

Baylor University . The Texas Collection

Benjamin Judson Johnson Papers. Inclusive: 1942-1960, undated, Bulk: 1942-1944

Summary Information

Creator	Johnson, Benjamin Judson (Creator)
Extent (quantity/size)	1 Document Box
Language	English
Abstract	The Benjamin Judson Johnson Papers include correspondence, legal documents, literary productions, and artifacts relating to Benjamin's experience in the U.S. Naval Air Force during World War II.

Subjects

Baylor University -- History, Military. / United States. -- Navy -- History. / World War, 1939-1945 -- Personal narratives, American. / World War, 1939-1945.

Administrative Information

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Preferred Citation When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is:

Benjamin Judson Johnson Papers, #48, Box#, Folder #, The Texas Collection, Baylor University.

Processing Information Described by Adina Johnson and released on 2012-10-05.

Scope and Content

The Benjamin Judson Johnson Papers were acquired by an unknown means at an unknown date. The collection begins in 1942 and ends in 1960. The Correspondence series is by far the largest in the collection. It contains many letters from Benjamin during his time stationed in San Diego and in the South Pacific during World War II. The collection also includes legal documents pertaining to Johnson's enlistment in the armed forces, as well as literary productions featuring personal writings.

Administrative/Biographical History

Benjamin Judson Johnson was a Navy veteran who served in the South Pacific during World War II. Unfortunately, little is known about his life other than what is found in the letters of this collection.

Benjamin Judson Johnson, the son of Ollie R. and Rose K. Johnson of Waco, Texas, was born in the mid-1920s. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy on 1942 December 11, and was assigned to the Naval Air Force, Carrier Aircraft Service Unit Twelve. The unit trained in San Diego before serving in the South Pacific. His unit was stationed at Cape Torokina for at least part of the war. It appears that Benjamin was well respected in his unit, as he was allowed to have extra items from his family (such as a radio) flown in. A permission slip for one such package is included in the collection. He also wrote in his letters of his plans to obtain a law degree after the war was over. After the war, Benjamin attended Baylor University where he received his law degree in 1951. He then passed the State Bar of Texas and opened a law practice in his hometown of Waco.

The majority of the Benjamin Judson Johnson Papers are made up of correspondence written from Benjamin and his family throughout the duration of World War II. According to his letters, Benjamin never saw direct combat, but his letters still provide a unique insight into the mindset of a sailor overseas. His letters include directions for his mother to buy his girl friend, Hellon Ruth Gray of Pineville, Louisiana, an engagement ring, requests for supplies, and stories of his educational pursuits during the war. Benjamin Judson Johnson's letters in this collection are a light-hearted and informative look at life in the Navy during World War II.

Related Resources

Related citations

"Location of U.S. Naval Aircraft [Declassified]." *Naval History and Heritage Command*, 1944.
Senior Law Class of Baylor Law School. *The Round-Up*. Waco, Texas: 1951. [periodical]
United States Census. "Bennie Johnson." 1930. *Heritage Quest Online*. Accessed 2012 September 9.

Archival Arrangement

The Benjamin Judson Johnson Papers were organized chronologically prior to this finding aid. A preliminary inventory listing and finding aid were available. The majority of the prior arrangement was kept.

Currently, the Benjamin Judson Johnson Papers are arranged in four series: 1. Correspondence, II. Legal Documents, III. Literary Productions, and IV. Artifacts.

Series 1. Correspondence. 1942-1944

Administrative/Biographical History This series is the largest in the Benjamin Judson Johnson Papers. It contains numerous letters sent by Benjamin while he was overseas to his parents and sister in Texas. Also included are recommendation letters sent from Johnson's employers to the Navy, as well as some correspondence from the Navy to his family. This series is in average to good condition.

Inventory

Box 1. Folder 1. Correspondence: Family, 1942 March 14- 1943 January 22
 Box 1. Folder 2. Correspondence: Family, 1943 February 1-16
 Box 1. Folder 3. Correspondence: Family, 1943 February 22- March 25
 Box 1. Folder 4. Correspondence: Family, 1943 March 25-May 12
 Box 1. Folder 5. Correspondence: Family, 1943 May 21- May 31
 Box 1. Folder 6. Correspondence: Family, 1943 June 2-July 7
 Box 1. Folder 7. Correspondence: Family, 1943 June 23- August 3, undated
 Box 1. Folder 8. Correspondence: Family, 1943 August 15- September 22, undated
 Box 1. Folder 9. Correspondence: Family, 1943 September 29- December 1
 Box 1. Folder 10. Correspondence: Family, 1943 December 3- 1944 January 18
 Box 1. Folder 11. Correspondence: Family, 1944 January 27- April 1
 Box 1. Folder 12. Correspondence: Family, 1944 April 1- June 8
 Box 1. Folder 13. Correspondence: Family, 1944 June 22, undated
 Box 1. Folder 14. Correspondence: Navy, December 8, 1942-1943, undated

Series 2. Legal Documents. 1942-1943

Administrative/Biographical History Series includes documents from Benjamin Johnson's parents giving permission for him to join the Navy. It also includes various official Navy documents. The series is in average to good condition.

Inventory Box 1. Folder 15. Legal Documents: General, 1942-1943

Series 3. Literary Productions. 1960, undated

Administrative/Biographical History Series includes poem and farcical "subpoena," as well as a barber shop ticket from the ship. This series is in average to excellent condition.

Inventory Box 1. Folder 16. Literary Productions, 1960, undated

Series 4. Artifacts. undated

Administrative/Biographical History Series includes embossed engraving stamp bearing Johnson's name. The series is in good condition.

Inventory Box 1. Folder 17. Artifacts: Benjamin J. Johnson Engraving, undated