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### Clark, Robert R., Collection, 1929-1954

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#63 Clark, Robert R., Collection, 1929-1954  
.8 linear feet

## **INTRODUCTION**

Collection of Robert R. Clark, Sergeant, United States Army. Collection consists of personal correspondence between family members from 1929 through 1954. Smaller sections of the collection are letters from WWII to Harold and Mary Clark, Robert's parents. The bulk of the collection covers Robert Clark's service in the United States Army during his tour of duty in Korea during the Korean War. Much of the correspondence is between Robert and his mother.

## **DONOR INFORMATION**

The Robert R. Clark Papers were donated to the Leonard H. Axe Library at Pittsburg State University by an unknown donor.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Robert Clark was an avid sportsman. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and trapping. Robert was interested in basketball and baseball, often asking for newspaper clippings that would have the details from Pittsburg High School, and Pittsburg State University basketball games. His parents were also avid outdoors and sport enthusiasts, as the letters often attest. Robert's father and his maternal uncles, Joseph Ford and Ollie Ford, worked on the railroad out of Pittsburg and Ft. Scott, Kansas and Tulsa, Oklahoma. Robert's mother was a homemaker. Robert was a Chief of Section for a 115 Howitzer in the A-Battery of the 45<sup>th</sup> Division of the US Army. Sgt. Clark's duties included the safety of the men who served under him that manned the artillery, as well as sighting and firing on the objectives. Robert served near or on the front line in Korea for the majority of his tour.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

Robert Clark's collection contains personal letters dating from the 1920s from Harold Clark to Mary Ford (Robert Clark's parents). There are letters dating from 1944-1945 from Joseph Ford to his sister, Mary, and brother-in-law, Harold, while in Arkansas training in the Railroad Battalion, and while Joseph was station in Europe during WWII. There are also letters from the same time period from Daniel Ollie Ford, his wife Jennie Lou Ford to his sister Mary during his training and during his European tour in WWII, and letters from Russell Clark to his brother, Harold, dating from 1945 during his military duty. The bulk of the collection are letters between Robert Clark and his mother during his army service from 1951-1952, while in training stateside and while serving in Korea. There are also letters to Robert from friends who served in Korea after his return to civilian life, and newspaper clippings. These papers are arranged in chronological order in six series: **Harold Clark, Joseph Ford, Daniel Ollie Ford, Russell Clark, Robert Clark, and Miscellaneous.**

## **FOLDER LIST**

### **Harold Clark Series**

f. 1 April 1929. Letters to Mary Ford (Pittsburg, KS) from Harold Clark (Salida, CO) work, family, love letters. Letter to Harold Clark from Lillian Clark (his mother).

FOLDER LIST continued

**Joseph Ford Series**

- f. 2 February 1944 – July 1944. Letters to Mary (Ford) Clark and Harold Clark (Pittsburg, KS) from Joseph Ford, Mary's brother (New Orleans, LA and Little Rock, AR).
- f. 3 August 1944 - June 1945. Letters to Mary Clark and Harold Clark (Pittsburg, KS) from Joseph Ford (France and Belgium). Countryside, conditions, railroads in Germany, bombings in Belgium.
- f. 4 June 1945 – September 1945. Letters to Mary Clark and Harold Clark (Pittsburg, KS) from Joseph Ford (Antwerp, Belgium). Ruhr Valley in Germany, bomb attacks by German's on Antwerp, railroad work, copies of German train orders.

**Daniel Ollie Ford Series**

- f. 5 April 1944 – August 1944. Letters to Mary Clark (Pittsburg, KS) from Daniel (Ollie) Ford, Mary's brother, and Jennie Lou Ford, Ollie's wife (Ft. Leavenworth, KS and Ft. Bliss, TX).
- f. 6 September 1944 – May 1945. Letters to Mary Clark (Pittsburg, KS) from Daniel (Ollie) and Jennie Lou Ford (Gainesville, TX and France and Germany).
- f. 7 June 1945 – December 1945. Letters to Mary Clark (Pittsburg, KS) from Daniel (Ollie) Ford (France, England, and France).

**Russell Clark Series**

- f. 8 April 1944 – October 1944. Letters to Harold Clark (Pittsburg, KS) from Russell Clark, Harold's brother (Farragut, Idaho, Shoemaker, CA and San Francisco, Ca) Family news, naval training, riot in mess hall in San Francisco killed two black sailors, Pacific theater.

**Robert Clark Series**

- f. 9 January 1951, May 1951. Letter to Robert Clark (Ft. Lewis, WA) from Robert George (San Francisco, CA). Recreation, Christmas, local weather. Letters to Harold and Mary Clark (Pittsburg, KS) from Robert (Bob) Clark (Ft. Lewis, WA). Trip to Ft. Lewis via Rio Grande Railroad, pay, duties, recreation, arrival of Japanese and Korean troops, black troops, race riot at service club.
- f. 10 June 1951. Letters to Harold and Mary Clark (Pittsburg, KS) from Robert Clark (Ft. Lewis, WA) Family news, card games, fishing, training on the 115 Howitzer.
- f. 11 July 1951. Letters to Harold and Mary Clark (Pittsburg, KS) from Robert Clark (Ft. Lewis, WA).

**Robert Clark Series** continued

- f. 12 September 1951 - August 1951. Letters to Harold and Mary Clark (Pittsburg, KS) from Robert Clark (Ft. Lewis, WA) Chief of Section, leadership school, promotion to Sargent, furlough plans, preparations for shipping out to Korea.
- f. 13 October 1951. Letters to Harold and Mary Clark (Pittsburg, KS) from Robert Clark (Korea) Trip to Korea, met Robert Eschelbremmer of Ft. Scott, certificate for crossing international date line, military pay deficits, Japan, Pusan, Korea, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry, 82<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery, Russian jets, fox holes.
- f. 14 November 1951. Letters to Harold and Mary Clark (Pittsburg, KS) from Robert Clark (Korea). Letter to Robert Clark from Pete Levra, Jr. (Ft. Lewis, WA).
- f. 15 December 1-8, 1951. Letters to Harold and Mary Clark (Pittsburg, KS) from Robert Clark (Korea) Christmas cards, New Year card. Letters to Robert Clark from Mary Clark.
- f. 16 December 9-12, 1951. Letters to Harold and Mary Clark (Pittsburg, KS) from Robert Clark (Korea) Christmas cards, transfer to 189<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, 45<sup>th</sup> Division. Letters to Robert Clark from Mary Clark.
- f. 17 December 13-19, 1951. Letters to Harold and Mary Clark (Pittsburg, KS) from Robert Clark (Korea) Christmas cards, Korean weather, request for supplies, souvenir Christmas cards written in Korean/English.
- f. 18 December 20-31, 1951. Letters to Harold and Mary Clark (Pittsburg, KS) from Robert Clark (Korea) Christmas cards, Korean weather, request for supplies. Letters to Robert Clark from Mary Clark December 20-31, 1951.
- f. 19 January 1-10, 1952. Letters to Harold and Mary Clark (Pittsburg, KS) from Robert Clark (Korea). Letters to Robert Clark from Mary Clark. Letters to Robert Clark from various friends..
- f. 20 January 11-20, 1952. Letters to Harold and Mary Clark (Pittsburg, KS) from Robert Clark (Korea). Letters to Robert Clark from Mary Clark.
- f. 21 January 21-31, 1952. "Highlights" Newsletter published by 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, January 21, 1952, "The First Cav Comes Back" by Charles McAleer, from undated *Stars and Strips* newspaper. Letters to Harold and Mary Clark (Pittsburg, KS) from Robert Clark (Korea). Letters to Robert Clark from Mary Clark. Letters to Robert Clark from various friends.

**Robert Clark Series** continued

- f. 22 February 1-6, 1952. Letters to Harold and Mary Clark (Pittsburg, KS) from Robert Clark (Korea) Firing missions and MLR (Main Line of Resistance). Letters to Robert Clark from Mary Clark February 1-6, 1952. Letters from various friends.
- f. 23 February 6-14, 1952. Letters to Harold and Mary Clark (Pittsburg, KS) from Robert Clark (Korea). Letters to Robert Clark from Mary Clark. Letters from other family members.
- f. 24 February 15-23, 1952. Letters to Harold and Mary Clark (Pittsburg, KS) from Robert Clark (Korea). Letters to Robert Clark from Mary Clark. Letters from friends.
- f. 25 February 24-29, 1952. Letters to Harold and Mary Clark (Pittsburg, KS) from Robert Clark (Korea). Letters to Robert Clark from Mary Clark. Letters from family. Letters from friends.
- f. 26 March 1-8, 1952. Letters to Harold and Mary Clark (Pittsburg, KS) from Robert Clark (Korea). Letters to Robert Clark from Mary Clark. Letters to Robert Clark from various friends.
- f. 27 March 9-15, 1952. Letters to Harold and Mary Clark (Pittsburg, KS) from Robert Clark (Korea). Letters to Robert Clark from Mary Clark. Letters to Robert Clark from various family and friends.
- f. 28 March 16-24, 1952. Letters to Harold and Mary Clark (Pittsburg, KS) from Robert Clark (Korea). Letters to Robert Clark from Mary Clark. Letters to Robert Clark from various friends.
- f. 29 March 25-31, 1952. Letters to Harold and Mary Clark (Pittsburg, KS) from Robert Clark (Korea). Letters to Robert Clark from Mary Clark. Letters to Robert Clark from various friends.
- f. 30 April 1-13, 1952. Letters to Robert Clark from Mary Clark. Letters to Robert Clark from various friends. Pen-pal type letter from female college student. Letter to Harold and Mary Clark (Pittsburg, KS) from Robert Clark (Korea).
- f. 31 April 14-20, 1952. Letters to Harold and Mary Clark (Pittsburg, KS) from Robert Clark (Korea). Letters to Robert Clark from Mary Clark. Letters to Robert Clark from family and various friends.

**Robert Clark Series** continued

- f. 32 April 21-30, 1952. Letters to Harold and Mary Clark (Pittsburg, KS) from Robert Clark (Korea). Letters to Robert Clark from Mary Clark. Letters to Robert Clark from various friends.
- f. 33 May 1-10, 1952. Letters to Harold and Mary Clark (Pittsburg, KS) from Robert Clark (Korea). Letters to Robert Clark from Mary Clark. Letters to Robert Clark from various friends.
- f. 34 May 11-20, 1952. Letters to Harold and Mary Clark (Pittsburg, KS) from Robert Clark (Korea). Letters to Robert Clark from Mary Clark. Letters to Robert Clark from various friends.
- f. 35 May 21-31, 1952. Letters to Harold and Mary Clark (Pittsburg, KS) from Robert Clark (Korea). Letters to Robert Clark from Mary Clark. Letters to Robert Clark from various friends.
- f. 36 June 1952. Letters to Harold and Mary Clark (Pittsburg, KS) from Robert Clark (Korea). Letters to Robert Clark from Mary Clark. Letters to Robert Clark from various friends.
- f. 37 July 1952. Letters to Harold and Mary Clark (Pittsburg, KS) from Robert Clark (Korea). Letters to Robert Clark from Mary Clark. Letters to Robert Clark from various friends.
- f. 38 1953-1954. Letter to Robert Clark (Pittsburg, KS) from friend serving in Korea near Heartbreak Ridge. Letters to Robert Clark from Leonard Lake (Korea).

**Miscellaneous Series**

- f. 39 Miscellaneous. Newspaper clippings from WWII and Korea, Letter to Bill Anderson from Meryle McCown dated December 12, 1950.

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