

Archives and Special Collections

Dickinson College

Carlisle, PA

COLLECTION REGISTER

Name: **Reed, George Edward II (1912-1998)**

MC 2009.1

Material: War Journals (1941-1945)

Volume: 1.5 linear feet (3 Document Boxes)

Donation: Gift of Friends of the Library, 2008

Usage: These materials have been donated without restrictions on usage.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

George Edward Reed II was born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, to George L. and Helen R. Moorhead Reed. After attending the town's William Penn High School and Harrisburg Academy, Reed enrolled at Dickinson College in 1931, where his grandfather, George Edward Reed, had served as the college's 15th president, and where his father had completed a degree as a member of the class of 1905. During his time at Dickinson, Reed joined the Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity and majored in both psychology and sociology. After graduating in 1935, Reed wrote for the *Harrisburg Telegraph*.

In June of 1941, Reed enlisted in the United States Army, which he would remain with throughout World War II. After training at bases in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and Savannah, Georgia, Reed was sent to England in 1942, where he was promoted to Sergeant. During the bulk of the war (1942-1945), Reed spent time on campaigns in northern Africa and southern Europe, most of which were in Algiers, Algeria. Other destinations included the Italian cities of Casserta, Naples, Florence, and Capri. In 1944 Reed was promoted to Captain. After the war ended in Europe in 1945, he traveled back to the United States, spending time again in Oklahoma City and then the West Coast before safely arriving home in Harrisburg in November of 1945.

Between 1948 and 1951 Reed worked as the executive secretary for the Pittsburgh City Cleanup Organization. He left in 1951 to work for the National Association of Manufacturers in public affairs, where he stayed until 1953. Next, Reed worked in public affairs at the American Petroleum Institute in New York City. In 1959, he headed again to Harrisburg to work as the director of public information for the Associated Petroleum Industries of America. After retiring in 1977, Reed lived out the rest of his years in his home of Harrisburg. In 1998, Reed passed away at the age of 85.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The George E. Reed II War Diaries are contained in folders in two boxes, with a third box containing the diaries' nine original binders. These binders, along with the diaries themselves, were evidently produced and arranged by Reed's parents as the material was arriving from Reed on the warfront. The content is chronological, spanning the period from Reed's entry into the Army in June of 1941 through his final arrival home in November of 1945. The journals are comprised of diary entries, letters home, post cards, souvenirs, photographs (mostly taken by Reed himself), newspaper clippings, and programs from events Reed attended. His writings touch on race relations in the Army and include cultural and religious themes while staying generally vague (partially due to censorship limitations) about warfare details. The content is at times broadly general of Army life while at other times highly personal, a depiction of a soldier dutifully at war while wistful of home.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

BOX 1 - MC 2009.1

JOURNALS

Folder 01)	June 1941
Folder 02)	July-August 1941
Folder 03)	September-October 1941
Folder 04)	November-December 1941
Folder 05)	January-February 1942
Folder 06)	March-April 1942
Folder 07)	May-June 1942
Folder 08)	July-August 1942
Folder 09)	September-October 1942
Folder 10)	November-December 1942
Folder 11)	January-February 1943
Folder 12)	March-April 1943
Folder 13)	May-June 1943

BOX 2 - MC 2009.1

JOURNALS

Folder 01)	July-August 1943
Folder 02)	September-October 1943
Folder 03)	November-December 1943
Folder 04)	January-February 1944
Folder 05)	March-April 1944
Folder 06)	May-June 1944
Folder 07)	July-August 1944
Folder 08)	September-October 1944
Folder 09)	November-December 1944

BOX 2 - MC 2009.1 (cont.)

JOURNALS (cont.)

- Folder 10) January-February 1945
- Folder 11) March-April 1945
- Folder 12) May-June 1945
- Folder 13) July-August 1945
- Folder 14) September-November 1945

BOX 3 - MC 2009.1

JOURNALS (cont.)

- Binder 01) June 1941 to October 1941 (Oklahoma)
- Binder 02) October 1941 to February 1942 (Oklahoma)
- Binder 03) February 1942 to December 1942 (Savannah, England, North Africa)
- Binder 04) December 1942 to May 1943 (Biskra, Chateaudun, Algiers)
- Binder 05) May 1943 to October 1943 (Algiers, Pantelleria, Tunis)
- Binder 06) November 1943 to July 1944 (Algiers)
- Binder 07) July 1944 to March 1945 (Casserta, Naples, Florence)
- Binder 08) March 1945 to June 1945 (Capri, Florence, Back to USA)
- Binder 09) June 1945 to November 1945 (Harrisburg, San Francisco, Tacoma, Home)