

University of Memphis

University of Memphis Digital Commons

Special Collections Finding Aids

Special Collections

9-2-2021

MSS0424. George M. Jones collection finding aid

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.memphis.edu/speccoll-findingaids>

Recommended Citation

"MSS0424. George M. Jones collection finding aid" (2021). *Special Collections Finding Aids*. 101.
<https://digitalcommons.memphis.edu/speccoll-findingaids/101>

This Finding Aid is brought to you for free and open access by the Special Collections at University of Memphis Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Special Collections Finding Aids by an authorized administrator of University of Memphis Digital Commons. For more information, please contact khggerty@memphis.edu.

University of Memphis Libraries
Preservation and Special Collections Department

126 Ned R. McWherter Library
Memphis, TN 38152 - 3250
Phone: (901) 678 - 2210
E-mail: lib_sc@memphis.edu

George M. Jones collection

Title: George M. Jones collection
Collection No: MSS.424
Creator: George M. Jones, 1911-1996
Extent: 0.1 cubic feet
Inclusive Dates: 1945-1995

Abstract: The collection consists primarily of photocopies of articles from various newspapers recounting the part played by the U.S. Army's George M. Jones (1911-1996) and his troops in the retaking of Corregidor, The Philippines, in 1945, and on Jones after his retirement. The collection includes a map of the Pacific Ocean used during Operation Crossroads, the atomic bomb tests in 1946, which has numerous signatures by participants, and a certificate of appreciation of Jones' service in South Korea from the Republic of Korea army.

Donor: Pauline Jones Hord, Memphis, Tennessee, March 1994.
Processed by: James E. Montague, October 2002; Gerald Chaudron, August 2014.
Access: Open to all researchers.
Language: English
Preferred Citation: George M. Jones collection, Preservation and Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis.

Publication date: August 2014

Biographical information

George Madison Jones was born in Memphis, Tennessee, on February 22, 1911, one of four children. He was a graduate of Central High School and attended Southwestern at Memphis for one year. He graduated from West Point Military Academy in 1935 and was commissioned into the U.S. Army Infantry. After a number of infantry assignments he volunteered for parachute training just after the establishment of the Parachute School at Fort Benning, Georgia. After graduation, he was assigned to the Panama Canal Zone where he commanded the 501st Parachute Battalion, one of the original parachute units.

At the outbreak of World War II the battalion joined the 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment, the only independent airborne regiment in the Pacific Theatre, to act as a strategic reserve for General MacArthur. The 503rd was sent to Australia, where Lieutenant Colonel Jones served as the Regimental Executive Officer to Colonel Kinsler, the Regimental Commanding Officer. From Australia, Jones and the 503rd went to New Guinea, where they made the first successful U.S. combat parachute assault in the war at Markham Valley in September 1943. Upon Kinsler's death, Jones became Regimental Commander and was promoted to colonel.

After making a second combat jump on Noemfoor Island in July 1944 and leaving New Guinea, the 503rd participated in the invasion of the Philippine Islands and conducted an amphibious landing on Mindoro in December 1944. Jones was put in charge of the "Rock Force" (503rd plus 3rd Battalion, 34th U.S. Infantry) which liberated Corregidor Island by a combined parachute assault and amphibious landing in February 1945. Jones and his Regimental Combat Team moved on to Negros Island, where they fought Imperial Marines and other Japanese forces until well after October, 1945, as a core of Japanese commanders refused to surrender. After the last Japanese units surrendered, the 503rd was disbanded and he took the headquarters back to California where the unit was officially deactivated and the colors cased.

After World War II, Jones would serve in the U.S. Army for another 23 years. Notable positions included chief of staff of XVIII Airborne Corps, and operations officer (G-3) of IX Corps in Korea. He was the second commandant of the Special Warfare School at Fort Bragg, N.C., where he is credited with transforming Special Forces from a concept to an effective fighting organization. He subsequently commanded the 66th Military Intelligence Group in Germany, served as deputy commanding general of the 3rd Infantry Division, and was chief of staff of the Fifth US Army. He ultimately served as commander of the Yukon Command and deputy commander of U.S. Army - Alaska before retiring with the rank of brigadier general in 1968.

Jones retired to Tucson, Arizona, and died on December 16, 1996. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Scope and contents

The collection consists primarily of photocopies of articles from various newspapers recounting the part played by George M. Jones and his troops in the retaking of Corregidor, The Philippines, in 1945, and on Jones after his retirement. The most significant item in the collection is a map of the Pacific Ocean used during Operation Crossroads, the atomic bomb tests in 1946, which has numerous signatures by participants. There is also a certificate of appreciation of Jones' service in South Korea from the Republic of Korea army.

Subject terms

Jones, George M., 1911-1996.
Operation Crossroads, Marshall Islands, 1946--Map.

Inventory

Oversize

Map: "Joint Army-Navy Task Force ONE, OPERATION CROSSROADS, Bikini Atoll 1946".
Signed by those present at atomic bomb tests.

Appreciation certificate: Colonel George M. Jones, IX U.S. Corps, by Major General Paik In Yup, 9th Infantry Division, Republic of Korea Army, 1954 August 4. Text in English and Korean.

Poem: "Ode to the Star of the North" by Major General K.B. Lemmon, Jr. Refers to General Jones service in Alaska, circa 1968. (photocopy)

Clipping: "Reflections of Gen. Jones' Alaska Tour", *Yukon Sentinel*, 1968 August 9, pp.4-5. (photocopy)

Clipping: "Joling, Dan, "Ex-Wainwright leader pitched in during flood", *Daily News-Miner*, Fairbanks, Alaska, 1983 September 23, p. 3. (photocopy)

Clipping: Kaplan, Bruce, "Retired brigadier general marches into the battlefield of public opinion", *Arizona Daily Star*, circa 1980. (photocopy)

Clipping: "General George Jones Man of the Year", *Static Line: Your Airborne "Lifeline"*, No. 5, 1983 June. (photocopy)

Clipping: *Static Line: Your Airborne "Lifeline"*, 1983 August. (photocopy)

Clippings: Composite photocopy of articles from various newspapers including *Panama American*, *Chicago Daily Tribune*, *Chicago Sunday Tribune*, *The New York Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, and *The Commercial Appeal*, 1945 February and March, concerning Colonel Jones and the retaking of Corregidor, The Philippines.

Obituary: *Tucson Citizen*, 1995 December 19.