



## **Ruby Rose Stauber Photographs (SP0014)**

**Collection Number:** SP0014

**Collection Title:** Ruby Rose Stauber Photographs

**Dates:** 1959-1982

**Creator:** Stauber, Ruby Rose, 1928-2018

**Abstract:** The photographs of Ruby “Rose” Stauber depict life in the Woman’s Army Corps from 1959-1978. Of particular interest are the photographs of women in basic training at places like Fort Leonard Wood and Fort McClellan. Rose’s photographs also chronicle the change of command at Fort McClellan, Alabama, as her collection contains images of the various commanders who served there. Also documented are the places and people she encountered in her world travels throughout her military career.

**Collection Size:** 5 cubic feet  
(272 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-Springfield](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at [springfield@shsmo.org](mailto:springfield@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

**Restrictions on Use:** The Donor has given, assigned, and transferred to the Society all copyrights, and associated rights the Donor may possess in the materials.

**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Ruby Rose Stauber Photographs* (SP0014); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Springfield [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Springfield].

**Donor Information:** The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Ruby Rose Stauber on June 9, 2016 (Accession No. SPA0016).

**Related Material:** Additional Materials related to the Rose Stauber Photographs can be found in the following collection:

*Rose Stauber Papers* (SP0015)

**Processed by:** Processed by Erin Smither, February 3, 2017

**Historical Note:**

Ruby Rose Stauber was born on August 6, 1928, on the Stauber farm near Noel, Missouri. Rose was the oldest child of Anna Pearl Rose Stauber (1905-1971) and Martin Stevens Stauber (1903-1992). Graduating from Noel High School in 1946, Rose went on to Southwest Missouri State University (now Missouri State University) graduating in 1949. She then taught eighth and ninth grade in Springfield before enlisting in the army in 1951. She had a 31 year career in the Women's Army Corps (WAC) where she commanded at platoon, company, and battalion level. She was one of the first female officers, public affairs officer for V Corps, editor-in-chief of *Military Review*, deputy public affairs officer for the U.S. European command, and commander/editor-in-chief of *Stars and Stripes*.

In 1952, Rose joined the Women's Army Corps (WAC). The Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) was established in 1941 to work with the U.S. Army. Congresswoman Edith Nourse Rogers of Massachusetts championed the WAAC as an equal opportunity for women to serve in the army. In 1943, the WAAC was converted into the Women's Army Corps (WAC) and incorporated into the U.S. Army. When the WAC bill was signed into law on July 3, 1943, WAC service members gained officers rankings and overseas pay equal to men. WACs served around the world in a myriad of critical positions for the duration of the war. Over 150,000 American women served in the army during World War II and were a crucial part of the war effort. In 1948, President Harry S. Truman signed the Women's Armed Services Integration Act. The act established a permanent place for women in the armed forces. By 1951, when Rose Stauber joined the Women's Army Corps, this law was in effect and the WAC increased its recruitment goals.

During her service Rose served at several U.S. bases: Fort Lee, Virginia, Fort McClellan, Alabama, Fort Slocum, New York, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Collectively, she served four tours overseas, eleven of those years in Germany and one tour in Vietnam, April 1966 to April 1967. While in Vietnam, Stauber served under General Westmoreland as a public affairs officer. She also served as the in-country distributor of the *Stars and Stripes*. Stationed in Saigon, Stauber made trips to other military bases in Vietnam.

An avid photographer, Stauber documented her time in Vietnam through a series of photographs that can be seen in the collection.

While in the army, Rose earned her master's degree in journalism from the University of Missouri (1968). During her service, she earned the Bronze Star and Legion of Merit. She retired in 1982 and returned to the home constructed during her last tour in Germany. Soon after, Rose attended a family reunion and was designated the family historian, thus beginning her work in genealogy. What began as personal family research eventually led to aiding others in their searches. This research led to a series of publications on local cemeteries and local history. Rose Stauber passed away in 2018.

### **Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged into the following three series with five subseries:

#### Slides

- Military

- Domestic Travel

- International Travel

#### Photographs

- Prints

- Snapshots

#### Negatives

### **Scope and Content Note:**

#### **Slides**

This series contains slides documenting Rose's military career as well as her substantial travel throughout the United States and the world. The series has been divided into three subseries Military, Domestic Travel, and International Travel. The series has been arranged chronologically.

#### **Photographs**

This series consists of physical photographs, which document various aspects of Rose's personal and professional life. Many of the photographs depict people and places she encountered throughout her life and travels, including her time in Vietnam in 1966. The series has been divided into two subseries Prints and Snapshots. The Prints subseries consists of 8x10 prints on heavy cardstock used in competitions and for photography shows. Snapshots are more informal and candid in nature.

#### **Negatives**

This series consists of negatives representing every aspect of Rose's photographic career. Many of the images not only document her time in the military but also depict the people and places she encountered throughout her life and travels. Many of the images are very artistic and represent the work that she displayed widely through competitions and photography shows. The negatives are arranged in their original order.

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