



State of Tennessee
Department of State
Tennessee State Library and Archives
403 Seventh Avenue North
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

**FORT, COMBS L. (Combs Lawson), 1911-
PAPERS, 1862-1983**

Processed by:

Lori D. Lockhart
Archival Technical Services

Accession Number: THS 867
Date Completed: September 21, 2006
Location: THS I-G-1-2
Microfilm Accession Number: 1823

MICROFILMED

INTRODUCTION

The Combs L. Fort Papers, 1862-1983, is centered around items that focus on Combs Lawson Fort during his time in the military in the course of World War II and on the Mt. Olivet Confederate Memorial. The Combs L. Fort Papers are a gift of Combs L. Fort of Nashville, Tennessee, and his wife, Ann Hardeman Fort. The Mt. Olivet Confederate Memorial Correspondence was given to the Tennessee Historical Society in memory of Miss Henry C. Ewin, aunt of Ann Hardeman Fort. Miss Henry C. Ewin was the secretary of the Confederate Monument Association and the niece of Col. And Mrs. John Overton. Mrs. (Col.) John Overton, Harriet V. Maxwell, was the chairman of the Confederate Monument Association at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Nashville, Tennessee. Miss Henry C. Ewin was also the Great Granddaughter of Judge and Mrs. John Overton. Miss Ewin's father, Col. Henry C. Ewin, of the Confederate Army, was killed at the Battle of Stones River.

The materials in this collection measure 1.25 linear feet of shelf space. There are approximately 210 items and 16 volumes included in this collection. There are no restrictions on the materials. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Combs L. Fort Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Combs L. Fort

Combs Lawson Fort was born on November 9, 1911. In 1933, he received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. He entered military service on April 1, 1944. After entering the military, he attended Army Finance School in Wake Forest, North Carolina and Army Air Force Officer Candidate School in Miami Beach, Florida. He was discharged, honorably, from the military on May 16, 1946. While Combs Fort was in the military during World War II, he spent the majority of his time working in the Finance Division at Wright Field in Dayton, Ohio. He is married to Ann Hardeman Fort.

Source: Information in the biographical note was gleaned from various items within this collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Combs L. Fort Papers, containing approximately 210 items and 16 volumes, spans the period 1862-1983. Please note that there is a gap in the time span of the collection for which there is no material. The gap spans the years 1893-1932. This gap falls between the time of the Mt. Olivet Confederate Memorial and Combs L. Fort's military service. The collection is composed of assorted correspondence, currency, directories, ephemera, magazines, newspapers, personnel records, and books. All of the items in this collection relate to Combs L. Fort and his time in the military during World War II with the exception of some Civil War memorabilia and correspondence related to the Mt. Olivet Confederate Memorial. The arrangement of the collection is alphabetical with the exception of annuals, scrapbooks, and oversized items which have been placed at the end of the collection. One map, "Geographically Correct Map of the United States issued by the Union Pacific Railroad", has been removed from the collection. The new location for the removed map is THS Map #54.

The Air Raid Warden Information materials, located in folder 1 of box 1, are centered around Combs L. Fort's time as an Air Raid Warden in Nashville, Tennessee. They contain a handbook for Air Raid Wardens, blackout instructions, a manual for civilian defense, pocket guides to common war gases, and a list of all of the Air Raid Wardens in the 21st Ward - Zone #11 of Nashville, Tennessee.

The Combs L. Fort correspondence, located in folders 2 and 3 of box 1, is centered around various letters written by or addressed to Combs L. Fort. The correspondence is primarily composed of friendly letters written to Combs Fort from other servicemen.

The Mt. Olivet Confederate Memorial correspondence, located in folder 4 of box 1, is centered around letters written in response to an invitation to attend the unveiling of the Confederate Memorial at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Nashville, Tennessee. Notable correspondents include John B. Gordon (then governor of Georgia), General S. D. Lee (President of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Mississippi), Thomas Hart Taylor (Confederate general during the Civil War), Edward A. O'Neal (Confederate general during the Civil War and Democratic Governor of Alabama from 1882-1886), William Preston Johnston (first President of Tulane University of Louisiana), Augustus Hill Garland (then Attorney General of the United States), James Thadeus Holtzclaw (brigadier general in the Confederate Army during the Civil War and attorney in Montgomery, Alabama), Jefferson Davis (President of the Confederate States), William W. Allen (United States Marshal for the Middle and Southern Districts of Alabama), Cazneau McLeod (assistant to the then governor of Virginia), Edmund Kirby Smith (Confederate general during the Civil War and professor of Mathematics at the University of the South at Sewanee), Basil W. Duke (Confederate general during the Civil War and chief counsel for the Louisville-Nashville Railroad), Joseph Wheeler (major general in the Confederate Army during the Civil War, major general in the United States Army during the Spanish-American and Philippine-American Wars, and United States

Representative from Alabama), Simon Bolivar Buckner (Confederate general during the Civil War and then governor of Kentucky), Henry Woodfin Grady (editor and correspondent for *The Constitution* in Atlanta, Georgia), Thomas Seay (then governor of Alabama), L. T. Dickinson (Adjutant of N. B. Forrest Camp, No. 3 Confederate Veterans), and the M. Muldoon Company (makers of Italian Marble and Scotch Granite Works).

The currency, located in folders 5 and 6 of box 1, is made up of a five dollar Confederate States of America bill (dated 1862), a twenty dollar Confederate States of America bill (dated 1864), and a portion of a three cent United States of America Fractional Currency bill (ca. 1864-1869).

The directories, located in folder 7 of box 1, consist of a telephone directory and an officers' directory for Wright Field in Dayton, Ohio.

The enlisted man's passes, located in folder 8 of box 1, consist of three weekend military passes for Combs L. Fort.

The ephemera, located in folder 8 of box 1, is a vast collection of tickets, bulletins, programs, pamphlets and patches. There are several items of note found in the ephemera folder. One item of note is a ticket to the National Democratic Convention in Chicago, Illinois. The ticket is dated June 21, 1892. Another interesting item in the ephemera folder is a drink coaster from Top of the Mark. Top of the Mark is a cocktail lounge located in the Hotel Mark Hopkins in San Francisco, California. It has been a hangout for the rich and famous since its opening in 1939. The Top of the Mark reached its heyday during World War II when the northwest corner of the lounge became known as "Weeper's Corner." "Weeper's Corner" was so named because the wives of servicemen would gather there to watch their husband's ships sail out under the Golden Gate Bridge on their way to war. The last item of note in the ephemera folder is a World War II Army Air Force Winged Star patch.

The magazines, located in folder 10 of box 1, are a compilation of several issues of *Air Force* and the October 10, 1945 issue of *The United States News*.

The news bulletin, located in folder 11 of box 1, is from Wright Field in Dayton, Ohio and is dated August 14, 1945. It has "WAR ENDS" written in large letters across the front page. The front page also contains a quote out of the Bible from Isaiah about the end of the war. "'They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.' --- Isaiah 2:4"

The newspaper clippings, located in folder 12 of box 1, contain articles on the Daughters of the Confederacy, the New York City Shutdown of 1946, John B. Platz, Jr., Maj. Gen. Harold Lee George, leather being made from fish skins in Alaska, Chaplain Joseph D. Quillian, and rationing information.

The newspapers, located in folders 13-16 of box 1, contain several editions of the *BIV & UAC Beacon* (Fort Lauderdale, Florida) from 1944, a section of a Chinese or Japanese newspaper, the March 8, 1946 edition of the *Lockheed Star* (Burbank, California), and several editions of *Wing's Up* (Miami Beach, Florida) from 1944.

The personnel records, located in folders 1 and 2 of box 2, are the military records of Combs Lawson Fort. Please note that the personnel records were

accessioned in one volume but have been separated into two folders due to environmental concerns and manageability issues.

The publications, located in folders 3 and 4 of box 2, contain various War Department Technical Service Manuals as well as various Armed Services booklets. *Island Victory*, *G. I. Sketch Book*, *The Islands of the Pacific*, *The Official Guide to the Army Air Forces*, *White Elephant with Wings*, *Report on War and Post-war Adjustment Policies*, *Army-Navy Contractors Guide*, *Your Body in Flight*, *Carpentry*, *Basic Weather for Pilot Trainees*, and the *Theory of Flight* are among the included published works.

The Selective Review Panel documents, located in folder 5 of box 2, are a collection of documents acquired by Fort L. Combs during his time on the Selective Review Panel at Wright Field in Dayton, Ohio. The documents contain various travel authorizations as well as an assortment of memoranda of review.

The annuals, located in folders 1 and 2 of box 3, consist of two military training school annuals: *Class 44-D* (from the Officer Candidate School in Miami Beach, Florida) and *Pass in Review* (from the Army Finance School in Wake Forest, North Carolina). Combs L. Fort attended both of these training schools in 1944.

The scrapbook, located in folder 3 of box 3, was compiled by Combs L. Fort and contains various newspaper clippings, magazine articles, calling cards, programs, advertisements, and maps.

The oversized items, located in the oversized folder, are a collection of maps, charts and a booklet of articles appearing in the *Saturday Evening Post*. Please see the Container List for an itemized roll of each item in this folder.

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

1. Air Raid Warden Information -- Combs L. Fort, 1941-1942, n.d.
2. Correspondence -- Combs L. Fort, 1944
3. Correspondence -- Combs L. Fort, 1945, n.d.
4. Correspondence -- Mt. Olivet Confederate Memorial, 1889
5. Currency -- Confederate States of America, 1862, 1864
6. Currency -- United States Fractional Currency, 1864-1869
7. Directories -- Wright Field, Dayton Ohio, 1944-1946
8. Enlisted Man's Passes -- Combs L. Fort, 1943
9. Ephemera, 1892, 1943-1946, n.d.
10. Magazines, 1945-1946
11. News Bulletin -- Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio, August 14, 1945
12. Newspaper Clippings, 1946, 1983, n.d.
13. Newspapers -- *BIV & UAC Beacon*, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, 1944
14. Newspapers -- Chinese or Japanese, n.d.
15. Newspapers -- *Lockheed Star*, Burbank, California, March 8, 1946
16. Newspapers -- *Wings Up*, Miami Beach, Florida 1944

Box 2

1. Personnel Records -- Combs L. Fort (Part 1), 1942-1955
2. Personnel Records -- Combs L. Fort (Part 2), 1942-1955
3. Publications -- Armed Services Booklets, 1944, n.d.
4. Publications -- War Department Technical Manuals, 1941-1945
5. Selective Review Panel Documents -- Wright Field, Dayton Ohio, 1945-1946, n.d.

Box 3

1. Annuals -- *Class 44-D*, 1944
2. Annuals -- *Pass In Review*, n.d.
3. Scrapbooks -- Combs L. Fort, 1933-1946

Folder 4

1. *Birth of a Miracle* by Wesley Price, 1945
2. Official Skyrider Junior Aircraft Spotter's Guide, n.d.
3. Know Your Army/Navy - And "The Flags of the United Nations" Greyhound Lines Map, 1942
4. Rand McNally Global War Map, Second Edition, ca. 1942