



Summary Information

Title: Ben Weber World War II Collection

Collection Number: 2007:006

Creator: Ben Weber

Collection Dates: 1943-2007, bulk 1943-1945

Extent: .25 cubic feet (1 box)

Language: English

Collection Abstract:

Ben Weber served in the 353rd Military Police Escort Guard Company during World War II. He transported German and Italian prisoners to POW camps throughout the United States, guarded the camps, and protected a hospital on Iwo Jima. This collection documents Weber's service during the war, and consists of correspondence, photographs, a copy of the *Iwo Jima Inquirer*, and a copy of a translated Japanese diary about the Battle of Iwo Jima.

Repository:

The History Center
102 N. Temple
Diboll, TX 75941
936-829-3543
www.thehistorycenteronline.com

Author/Processing Information: Processed by Matt Gorzalski in May 2012.

Biographical/Historical Note:

Benjamin J. Weber was born in the Bronx, New York City on June 30, 1924, one of three brothers. His father was an interior decorator and painter. He enlisted in the Army in November 1942, did basic training in Camp Upton, Long Island, New York, and was assigned to 353rd Military Police Escort Guard Company. During the early years of his military service, while stationed at Fort Wadsworth on Staten Island, Weber was responsible for transporting German and Italian prisoners of war to POW camps throughout the United States. Weber worked as a POW camp guard in Huntsville, Texas and later Lufkin, Texas. He was later sent back to school at Oglethorpe University in Georgia and Kennedy General Hospital in Memphis, TN to be trained in combat medicine. After being sent to Fort Lewis, Washington, he was moved to Iwo Jima and attached to the 4th Marine Division but remained

unassigned. On Iwo Jima, Weber protected the 232nd General Hospital and earned the Award of the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque on September 5, 1945 for his service.

Collection Scope and Content:

The Ben Weber World War II Collection consists of correspondence, photographs, and other materials relating to Weber's service in World War II. The correspondence includes two postcards to family during his time at the Huntsville prisoner of war camp, and a letter from Alexander Waigandt. There are also several photographs of Weber in uniform, scenes from Iwo Jima, and Weber at a 2007 Texas Historical Commission Marker dedication ceremony from the German POW camp in Lufkin. There is also a photograph of Weber on Lufkin's Dirty Sox baseball team circa 1954. Other items include his promotion order to Private First Class, a commendation for guarding Iwo Jima 232nd General Hospital, a roster of Company C of the 65th Medical Training Battalion, and a November 1, 1945 *Iwo Jima Inquirer* newspaper.

Of particular interest is a diary of an unnamed Japanese soldier, translated into English, documenting his experiences on Iwo Jima from January 1, 1945 – March 25, 1945. Weber obtained the diary from a Japanese soldier after he killed him. The diary describes preparing for the American invasion and the actual invasion from a Japanese soldier's perspective. Some entries between February 19 and March 26 were removed for military intelligence reasons. The diary was translated by TKA APO 86 Hq. and examined by Lieutenant Goldberg, F. E. No. 13, and entered in the Journal of Secrets.

Arrangement: The collection is arranged and described at the collection level.

Subject Terms

Topics

- Military police
- World War, 1939-1945

Personal Names

- Weber, Benjamin J.

Locations

- Huntsville (Tex.)
- Iwo Jima (Volcano Islands, Japan)

Access and Use

Access Restrictions: There are no restrictions on this collection.

Acquisition Information: Accession 2007:006 was donated by Ben Weber on February 12, 2007, who later donated an accretion on May 21, 2012.

Custodial History: Ben Weber maintained the materials in this collection over the course of his life. He allowed History Center staff to make copies of them. Weber kept the original records.

Citation: Ben Weber World War II Collection, 1943-2007, 2007:006, The History Center, Diboll, TX

Alternative Formats:

The images in the collection are reference prints. The digital scans are considered the record copy. See Collections Scans.

Related Material:

Ben Weber's oral history interview number 251a, interviewed by Jonathan Gerland, May 21, 2012.

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Collection Inventory**Box 1**

Folder 1	Correspondence, Photographs, Clippings, 1943-1945, 2007
Folder 2	Japanese Iwo Jima Diary, 1945