

Joseph Doboze Papers

Mss Coll. No.134

2.5 linear feet

1934-1948

Scope & Content

This collection consists of correspondence, photographs, clippings, maps and personal documents of Joseph Doboze mostly relating to his service in the Second World War.

Most of the correspondence is addressed to Joseph's sister Julia Doboze of Massena, NY. There are also letters from Doboze to his girl-friend, Frances Kodzis of Niagara Falls, NY; his parents in Norfolk, NY; various friends of the family; friends made in Belgium and Germany (their letters are in French and German and are only from 1946-48).

Biographical

Joseph Doboze was born on March 18, 1909. From April to October of 1935 he was in the Civil Conservation Corps. On January 30, 1942 (at the age of 33) he was selected for Army training. His pre-military occupation was a salesman.

In February 1942 he received training in Camp Polk, LA. Before sailing to Scotland on June 7, 1944 he spent time in Fort Niagara, NY; Fort Knox, KY; Camp Polk, LA; had a furlough in November and December 1942; then he went to Camp Coxcombe, CA; Los Angeles, CA and Fort Benning, GA before heading overseas.

On June 13, 1944 he arrived in Greenock, Scotland. On August 10, 1944 he landed on Omaha Beach in Normandy as part of the **23rd Armored Infantry Battalion, 7th Armored Division**. He crossed into Germany in early December 1944 and then returned to the U.S. in October of 1945 and was honorably discharged. In 1945 he was awarded the Combat Infantry Man's badge for exemplary conduct.

His relationship with Frances Kodzis began June 21, 1942 with a letter she wrote to him. She sent him a postcard from New York City in July. She also wrote letters to his sister and parents. They visited his home and her home together during his furlough in November and December of 1942. Letters from her continue through January of 1943. She sent him a Valentine's Day card in February and an Easter card in April and that is the end of the correspondence between them. He never mentions her in his letters to his sister or his parents.

Provenance

Donated to St. Lawrence University by Joseph Doboze, via Paul Schaffer, Director, Massena Public Library, 2002.

Series

1. Correspondence
2. Photographs/Postcards
3. Documents
4. Clippings
5. Booklets: Military & Religious
6. Maps
7. Massena Public Library Exhibition Materials (Nov. 2001)
8. Miscellaneous

Box List

Box 1	Folder 1	Correspondence	1934–1937
	Folder 2	Correspondence	1941
	Folder 3	Correspondence	February 1942
	Folder 4	Correspondence	March 1942
	Folder 5	Correspondence	April 1942
	Folder 6	Correspondence	May 1942
	Folder 7	Correspondence	June 1942
	Folder 8	Correspondence	July 1942
	Folder 9	Correspondence	August 1942
	Folder 10	Correspondence	September 1942
	Folder 11	Correspondence	October 1942
	Folder 12	Correspondence	November 1942
	Folder 13	Correspondence	December 1942
	Folder 14	Correspondence	January 1943
	Folder 15	Correspondence	February 1943
	Folder 16	Correspondence	March 1943
	Folder 17	Correspondence	April 1943
	Folder 18	Correspondence	May 1943
Box 2			
	Folder 19	Correspondence	June 1943
	Folder 20	Correspondence	July 1943
	Folder 21	Correspondence	January 1944
	Folder 22	Correspondence	February 1944
	Folder 23	Correspondence	March 1944
	Folder 24	Correspondence	April 1944
	Folder 25	Correspondence	August 1944
	Folder 26	Correspondence	September 1944
	Folder 27	Correspondence	October 1944
	Folder 28	Correspondence	November 1944
	Folder 29	Correspondence	December 1944
	Folder 30	Correspondence	January 1945
	Folder 31	Correspondence	February 1945
	Folder 32	Correspondence	March 1945
	Folder 33	Correspondence	April 1945
	Folder 34	Correspondence	May 1945
	Folder 35	Correspondence	June 1945
	Folder 36	Correspondence	July 1945
	Folder 37	Correspondence	August 1945
	Folder 38	Correspondence	September 1945
	Folder 39	Correspondence	October 1945
	Folder 40	Correspondence	December 1945
	Folder 41	Correspondence	January 1946
	Folder 42	Correspondence	February 1946
	Folder 43	Correspondence	March 1946
	Folder 44	Correspondence	June 1946
	Folder 45	Correspondence	January 1947
	Folder 46	Correspondence	February 1947
	Folder 47	Correspondence	November 1947
	Folder 48	Correspondence	January 1948
	Folder 49	Correspondence	Undated

Folder 50	Correspondence	Undated
Box 3, Folder 1	Church Publications	1940s
Folder 2	Library Display	November 2001
Folder 3	Newspapers	1929 – 1945
Folder 4	Wartime Materials	1940s
Folder 5	Wartime Materials	1940s
Folder 6	War Booklets	1940s
Folder 7	Maps, Booklets	1942
Box 4, Folder 1	Photos, Postcards, Recent Photos	1940s 1990s
Box 1	Postcards, Photos	1940s
Box 2	Photos, Negatives	1940s
Box 3	Photos of Olympics, Playing Cards	1940s ?
Loose	2 Audio tapes	Unknown
Loose	Audio CD	Interview with Paul Schaffer, Massena Public Library
Box 5	Maps, Newspapers	1940s (Double oversized folder, kept in flat file cabinet, drawer #16 in ODY Room 149)

Chronology Mss. 134 – Doboze Papers

- 1935 Apr.-Oct. Joseph P. Doboze (born March 18, 1909) in Civil Conservation Corps
- 1940 July-Oct. Battle of Britain
- 1941 Feb. 29 J.D. writes Letter to Draft Board...
Dec, 7. Japan attacks Pearl Harbor. US enters war
- 1942 Jan. 30-J.D., age 33, Selected for Army Training
Feb. 4-J.D. Appointed as leader of selected men from St. Law. Co.
Jan/Feb (?). J.D. in Fort Niagara, NY
Feb. J.D. receives training in Camp Polk, LA
March 1. 7th Armored Division formed at Camp Polk, Louisiana
May-July J.D. in Fort Knox, KY
Jul. 11 J.D. Completes tank mech. course in KY
End July J.D. returns to Camp Polk, LA
Nov/Dec J.D. Comes home for visit
- ? Camp Coxcombe, CA
- 1943 Apr.-Jul. J.D. In Los Angeles with 48th Armored Reg.
August, Fort Benning, GA
- 1944 Jan-Spring J.D. in Fort Benning, GA
June 6th. D-Day Allies land on the Normandy beaches in France
June 7th JD sails from NY on the *Queen Mary*
June 13. Arrives in Greenock, Scotland
August 10. Lands on Omaha Beach, Normandy, France.
August 22. Cross Seine River at Tilly (12 miles south of Paris?)
? St. Vith
Aug – Sept. France, including Chartres, Melun, Verdun and Metz (under Patton)
Sep - Nov Moves thru Belgium to Holland, including Overloon and Meijel (under Montgomery)
early Dec : Germany, at and near Ubach
Dec. 16. Battle of the Bulge begins
Belgium: St. Vith, Poteau, Vielsalm, Manhay (Battle of the Bulge)
- 1945 early Feb Germany, near Simmereth and Roer Dams
late Feb: Belgium, repairing roads near Stavelot and Elsenborn; HQ remained near Simmereth
March: Germany, area of Mehlem and Bad Godesburg on west bank of Rhine River
late March: Germany, encirclement of Ruhr Pocket along south and east
early April: Germany, reduction of Ruhr Pocket
late April: Germany, north to the Baltic
May 8 V-E Day. Germans surrender.
June 2-J.D. is awarded the Bronze Star
June - early July: Germany, occupational duties in Dessau and Köthen by the Elbe
July: Germany, occupational duties, move to the U.S. Zone of occupied Germany large contingent of
low-point men departs July 14 via train to ship home August 1 on Montclair Victory for re-training
with 44th Infantry Division for invasion of Japan many high-point men transferred to other units for
earlier transport home; many new men transferred into Division.
August 6 and 9. Atomic bombs on Japan
August 15 Japan surrenders
October: JD Returns to United States and deactivated

United States. Army. Armored Infantry Battalion, 23rd

History of the Seventh Armored Division and the Seventh Armored Division Association.
Farmington Hills, Mich. The Association, 1982. 328 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 32 cm.