

Raymond Plagge Papers

2014.032.001

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July 16, 2014

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Bong Veteran's Historical Center

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Summary Information

Repository	Bong Veteran's Historical Center
Title	Raymond Plagge Papers
Date	1941-2001
Extent	1.0 Cubic feet Military records of brothers Raymond and Leland Plagge. Correspondence between Raymond and Leland and their parents in Illinois. Military reunion materials and correspondence.
Language	English

Preferred Citation note

Researchers are requested to cite the collection name, collection number and the Bong Veteran's Historical Center in all footnote and bibliographic references.

Biographical/Historical note

Raymond E. Plagge was born September 07, 1927 in Deerfield, IL. He joined the Marines in March 1943 and was sent to San Diego, CA. He was at Camp Elliot for 3 months and then transferred in Sept. 1943 to Camp Pendleton. He was assigned to K Co. 3rd Bn, 24th Marines, 4th Division. He landed on Roi-Namu, Kwajaelen Atoll, went back to Mau, then on to Saipan. After the mop up on Saipan was finished and they were resting, he was admitted to the hospital for an infected ankle. He missed the landing on Tinian, but was able to rejoin K Co. to prepare for Iwo Jima. He was wounded on the beach of Iwo Jima and sent to Guam and rejoined K Co. in Maui. He was discharged in Nov 1945 and received the Presidential Unit Citation with 2 stars, the Purple Heart, and the Asiatic-Pacific with 4 stars. Raymond retired as power plant superintendent from University of Wisconsin-Superior in September 1989. Later in life, Raymond became very active with the 4th Marine Division Association. He attended yearly reunions, including a trip back to Iwo Jima. He also started a newsletter, "In Touch" to keep his fellow marines in contact with each other. Raymond died on Tuesday, April 8th, 2014, at the age of 86, at St Luke's Hospice in Duluth, Minnesota.

Leland Plagge was born in 1923. Leland entered the service in 1942. He trained at Camp Pickett in Virginia and then went to the European Theatre with the Company A, 398th Infantry Regiment, 100th Infantry Division. He was a Private First Class upon his death in April 1945 in Odheim, Germany. He was awarded the Silver Star (posthumously) for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy while serving with Company A, 398th Infantry Regiment, 100th Infantry Division, in action at Odheim, Germany, during World War II.

Scope and Contents note

The manuscript component of the collection primarily consists of war correspondence between Raymond and Leland Plagge with their mother (and father). Leland wrote the bulk of the letters and spoke about training camp, meeting girls on leave (and wondering why they want to get so serious, so quick). Once Leland is overseas, his letters become visibly more depressed. He describes several near misses in his last letter. He dies sometime in the next month, in April 1945. Raymond also writes home, although not as faithfully. The letters are organized in chronological order.

The second part of the manuscript collection consists of Raymond's military activities in later life. He was very active in reunions and keeping in touch with his fellow marines. The bulk of the correspondence is with his fellow retired soldiers. He worked very hard to make connections with them and keep people in touch.

The audiovisual component of the collections consists of 17 photos, the bulk of which are from Raymond's WWII service. There are also some photos of military personnel in Korea and one photo of Raymond's father, Harold Plagge on a Deerfield Fire Department truck.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Bong Veteran's Historical Center

Controlled Access Headings

Geographic Name(s)

- Iwo Jima
- Odheim
- Saipan

Personal Name(s)

- Plagge, Leland
 - Plagge, Raymond
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Footnotes

<http://projects.militarytimes.com/citations-medals-awards/recipient.php?recipientid=44189>>.

Fourth Marine Division. Paducah: Turner Publishing Company, 1992. Print.

Box 1

Collection Inventory

Box 1 1941-2001

Folder 1 Special Action Report, RCT (Regimental Combat Team) 23, Forager Phase 1, Saipan Island August 1944

Folder 2 Final Report on Saipan Operation, Regimental Combat Team 24 August 1944

Folder 3 Special Action Report, RCT 25, Forager Phase 1, Saipan Island August 1944

Folder 4 Nametags from Raymond Plagge's reunions 55th Reunion of "The Fighting Fourth of WWII"; Veterans of Underage Military Service, Commemoration '95 50th Anniversary of WWII; 43rd Reunion Fourth Marine Division Association WWII; Return to Iwo Jima

Folder 5 Miscellaneous papers 1941-1945 Illustrated print of military graveyard done by Alice Adamson. One of the markers is "Leland Plagge" brother of Raymond. "Rose Plagge" has been drawn in along the side. Comic from "Leatherneck; May 1943" called "Memoirs of P.I." Someone scratched out P.I and wrote in San Diego. Back side is a "Weapons quiz"; Church service bulletin from Bethlehem Evangelical Church. Altar flowers that week were for Pfc. Leland Plagge, killed in Germany April 1945

Folder 6 Letters from Leland Plagge to "Mom" 1942

Folder 7 Letters from Leland and Raymond to Mom 1943

Folder 8 Letters from Leland and Raymond to Mom (and Dad) 1943

Box 2

Folder 9 Letters from Leland and Raymond to Mom 1944

Folder 10 Letters from Leland and Raymond to Mom 1944

Folder 11 Letters from Leland and Raymond to Mom 1945

Folder 12 Misc. correspondence for Raymond Plagge 1976-1988

Folder 13 Military papers related to Raymond Plagge service 1943-1989

Folder 14 Marine Reunions 1990-2000

Programs 4th Marine Division Association Reunion programs 1986-1990

Box 2

Programs Marine Reunions 1991-2001

Folder 15 Correspondence with Zeke Alexander 1995-1996 Correspondence with Zeke Alexander

Folder 16 Correspondence - Counselman 1988

Folder 17 Correspondence - deceased Marines 1987-1989

Folder 18 Correspondence - Andy Giles 1991

Folder 19 Correspondence - Bob Knoll 1989-1998

Box 2

Folder 20 Correspondence - Ed Lannigan 1998

Folder 21 Correspondence - Des Jarlais 1987-1997

Folder 22 Correspondenc - Mike Lisching 1995

Folder 23 Correspondence - Lorenzo "Joe" Martin 1991-1996

Folder 24 Orphan file 1989-1994

Folder 25 Correspondence - Lynn Olson 1994

Folder 26 Correspondence - Frank Pokrop 1986-1995

Folder 27 Correspondence - Capt Walt Ridlon 1987-1997

Folder 28 Correspondence - Ed Studniarz 1989-1996

Folder 29 Correspondence - Joe "Jake" Sullivan 1988

Folder 30 Correspondence - Tom Winslow 1993-1996

Folder 31 Addresses - 4th Marines

Folder 32 Photocopied photos from WWII 1941-1945