



Lester Stowers Sr. Papers (C4762)

Collection Number: C4762

Collection Title: Lester Stowers Sr. Papers

Dates: 1942-1945

Creator: Stowers Sr., Lester., -1917 – 2008

Abstract: Correspondence from Lester Stowers Sr. of Audrain County, Missouri, to his wife Francis Lucille Stowers describing his service and camp life during World War II. Also included is a panoramic company photograph.

Collection Size: 0.8 cubic foot, 1 oversize item
23 folders

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research but may be stored offsite. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at columbia@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Lester Stowers Sr. Papers* (C4762); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia.

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Lester Samuel Stowers Jr. on April 4, 2025.

Processed by: Processed by Jonathan Phillips, September 12, 2025

Historical Note:

Lester Stowers Sr. was born on February 16, 1917, in Salter River Township in Audrain County, Missouri, to John Harrison Stowers and Rose Ellen Scott Stowers and had two siblings. He enlisted in the United States Army on June 21, 1941, and was discharged on August 16, 1945.

He married Francis Lucille Trachel in 1945. Lucille was a school teacher in the Audrain County rural school district for 49 years and received her bachelor's degree from Kirksville State Teacher College in 1943 and her master's degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1974.

Lester Stowers Sr. passed away on January 3, 2008, in Mexico, Missouri.

Arrangement:

The collection has been organized into 2 series.

Correspondence
Photos

Scope and Content Note:**Correspondence**

Stowers' correspondence consists of handwritten letters to his future wife, Frances Lucille Trachel, during his service in World War II. Most of the information contained in these letters consists of daily life updates from Lester to Lucille, who he married in July 1945. While Lester is the author for most of the correspondence, Francis (who went by Lucille) becomes the primary author starting from April 1945.

As part of the 160th Infantry Regiment of the 40th Infantry Division of the United States Army, he was primarily stationed in California, Washington, Hawaii, and Guadalcanal. Lester never wrote in detail about any significant movements during his tenure in the Army but notes that others he met during training were involved in unnamed operations based in Australia.

Photographs:

The photographs included within this collection pertain to Stowers' life at camp during his training period. Most of the photos are unlabeled, though some photos have handwritten notes on the back. Most of the photos are of people Lester was with and the training they took part in which appeared to be based in a tropical location. Other photos include individuals in traditional Hawaiian dress as well as those of a United Services Organization (USO) show taking place within a theater. The collection also includes a panoramic regiment photo of the 160th Infantry Regiment when they were stationed at Fort Lewis in Washington State near Tacoma.

Container List:

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- f. 2 Correspondence, January 1942 – June 1942
- f. 3 Correspondence, July 1942 – August 1942
- f. 4 Correspondence, September 1942 – October 1942

- f. 5 Correspondence, November 1942
 - f. 6 Correspondence, December 1942
 - f. 7 Correspondence, January 1943 – February 1943
 - f. 8 Correspondence, March 1943 – May 1943
 - f. 9 Correspondence, June 1943 – August 1943
 - f. 10 Correspondence, September 1943 – December 1943
 - f. 11 Correspondence, January 1944 – March 1944
 - f. 12 Correspondence, April 1944 – June 1944
 - f. 13 Correspondence, July 1944 - December 1944
 - f. 14 Correspondence, January 1945 – April 1945
 - f. 15 Correspondence, May 1945 – October 1945
 - f. 16 Correspondence, Miscellaneous
 - f. 17 Photos – Camp
 - f. 18 Photos – Hawaii
 - f. 19 Photos – Lester Stowers Sr.
 - f. 20 Photos – Miscellaneous
 - f. 21 Photos – Parade
 - f. 22 Photos – People
 - f. 23 Photos – USO
- Oversize item 1 160th Infantry Regiment of the 40th Infantry Division of the United States Army

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