



1st Lieutenant Frances Maude Pleasants Collection, 1943-1947

GOGA 37165



Golden Gate National Recreation Area
ATTN: Park Archives and Records Center
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123
[Mailing Address]

Park Archives and Records Center
Presidio of San Francisco
Building 667 McDowell Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94129
[Physical Address]

<http://go.nps.gov/gogacollections>

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Introduction

Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Park Description

Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), a unit of the National Park Service, was established by an Act of Congress on October 27, 1972. The 80,000-acre park encompasses a great diversity of cultural and natural resources in and around the Bay Area of San Francisco, California. It includes Muir Woods National Monument and Fort Point National Historic Site.

The park holds almost five million three-dimensional and documentary artifacts dating from the time before European contact to the present. They are preserved and maintained for the public by the Division of Cultural Resources and Museum Management, which includes the Park Archives and Records Center (PARC).

Park Archives and Records Center (PARC)

Historical Note

GGNRA and the sites within it have been collecting records since their inception. The PARC was established in 1994 to receive records and archival collections from the U.S. Army and the Presidio Army Museum after the closure of the Presidio of San Francisco as an Army base. The collections continue to grow through the donation of materials by private individuals, transfer of inactive park records by staff, and acquisition of relevant documentary materials.

Scope of Collections

The archival collections in the custody of the GGNRA document the history and activity of the various sites and groups associated with the park, described in the park's Scope of Collection Statement (2009).

The PARC contains U.S. Army and National Park Service facility records for the Presidio of San Francisco, forts and coast defense sites in the area, and various GGNRA sites. Subjects and sites documented include the United States Army (Bear Flag Revolt, Civil War, Spanish-American War, Mexican War, World War I, Army Air Service, Coast Artillery, Army medical facilities and issues, World War II, Army support during natural disasters, Viet Nam War, and Operation Desert Storm); Alcatraz Island (Army fortress, Army Disciplinary Barracks, U.S. Penitentiary, and Indian Occupation); the natural resources conservation

movement resulting in the establishment of Muir Woods National Monument; agriculture in the Marin Headlands; Point Reyes Peninsula and Bolinas Lagoon areas; U.S. Lifesaving/Coast Guard Services; San Francisco Earthquake and Fire of 1906; Panama Pacific International Exposition of 1915; natural resources and environmental issues; and preservation of open space in the Bay Area. Also included in the PARC are many of the GGNRA administrative records that document the development and expansion of this park.

Visiting the PARC for Research

The PARC is located in an historic brick building, formerly a cavalry stable, on the Presidio of San Francisco. Collections and archives support services are available for walk-in research during open hours or by appointment. Please contact the PARC (see below) for the current schedule of reference hours.

Copy Services

Black and white photocopy services for standard and oversize materials are available on-site. Color photocopying, photographic duplication, and duplication of other media are available by special arrangement. Researchers are charged for all duplicates on a cost-recovery basis.

Rights and Publications

Copies are provided under the Fair Use provisions of the Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.). Researchers must complete a Permission to Publish Contract form with the Park Archivist for any other intended use of these materials (such as publication or exhibit). Researchers should consult with staff regarding their needs for commercial or public use of materials.

Legal Status of Holdings

Many holdings of the PARC were acquired/transferred prior to the establishment of the archives program, and have little documentation on their provenance (source/chain of custody). All materials received after 1994 have been accessioned and documented. If provenance cannot be determined, the PARC assumes that it owns the property rights, but does not own the copyright. Staff will provide assistance, but it is the responsibility of the researcher to acquire permission from the copyright holder to cite, quote, or reproduce collection materials.

Collections developed by or for government organizations or operations are in the public domain and may be used, cited, and quoted without restriction, provided they are properly credited to the PARC. The archives contain no national security classified materials.

Donations to the Collections

The PARC welcomes donations of a variety of historic materials that meet the criteria in the Scope of Collections Statement and do not duplicate existing holdings. Collections are maintained for research use in perpetuity; there is no guarantee that items will be exhibited. If you own materials that may be relevant to the themes of GGNRA and would like to deposit them in the PARC, please consult with an archivist.

How to Use This Finding Aid

This document contains information on the contents and significance of an archival collection. It includes descriptive information; repository information; collection history; biographical or historical information on creators of the collection; and a container or folder list of everything in the collection. After reviewing the finding aid, please discuss your specific needs with the archivist who will locate and retrieve the relevant materials.

How to Use the Collections

Please follow all rules and regulations regarding research, the use of the research facility, and the handling of collection materials. This will protect the collections so they continue to be available and usable for generations to come. If anything appears to be out of order or damaged, please notify a staff member.

Contacts

For additional information on the use of archival collections at GGNRA, please contact the Park Archives and Records Center:

Mailing Address:

National Park Service
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Attn: Park Archives and Records Center
Fort Mason, Bldg. 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Physical Address:

Park Archives and Records Center
Presidio of San Francisco
Building 667 McDowell Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94129
Phone: (415) 561-2807
Fax: (415) 441-1618

1st Lieutenant Frances Maude Pleasants Collection, 1943-1947

Title

1st Lieutenant Frances Maude Pleasants Collection, 1943-1947
Alternate Title: Frances M. Pleasants Collection

Dates

Inclusive: 1936-1971
Bulk: 1943-1947

Collection Number

Catalog Number GOGA 37165 (Accession Number GOGA-3498 and GOGA-3711)

Provenance

The collection was donated by David L. Hymes, Frances M. Pleasants son. The archival collection was originally inside of a trunk with her uniform, hats, shoes, bag, patches, and other personal items. The objects and the archive materials are cataloged separately.

Volume

3.7 LF [Five doc boxes, one O.S. box, one O.S. folder, and one map roll]

Description

This collection depicts Frances Maude Pleasants' active duty at Letterman General Hospital in the Presidio of San Francisco, her beginnings with the Women's Army Corps, and membership to the Presidio Officers' Clubs during and following World War II in San Francisco and other locations where she trained and served. The collection is comprised of papers, photographs, orders, receipts, letters, booklets, and other ephemera, newspapers, instructions, memorandums, and her honorable discharge papers. It is divided into four series to show the progression of her military career starting when she joined the WAC in 1943 until receiving her honorable discharge papers at Letterman in 1947 and items representing her civilian life.

History

Frances Maude Pleasants was born on August 13, 1919 in Richmond, Virginia to Curtis Pride and Lottie R. Pleasants. After graduating high school in 1936 she worked as a clerk in a Doctor's office until 1942, then as a telephone operator in Virginia. She was accepted to the Women's Army Corps training in Daytona Beach, Florida in 1943 for processing then later transferred to Fort Des Moines, Iowa for WAC class #57 training. Frances graduated as a Tech-5 surgical technician at Hot Springs, Arkansas as 2nd

Lieutenant for the WAC. In 1944, she was assigned for duty as a book keeper at Camp Beale, California with the Pacific Division Engineer. Frances took duties at Letterman General Hospital at the Presidio of San Francisco in 1945 where she first served supervising medical records, supplies, and equipment. In 1947, Frances was promoted as 1st Lieutenant of the WAC and after completing her years of service she received her honorable discharge papers in 1947. After her career with the Army, Frances married Ellis Hymes in 1951 and they had two children, David & Debra. The family lived in San Francisco where she worked with AT&T and the San Francisco Unified School District until her death on January 31, 2007.

Preferred Citation

“Golden Gate NRA, Park Archives, 1st Lieutenant Frances Maude Pleasants Collection, 1943-1947, GOGA 37165”

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Camp Beale (Calif.)
Fort Des Moines (Iowa)
Hot Springs (Ark.)
Letterman General Hospital (San Francisco, Calif.)
Officers' Club
Pleasants, Frances Maude
Presidio of San Francisco (San Francisco, Calif.)
San Francisco (Calif.)
Women's Army Corps (U.S.)

Formats

Booklet
Correspondence
Forms
Ephemera
Letters
Memorandums
Napkins
Negatives
Newspapers
Pamphlets
Papers
Photographs

Photograph Album
Postcards
Receipts

Processing Information

Processed by Terryn Liljedahl,
Completed in November 2012
Re cataloged by Terryn Liljedahl
Completed in December 2015

Series Description

Series I: Papers

Volume: Fourteen [14] folders
Arrangement: Subject
Formats: Booklets
Bulletins
Forms
Newspapers
Newsletters
Orders
Papers
Pamphlets
Song book

Description: Papers regarding Frances Maude Pleasants service in the WAC, at Letterman General Hospital, and her duties throughout her career with the Army. Items include special orders, hospital papers, forms, receipts, letters, newspapers, and memorandums. Series I is separated into four Sub-Series.

Sub-Series A: Letterman General Hospital [LGH] and Presidio

Volume: Ten [10] folders
Arrangement: Format then Chronological
Formats: Paper.
Newspapers.
Booklets.

Orders

Forms

Description: Papers that represent Frances Pleasants' time at Letterman General Hospital from 26 May 1945 to 11 September 1947. Including special orders, hospital orders, letters, Letterman Officers Club papers, the *Foghorn: Letterman General Hospital Newspaper*, LGH bulletins, hospital inventories, forms, and her honorable discharge papers.

Sub-Series B: Women's Army Corps [WAC]

Volume: Three [3] folders

Arrangement: Chronological

Formats: Paper

Orders

Forms

Letters

Description: Papers, a song book, orders/forms, letters, travel and leave papers, rules, and instructions of training specific to the Women's Army Corps when Frances first joined in 1943.

Sub-Series C: Army

Volume: One [1] folder

Arrangement: Chronological

Formats: Paper

Description: General issued Army papers comprised of memos, a furlough form, an envelope, and a packet on the Vietnam War.

Series II: Correspondence

Volume: Six [6] folders

Arrangement: Format then Chronological

Formats: Paper

Description: The correspondence series contains Holiday cards and announcements from friends, written letters from friends in duty with her and telegrams about the health of her father while she was stationed at LGH along with the ticket stubs, attached to the telegrams, which were used to visit her family in Virginia while her father was sick. Series II is divided into 2 sub-series: Holiday Cards and Personal Letters

Sub-Series A: Holiday Cards

Volume: Three [3] folders

Arrangement: Chronological

Formats: Paper

Description: Holiday and announcements sent from friends and family from 1926-1955

Sub-Series B: Personal Letters

Volume: Three [3] folders

Arrangement: Chronological

Formats: Paper

Description: Personal letters, dated 1943-1956, from family, friends from her years in service, and early letters from her husband, Ellis Hymes.

Series III: Ephemera

Volume: Six [6] folders, O.S. Folder, and one [1] map roll

Arrangement: Format

Formats: Hymn Book

Napkins

Paper

Postcard

Pamphlets

Description: The ephemera series depicts Frances Pleasants life off duty while she was stationed at LGH in San Francisco. It includes napkins from San Francisco restaurants, a coaster, a map of the world, pamphlets, a news clipping of a poem, a receipt, and a hymn book written out to Frances from her family.

Series IV: Images

Volume: Fifteen [15] folders and one O.S. folder

Arrangement: Format

Formats: Photographs

Postcards

Negatives

Description: Photographs of family, friends, leisure, and time spent in service, and small souvenir photographs of California and Tennessee. There are also copy negatives of some of the photographs at the end of the series.

Series V: Newspaper

Volume: One [1] folder and one O.S. folder

Arrangement: Size

Formats: Newspaper

Newspaper clippings

Description: This series contains several newspapers like *The San Francisco Call*, 1947, *The White House Co Worker*, 1943, and *The Western Star*, 1947. This series includes various article cutouts with subjects of WAC, announcement of friends, and army related stories. See also Series I for *Foghorn*.

Box and Folder List

Collection Title: 1st Lieutenant Frances Maude Pleasants Collection, 1943-1947

Collection Number: GOGA 37165

Box #	Folder #	Description
		Series 1: Papers
		Sub-Series A: Letterman General Hospital [LGH] and Presidio
1	1	LGH and Presidio Papers, 1944-1945
1	2	LGH and Presidio Papers, 1946
1	3	LGH and Presidio Papers, 1947-
1	4	Honorable Discharge
1	5	Foghorn Newspaper, November 1945- October 1946 [F 1/3]
1	6	Foghorn Newspaper, November 1946- May 1947 [F 2/3]
1	7	Foghorn Newspaper, June 1947- December 1947 [F 3/3]
1	8	LGH Foghorn, 22 March 1965- 30 June 1969
1	9	LGH Foghorn, 28 July 1969- 18 December 1969
1	10	LGH Foghorn, 19 January 1970- 1 February 1971
		Sub-Series B: Women's Army Corps [WAC]
2	1	WAC Papers, 1943-1945
2	2	WAC Papers, 1945-1947
2	3	WAC Veteran Papers
		Sub-Series C: Army
2	4	Army Papers, 1940-1946
		Series 2: Correspondence
		Sub-Series A: Holiday Cards
2	5	Holiday Cards, no date
2	6	Holiday Cards, 1926-1945
2	7	Holiday Cards, 1945-1955
		Sub-Series B: Personal Letters
3	1	Letters, 1943

3	2	Letters, 1944-1945
3	3	Letters, 1946-1954
		Series 3: Ephemera
3	4	Hymn book
3	5	Pamphlets [religious, theater, history, army, souvenir guide]
3	6	Pamphlets [travel, religious, opera]
3	7	Ephemera, miscellaneous [coasters, napkins, menu, business cards, stamps, foreign money, matchbooks]
4	1	Ephemera, miscellaneous [tickets, soap wrappers, business cards, brochures, flyers, programs]
4	2	Handwritten recipe cards
		Series 4: Images
4	3	Postcards, .001 - .068
4	4	Postcards, .069 - .088
4	5	Photographs [Out West, San Francisco, Christmas, Tahoe and Races], .089 - .158
4	6	Photographs [Family, Philadelphia, Fort Oglethorpe], .159 - .277
4	7	Photographs [WAC/ Civilian Life], .278 - .358
4	6	Photographs [WAC/ Civilian Life], .359 - .469
4	8	Photographs [Family/Friends, San Francisco, "The Post," Yosemite], .470 - .544
4	9	Photographs [WAC at Bend, Oregon, St. Lewis, Fall of 1946], .545 - .631
5	1	Photographs [Frances, Monterey, California, Camp Beale, Women's Group Photos], .632 - .734
5	2	Photographs [Personal Photographs, WAC Portraits], .735 - .798
5	3	Photographs [Portraits, Fishing in San Francisco, Family Gatherings, Frances in Uniform, Friends, San Francisco with Chuck Harrell], .799 - .891
5	4	Photographs [Frances in uniform, friends, WAC training, portraits, 3 rd platoon 20 th officer candidate class], .892 - .916
5	5	Photographs [miniature images of San Francisco/ Bay Area, Muir Woods, Lookout Mountain, Chattanooga, Tennessee, Redwood Highway], .917 - .982
5	6	Negatives [Copies from photographs]
5	7	Negatives [Copies from photographs]
		Series 5: Newspaper
5	8	Newspaper clippings [announcements, WAC, Army, and cartoons], World War II years

		<u>Series 4</u>
6		Photographic Album (16 pages)
SC Range 20x24	OS 1	
		<u>Series 1, Sub-Series D</u>
		Cardboard stencil, "F M PLEASANTS, L 308444," photocopy of War Department folder
		<u>Series 3</u>
		Vitamin Food Chart, cat poster, photocopy of "Marina Music Shop" envelope
		<u>Series 4</u>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • O.C.S. Picture of Fort Des Moines, Iowa, June 1945 • O.C.S. Class No. 57, First WAC training center, Fort Des Moines, 26 May 1945 • Portrait of Marguerite Chapman
		<u>Series 5</u>
		Newspapers
		<u>Series 3</u>
Map Roll		50x38" Cleartype General Map of the World, on Mercator's Projection, Copyright, American Map Company Inc., N.Y., c.1940. [including a color coated chart of countries flags. Yellow is axis powers, Blue are neutral countries, and pink is United Nations]