japs) bit the dust," guarding Onslow Beach from German saboteurs, jungle maneuvers, his promotion to platoon sergeant, getting engaged to be married, and dancing at Pacific Square dance hall.

5. Correspondence, 1943

Letters and V-MAIL to Sherman Rhoads and family from Roaine and Lois (Koch) Rhoads from stations in Camp Pendleton, California and overseas stations on tropical islands, New Zealand, etc.. Although many of these letters had to receive approval by a censor, they contain some information re: living conditions on Pacific islands, Roaine Rhoads' promotion to gunnery sergeant, and his participation in the action in Bougainville.

6. Correspondence, 1944

Letters and V-MAIL to Sherman Rhoads and family from Roaine Rhoads from the Pacific front re: a stage show sponsored by the U.S.O., duty on a tropical island, marines from Guadalcanal including a cousin from Dallas, and native customs. Also, five V-MAIL and one letter sent to Earl R. Rhoads from Ruth Rhoads re; life on the farm, news about the war, and general happenings in Crescent, Oklahoma. Letter (Oct. 11, 1944) from John P. Lee, Chaplain, USNR, informing Mrs. Rhoads that Earl R. Rhoads was buried in Army, Navy, Marine Cemetery #3, Guam. Letter (Oct. 27, 1944) from Corporal Walter Earl Melvin to Ruth and Sherman Rhoads re: Roaine Rhoads. Rhoads and Melvin shared the same tent for two years. On July 21, Rhoads, Lt. Norton, and Melvin "were standing about two feet from one another talking about how we were to put the guns in action when a Jap mortar landed about a yard from us...They picked Roaine and Lt. Norton up and carried them back to the beach we had to push on...The last report that I had from him was that he might have to lose a leg. That was all I heard about him until I received your letter." Letter (Nov. 6, 1944) from Corporal L.L. Anthony re: the fine character of Roaine Rhoads.

7. Correspondence - fragments, n.d.

Two letter fragments from Roaine Rhoads to Sherman Rhoads and Della Rhoads re: training maneuvers, etc.

8. Diary kept by Corporal Earl R. Rhoads while in Iceland. Jan. 1 - Apr. 5, 1942

Diary accounts re: Camp Helogoland, living in half a hut with two other marines, Camp Brancepeth, dawn patrol, hurricane damage, a survivor of the *Reuben James*, ptomaine poisoning, the sound of the big guns of German battleships, working on sand bag emplacements, leaving for U.S. aboard the U.S.S. McCawley on March 15, the ship firing on German submarines as well as other

naval engagements, anchoring in New York harbor on March 25, leaving for West Coast aboard train on March 26, and arriving in Crescent, Oklahoma on April 4.

9. Funeral Register, pages and Funeral Announcement. January, 1949

Funeral register includes obituaries, name and photo of military escort, and location of final resting place (Jan. 7, 1949)

Funeral announcement with birth and death dates, services held on Jan. 5, 1949 at Darnall Chapel, Enid, Oklahoma, and interment at Crescent Cemetery

10. Miscellany

Landsbanke Islands, Fimm Kronur (cash)

News clipping of a letter (Oct. 6, 1941) from Roaine Rhoads to his parents describing trip from Panama Canal to Charleston, South Carolina

Identification Card No. O-14312, War Department, Adjutant General's Office, Earl R. Rhoads

Operator's License, State of Oklahoma, Earl R. Rhoads, 1938

Three (3) War Ration Book No. 3, issued to Shirley Rhoads, Sherman Rhoads, and Gaytha Rhoads

Commencement Exercises announcement, Crescent High School, May 14, 1936

"Insignia Medals and Decorations, U.S. Armed Forces," B.T. Fooks Manufacturing Co., Camden, Arkansas. n.d.

Medals

Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal

European, African, Middle Eastern Campaign Medal

World War II Medal

U.S. Marine Corps. Good Conduct Medal

Defensive Service Medal

Purple Heart

Outsize Box (Location: 8381)

United States flag that draped the coffin of Earl R. Rhoads during services held in Enid, Oklahoma on January 5, 1949, and interment in Crescent, Oklahoma on January 7, 1949.

Certificates and Diplomas Collection

Box #8

Folder:

1. 1946 certificate of appreciation of supreme sacrifice for country and mankind made in World War II by Earl Roaine Rhoads, from the State of Oklahoma
2. 1944 certificate of death issued by United States Marine Corps for Earl Roaine Rhoads who on July 22, 1944, died of wounds received in action against the enemy at Guam, Marianas Islands
3. 1944 certificate of award of the Purple Heart to Gunnery Sergeant Earl R. Rhoads, U.S. Marine Corps.
4. 1944 certificate in memory of Earl Roaine Rhoads who died in the service of his country at Guam Island, 22 July 1944, from the U.S. Government