



Vandivort Family Papers (CG0025)

Collection Number: CG0025

Collection Title: Vandivort Family Papers

Dates: 1910, 1939-1948, 1963-1965

Creator: Vandivort, Arthur Clayton, 1918-1944

Abstract: Correspondence from Arthur Clayton Vandivort from 1941-1945. Work related correspondence and membership cards for Leon Vandivort from 1910 and 1943-1944. Also includes genealogical information, graduation announcements, and high school basketball tournament brackets for members of the Vandivort family.

Collection Size: 0.6 cubic feet
(18 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

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

Restrictions on Use:

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Collection Title* (Collection Number); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Cape Girardeau [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Cape].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Robert C. Morrow on April 19, 2018 (CGA0025). Additional material was donated by Morrow on September 9, 2018 (CGA0025.1)

Processed by: Processed by Katie Lewis, May 2018. Updated by Garret B. Kremer-Wright, September 2018

Biographical Note:

Leon Vandivort was born in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, on February 19, 1890 to Elizabeth Brown and Samuel Arthur Vandivort. His father passed away on August 19, 1891; his mother remarried Williams Edwin Sorsby on December 29, 1914. Leon married Naomi Ruth Davis on November 5, 1917. They had four children: Arthur Clayton Vandivort, Nancy Vandivort (Morrow), William Sorsby Vandivort, and Artie Lee Vandivort (Britt). Around 1910, Leon worked as a surveyor for the Woodlawn Land Company. Between working for the Woodlawn Land Company and the Oregon Shipbuilding Company, Leon worked as an automobile salesman. In 1944, Leon worked for the Oregon Shipbuilding Company. He passed away on June 8, 1963 in Mount Vernon, Missouri and buried at the Loremier Cemetery in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

Arthur C. Vandivort, the oldest son of Leon and Naomi Vandivort, was born on July 21, 1918. When Arthur was around 21 years old, he worked at the J.R. Prather Standard Hatchery as a poultry man. On October 16, 1940, Vandivort joined the United States army to fight in World War II. He spent time at Jefferson Barracks, Fort Leonard Wood, Camp Robinson (Ark.), and Fort Benning (Ga.). He served in Company D, 503rd Parachute Company. On July 23, 1944, Arthur was killed in action in Noemfoor, New Guinea. However, his body did not return to the United States until 1948. His family buried him in New Lorimier Cemetery in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, in June 1948.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into a single series.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection contains various documents pertaining to the Vandivort family. The majority of this collection consists of correspondence from Arthur Clayton Vandivort to his mother, Naomi Vandivort during his time serving in World War II. Also included is correspondence from Nancy Vandivort, William S. Vandivort, Sara Brinsfield, Martha Grabert, and Jean Douglass. Of interest in folder 8 are letters from Winifred McGrath and Merle Smythe, natives of Australia, who knew Vandivort when he was stationed in there for nine months. Also in this folder is a letter from Lieutenant William Miller who details the circumstances of Vandivort's death. Also includes two panoramic photographs of Vandivort's unit at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and Fort Benning, Georgia. Other papers in this collection includes Leon Vandivort's membership cards when he worked in the shipyards in Oregon, death benefits received, and memorial pages for his death. Of interest in folder 17 is the marriage license for William Sorsby and Lizzie Vandivort in 1914, Leon Vandivort's delayed certificate of birth, and census records from 1900 and 1920.

Container List:

Box 001 f. 1 Sara Brinsfield correspondence, 1942, no date

	f. 2	Jean Douglass correspondence, 1941-1942, no date
	f. 3	Martha Grabert correspondence, 1942, no date
	f. 4	Arthur Clayton Vandivort correspondence, 1938-1941
	f. 5	Arthur Clayton Vandivort correspondence, 1942
	f. 6	Arthur Clayton Vandivort correspondence, 1943-1944
	f. 7	Arthur Clayton Vandivort correspondence, circa 1941-1944
	f. 8	Naomi Vandivort and Nancy Vandivort condolence correspondence, 1944
	f. 9	William S. Vandivort correspondence, 1942-1943, no date
	f. 10	To: Arthur Clayton Vandivort From: Other correspondents, 1942, 1944
	f. 11	Infantry field manuals, infantry training notebooks, and World War II photographs, 1942
Box 002	f. 12	William S. Vandivort and Arthur Clayton Vandivort military papers and Boy Scout membership cards, 1930-1948
	f. 13	Arthur Clayton Vandivort – Power of attorney and death benefits, 1942 and 1945
	f. 14	Leon Vandivort – Work correspondence and membership cards, 1910, 1943-1944, 1950
	f. 15	Leon Vandivort – Death, 1963
	f. 16	Education, 1936-1944
	f. 17	Vandivort family Papers, 1914, 1944-1948, 1965, no date
	f. 18	Panoramic photographs: Anti-Tank Company, 1 st Infantry, 6 th Division, Fort Leonard Wood (Mo.) (July 12, 1941) and Company 21, 2 nd Training Regiment, Fort Benning (Ga.) (March 1942)

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International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local No. 48	14	
Jefferson Barracks (Saint Louis, Mo.)	4, 7	
McGrath, Winifred	8	
Oregon Shipbuilding Corporation	14	
Postcards	17	
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Smythe, Merle P.	8	Yes
Southeast Missouri State Teachers College	16	
United States Army Training Center (Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.)	4, 7, 18	Yes

Index Term	Folder	Image
United States Army Training Center, Infantry (Fort Benning, Ga.)	5, 7, 18	Yes
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Vandivort, Leon, 1890-1963	13-15	
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World War, 1939-1945--Soldiers	4-12, 18	Yes