December 26, 1989

Professor Charles Johnson Veterans History Project Special Collections Library University of Tennessee Knoxville, Tennessee 39921

Dear Professor Johnson:

I read the article entitled "UT prof tracks down ex-GIs' WWII papers", in the 12/25/89 issue of the Commercial Appeal.

I had over four years military service in the Air Force, the last fourteen months being as a sergeant in Headquarters Twentieth Air Force, during the period it was commanded by then Major General Curtis E. LeMay, on Guam. During this time frame our headquarters directed the dropping of the two atomic bombs. My parents kept all my letters which I now have, as well as some photographs and writings about this era.

I haven't really looked at this material since collecting it, possibly you don't need any material from the above segment of informal wartime history, and possibly it will be more time consuming than justified for me to attempt to put it into organized form. However if it seems that this type of material might be of some value to your project I'd be glad to have a response from you.

Sincerely yours,

January 22, 1990



College of Liberal Arts

Department of History

Center for the Study of War and Society Mr. William F. Baggerman 3614 Gleneagle Drive Sarasota, FL 34238

Dear Mr. Baggerman:

Thank you for your letter of December 26, 1989 and your interest in the World War II Veterans Project. We were very fortunate when a local newspaper article was picked up by the AP Wire and printed in areas we had not been fortunate enough to hear from before.

I would be very interested in seeing your letters, photos and any writings you have, in addition to anything else related. It sounds as though you have exactly the kind of material the Project is looking for. Every veteran has a different viewpoint, memories and materials, and they are all important in understanding that great conflict.

I have a student currently working on a dissertation which will deal heavily with the Twentieth Air Force, so your generous offer comes at an unusually opportune time.

If you would prefer to keep originals of any of this material, I can copy it and return it to you. I do need, however, a signed gift form in order to place any donation or copy into the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Special Collections. If you could return it when you send any materials, I would appreciate it.

If you would like to talk with me, please either phone or write me at the address below. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Charles Johnson, Director

Center for the Study of War and Society

CWJ:eb Enclosures

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE KNOXVILLE

Department of History Center for the Study of War and Society 1111 McClung Tower Knoxville, Tennessee 37996-0411 January 29, 1990

Dr. Charles Johnson, Director
The University of Tennessee Knoxville
Department of History
Center for the Study of War and Society
1111 McClung Tower
Knoxville, Tennessee 37996-0411

Dear Dr. Johnson:

I received your letter of January 22nd.

The materials regarding the Twentieth Air Force which I described in my previous letter are stored at our other home, in Paris, Tennessee. We will be in Tennessee during the first week of March, and I will sort the material at that time and send you all the material that seems relevant.

In September, 1989 a re-union of the members of the Headquarters Squadron, Twentieth Air Force was held with arrangements having been made by:

John Mollerskov 1407 Oakdale Ave. Racine, Wisconsin 53406.

John was a master sergeant in the squadron and possibly could provide historical data since he was in contact with a large number of former squadron members at the re-union.

Sincerely,

Encl: signed, Gift Form



College of Liberal Arts

Department of History

Center for the Study of War and Society February 7, 1990

Mr. William F. Baggerman 3614 Gleneagle Drive Sarasota, FL 34238

Dear Mr. Baggerman:

Thank you for your letter of January 29th. I appreciate your help and will contact John Mollerskov.

I hope that when you return to Tennessee in March, you might have an opportunity to stop by the Center on UTK campus. I would be pleased to show you around the office and our collection.

Again, thank you. I look forward to hearing from you, and possibly meeting in March.

Sincerely,

Dr. Charles W. Johnson, Director

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Center for the Study of War and Society

CWJ:eb

March 22, 1990

Dr.Charles Johnson, Director
The University of Tennessee Knoxville
Department of History
Center for the Study of War and Society
1111 McClung Tower
Knoxville, Tennessee 37996-0411

Dear Dr. Johnson:

Since receiving your letter of February 7, 1990 I have returned from Tennessee and have here the box of letters I wrote to my parents while I was in military service, the last fourteen months as a member of the Headquarters Squadron, Twentieth Air Force, Guam.

The collection amounts to about ten pounds, all letters are quite legible since on most occasions I had access to a typewriter in the orderly room.

The letters are unedited and unselected and just as they were boxed forty-five odd years ago. To find relevant passages, I'm guessing that some hours of reading would be needed to find the passages related to possible interesting bits of history.

You would be welcome to copy any or all of the material, though I would like the original material returned. I believe it would cost about \$5.00 to send the box by UPS and if you would care to send me this amount I will send the collection to you.

Sincerely,

MMJ. Baggerman

This is the first of a series of occasional newsletters intended to inform our friends about the doings at the Center for the Study of War and Society, and the World War II Veterans Project.

The Center is now permanently located in a suite of interior offices at 220 Hoskins Library. For those who remember the years at Hoskins, we are just behind what was the card catalogue area. There are no windows, of course, and the Director's Office feels a bit like Churchill's bunker, but with a fresh white paint on the walls and a variety of pictures, it is remarkable homey. We invite all of you to drop in and visit. Our neighbor across the way is the Presidential Papers Center (Jackson, Polk, and Johnson) and the expanded facilities of Special Collections are down the hall.

With support from the College of Liberal Arts, the Center has a half-time secretary. The one who got us started, Stephanie Slater, was offered a wonderful opportunity as a law clerk, which I urged her to accept, and she left us on November 1 of this year. Her place has been taken by Elizabeth Boyle, a graduate student in the UTK History Department who has a special interest in Public History and Museum Studies. Her abilities and interests dove-tail very nicely with the needs of the Center.

The WWII Veterans Project continues to grow. The Director has taped interviews with soldiers (most recently with veterans of the 1st and 3rd Infantry Divisions), sailors, and airmen. We have received written memoirs from flyers (both fighters and bombers) and the other services as well. We currently have received materials from approximately 275 individuals. These materials are organized and maintained by the skilled staff in Special Collections under the director, Dr. James Lloyd. If there are people out there who would like to volunteer to seek out materials or to transcribe the taped interviews, please let us know. No previous experience necessary.

The Collection is attracting academic interest from other parts of the country. Our most recent visitor was Dr. Morton Sosna from the Stanford Humanities Center. He is working on a book on the impact of WWII on the South and he found our materials helpful in assessing the changing attitudes of people from this area who were sent all over the world by the war.

During the fall of 1988 the Center, with support from the Tennessee Humanities Council and the Departments of History and Religious Studies, sponsored a symposium led by Chaplain Major John Brinsfield from the Chief of Chaplains School in Ft. Monmouth, NJ. His two-hour presentation "From Plato to Nato: The Evolution of the Ethics of Warfare," was followed by an interesting panel discussion led by

Bruce Grelle from Religious Studies, Sheldon Cohen from Philosophy, and Rev. Al Minor. Over one hundred people attended and the program was very well received.

Last spring the Center co-sponsored a course on The Uncertain Legacies of Viet Nam. Led by Dr. David Dungan and staff from the Viet Nam Veterans Outreach Center, it consisted of public lectures and then smaller sessions for the students. Chancellor Jack Reese and the Issues Coordinating Committee very generously made it possible to bring in such outstanding speakers as James Webb (author of Fields of Fire and former Secretary of the Navy) and William Sheehan. Bill spoke just after he had won the National Book Award and before he won the Pulitzer for his book Bright Shining Lie. Other men and women from both the U.S. and Viet Nam brought the war home to us once again with drama and compassion.

In November 1989, Dr. Robert O'Connell gave the John B. McKinney Lecture on War and Society, made possible by a significant grant from Col. McKinney, a long-time friend of the Center. Bob titled his lecture "Why Men Make War." Over one hundred were in attendance, including quite a few faculty and graduate students from the History Department who were buzzing about the ideas (certainly not all in agreement, which is as it should be) for some days afterwards. The reception which followed, introduced the Center offices to many of our friends. The food was good, too.

Sometime in January 1990, the UT Development Office is going to send out a major mailing to Alumni who graduated in the classes 1938-1948. We will solicit funds from them and try to provide a more secure financial base for the Center and the Veterans Project.

In October 1991, the Tennessee State Museum in Nashville will open an exhibition commemorating the American experience in World War II. Dr. Johnson is co-curator of the exhibition and is working closely with the TSM staff. He has travel funds and some released time from teaching through support from President Alexander, who has been very interested in the effort. Military Historians who have some expertise in WWII are in considerable demand, at least until all the 50th Anniversary commemorations are over in 1995.

The Center is planning to host a series of "War and Society Seminars," or less grandly, "brown-bag lunches," on alternating Wednesdays at 12:30, beginning in late January. These will be opportunities for veterans, interested amateurs and professionals, and others to present their experiences or research to the rest of us. We will announce the exact times and topics when the plans are somewhat more firm.

I would like to thank all those who have been so helpful in making the Veterans project and the Center both enjoyable and successful. I hope everyone has the best of holidays, and I look forward to speaking with you in the new year.

Charles W. Jeknson



College of

Liberal Arts

Department of History

Center for the Study of War and Society May 7, 1990

Mr. William F. Baggerman 3614 Gleneagle Drive Sarasota, FL 34238

Dear Mr. Baggerman:

Thank you for your letter of March 22nd. I would be very interested in seeing your letters. I look forward to spending the necessary hours reading them.

I've enclosed a check to cover postage. I'll copy the letters as soon as possible and return them to you.

Thank you. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Charles W. Johnson, Director

Charles W. Jahns

Center for the Study of War and Society

CWJ:eb Enclosure May 10, 1990

Dr. Charles Johnson, Director Center for the Study of War and Society Department of History The University of Tennessee Knoxville 220 Hoskins Library Knoxville, Tennessee 37996-0411

My & Baggerman

Dear Dr. Johnson:

I received your letter of May 7, 1990, with \$5.00 check for postage.

Within the next several days I will send the box of letters to you, probably by UPS.

I suppose you have already read the notice of the newly published book, "Battle Lines", reproducing letters written by soldiers during WWII and assumed this was similar to your project.

Sincerely,

May 16, 1990

Dr. Charles Johnson, Director Center for the Study of War and Society Department of History The University of Tennessee Knoxville 220 Hoskins Library Knoxville, Tennessee 37996-0411

Dear Dr. Johnson:

This is the package of letters and some other materials largely relating to my service in the XXI Bomber Command which later became the Twentieth Air Force.

We will be returning to Paris, Tennessee on May 21st and be there until June 5th. Should it seem that I could give you any other worthwhile information you can reach us through Mr. and Mrs. William Garnett at (901) 642-1404. They will be taking our messages in Paris, Tennessee.

Sincerely yours,

on or alle

ut the 1960s and returning to the spottight today.

om the mailbox

315th bomber wing members wanted Field, Guam, during World War 0342 or Carl P. Gardner, 1100 II. Contact Col. (Ret.) George E. Harrington, 3165 N. Atlantic Ave., Apr. B409, Cocoa Beach. Old Hickory Blvd., Brentwood, Tenn. 37027, phone (615) 834-Fl. 32931 - telephone (407) 784-2280 or (615) 373-2658. Bomb Wing stationed in Guam We need your help in locating former personnel of the 315th

period

units stationed on Northwest

strong was the Commanding General of the wing. General Armstrong retired from the Air General LeMay retired as Chief mander in Chief of the Strategic and is now deceased. General commanded the XXI Comber Command of the 20th Air Force, of Staff of the Air Force. General Force as a Lieutenant General LeMay was a former Com-LeMay (then a Major General) Air Command.

first operational unit to utilize all weather precision bombing The 315th Bomb Wing was the and is considered the forerunner B-29s of the 315th wing were times more efficient than the of the Strategic Air Command. equipped with Eagle radar, which was approximately 10 equipment in other B-29s. Their only armament was in the tail,

tion in weight by eliminating gun turrets, gunners and where two .50 caliber machine ammunition permitted a sizable guns were installed. The reducincrease in bombs.

because her refineries were last seven weeks of the war By the end of the war Japan's Air Force Board observer assigned to the wing said that destroying Japan's oil industry located on or near the coast where the Eagle radar could pick them up effectively. The 315th wing conducted 15 strikes in the The wing was given the job of against oil-refinery targets, Certainly the major credit must go to the 315th wing because an the Eagle radar bombing was 98 causing up to 90 percent damage. were inoperable. percent as good as visual. refineries

and four Air Service groups plus The 315th Bomb Wing was one the XXI Bomber Command of the 20th Air Force. The wing was composed of four bomb groups 29s, manned by over 15,000 groups trained in Nebraska and of five Bomb Wings of B-29s in aircraft strength was over 200 B-The 315th Bomb Wing combat Kansas and deployed to Northa wing headquarters. men. attaching a brief synopsis of to contact any of this group The 315th Bomb Wing - 20th AF, World War II, will hold its Colorado Springs, Colo. The wing includes 16th, 331st, 501st Groups and all other attached during World War II. I am this group's duties during this Any news release of any type 73rd, 75th and 76th Air Service annual reunion Sept. 27, 28, 29, 1990 at the Sheraton Hotel, and 502nd Bomb Groups; 24th, Thanking you, I am Carl P. Gardner would certainly be appreciated. GUAM - B-29 AIRMEN

west Field, Guam, in April 1945. Brigadier General Frank ArmJuly 18, 1990

Dr. Charles Johnson, Director Center for the Study of War and Society Department of History The University of Tennessee Knoxville 220 Hoskins Library Knoxville, Tennessee 37996-0411

My Baggern

Dear Dr. Johnson:

I found an additional item of WWII history that I would be glad to send on to you if it would seem relevant to your research.

The item is an album of four, 14-inch long play records as shown on the enclosures.

I suppose the UPS or parcel post would be about \$5.00. If you are interested I could send the package of records and you could remit to me the amount of postage shown.

Sincerely yours,



July 27, 1990

Mr. William F. Baggerman 3614 Gleneagle Drive Sarasota, FL 34238

College of Liberal Arts

Department of History

Center for the Study of War and Society Dear Mr. Baggerman:

Thanks for your letter of July 18th. I appreciate your offer of the albums. If you can send them to the Center, I will gladly remit the postage to you.

Again, my thanks. I look forward to hearing from you in the future.

Sincerely,

Charles

Dr. Charles W. Johnson, Director Center for the Study of War and Society

CWJ:eb

August 6, 1990

Dear Dr. Johnson:

Villam

I sent the "Edward R. Murrow" album today, by U.P.S.

Sincerely,

July 28, 1990

Dr. Charles Johnson, Director Center for the Study of War and Society Department of History The University of Tennessee Knoxville 220 Hoskins Library Knoxville, Tennessee 37996-0411

Dear Dr. Johnson:

Earlier in our correspondence I seem to recall your mention that you had a graduate student concerned with a compilation of the history of the Twentieth Air Force.

In this connection I thought the copy of the article about the planned reunion of members of the 315th Bombardment Wing, Twentieth Air Force might be of interest to you.

Though I was in headquarters, the information in the article about the "Eagle" radar and its use in destruction of the Japanese oil refineries was a fact unknown to me. I do remember however comments in camp about General LeMay's order to remove all armament but the tail guns. There were several other decisions by General LeMay, that turned near failure into success. When he took over command from General Haywood Hensell camp comment was to the effect that the entire B-29 project bordered on failure. If this informal oral history is still relevant I'll have to try to make a stop at your office on one of our later trips to Paris, Tennessee from Sarasota, Florida.

Sincerely,



College of Liberal Arts

Department of History

Center for the Study of War and Society August 2, 1990

Mr. William F. Baggerman 3614 Gleneagle Drive Sarasota, FL 34238

Dear Mr. Baggerman:

Thank you for your letter of July 28th, and the enclosed information. We'll write to Mr. Gardner in Nashville.

Let us know when you will be able to stop by for a look around the Center and perhaps for a taped interview.

I look forward to hearing from you in the future.

Sincerely,

Mailles

Dr. Charles W. Johnson, Director Center for the Study of War and Society

CWJ:eb



August 15, 1990

College of Liberal Arts Mr. William F. Baggerman 3614 Gleneagle Drive Sarasota, FL 34238

Department of History

Dear Mr. Baggerman:

Center for the Study of War and Society

Thank you for the "Edward R. Murrow" album. It is certainly a unique addition to the collection.

I have included a check to cover the mailing expenses.

Again, my thanks. I look forward to hearing from you in the future.

Sincerely,

Charles W. Johnson

Dr. Charles W. Johnson, Director Center for the Study of War and Society

CWJ:eb Enclosure April 24., 1991

Dr. Charles Johnson, Director Center for the Study of War and Society Department of History The University of Tennessee Knoxville 220 Hoskins Library Knoxville, Tennessee 37996-0411

Dear Dr. Johnson:

Since my visit to your office some months ago, I'd be interested to know if you still have an interest in retaining the set of letters I left with you, relating to my military service, particularly those related to my service overseas with the Twentieth Air Force.

If the letters would seem relevant to your present research I would consider donating them, if not please let me know your thoughts about returning them to me.

Should you still be working with the history of the Twentieth Air Force, I recently acquired a video tape regarding the history of the development of the B-29 and another regarding the story of the award of the Congressional Medal of Honor to Sgt. Irwin, a B-29 combat crew member. I remember the circumstances of the award and regard it as the most heroic act of WWII.

Mr Daggerman



College of Liberal Arts

Department of History

Center for the Study of War and Society May 28, 1991

Mr. William F. Baggerman 3614 Gleneagle Drive Sarasota, FL 34238

Dear Mr. Baggerman:

Thank you for your recent letter. Yes, I found your letters very interesting and valuable, and have incorporated them into our Special Collections holdings.

I would be very interested in seeing the video on Sgt. Irwin and the Congressional medal of honor. I believe I have already seen the video on the B-29.

My graduate student has been working hard on his dissertation but it is still in the early stages. He has decided to focus it on General Hansel, who was relieved of command of the XXth Air Force in the late winter of 1945.

Again, my thanks. Let me know if you are going to be in the area in the future.

Sincerely,

Charles

Dr. Charles W. Johnson, Director Center for the Study of War and Society

The Museum accepted the Collection of all the letter of all the letter of white to my parents while to was in Mulclar Jervice

220 Hoskins Library / Knoxville, Tennessee 37996-0411 / (615) 974-7088 or 974-5421

Special Collections Hoskins Library The University of Tennessee Knoxville Knoxville, TN, USA 37996-4000

phone: (615) 974-4480

↑ e-mail: SPECIAL@UTKLIB.LIB.UTK.EDU

MS-1764

WORLD WAR II COLLECTION

33.0 Shelf Feet

ca. 20,000 pieces

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This latest addition to the World War II Collection again contains a diversity of material from participants in the European and Pacific War Theatres, while also including some material from those who served in the North African and China-Burma-India Theatres respectively. Of special interest, this segment houses a significant amount of correspondence between those who served and their relatives; also, William E. Boice has contributed an impressive amount of documentation pertaining to the 22nd Infantry Regiment of the 4th Infantry Division, which was instrumental in the D-Day landing of 1944.

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Box 1: Ashley, Oscar R. European Theatre. 9th Air Force.
      Folder 1: Book of World War II Cartoons
      Folder 2: Correspondence (1942)
      Folder 3: Correspondence from Ft. Lee, Va. (1942-43)
     Folder 4: Correspondence from Greeneville, S.C. (1943)
Folder 5: Correspondence from Greeneville, S.C. (1943)
Folder 6: Correspondence (Oct., 1943-Dec., 1943)
Folder 7: Correspondence (Jan.-March, 1944)
Folder 8: Correspondence (April-June, 1944)
Folder 9: Correspondence from Mother (Jan.-June, 1944)
Folder 10: Correspondence (Tulu Gent, 1944)
      Folder 10: Correspondence (July-Sept., 1944)
      Folder 11: Correspondence (Oct.-Dec., 1944)
      Folder 12: Correspondence from Mother (July-Dec., 1944)
      Folder 13: Correspondence (Jan.-March, 1945)
      Folder 14: Correspondence (April-June, 1945)
Box 2: Ashley, Oscar R. European Theatre. 9th Air Force.
      Folder 1: Correspondence from Mother (Jan.-June, 1945)
      Folder 2: Correspondence (July-Sept., 1945)
      Folder 3: Correspondence (Oct.-Dec., 1945)
     Folder 4: Correspondence from Mother (July-Dec., 1945)
     Folder 5: Correspondence from various family members (1943-45)
      Folder 6: Correspondence (Jan.-March, 1946)
      Folder 7: Correspondence (April-June, 1946)
      Folder 8: Correspondence from Mother (Jan.-May, 1946)
      Folder 9: Correspondence to Mother from Relatives (1943-48)
      Folder 10: Correspondence (Greeting Cards)
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Box 3: Ashley, Oscar R. European Theatre. 9th Air Force.

- Folder 1: Air Force Reserve Material older 2: Cloth Identification Purse Folder 3: Guide to Auschwitz Museum

- Folder 4: Induction Documents (1942)
 Folder 5: O.C.S. Grades
 Folder 6: Personal Military Documents
 Folder 7: Personal Military Documents
- Folder 8: Personal Military Documents
- Folder 9: Memoirs
- Folder 10: Roster of O.C.S. Quartermaster Class (1943)
- Folder 11: War Memorabilia

Box 4: A-B (except Boice, William)

- Folder 1: Absher, Dr. Alton. European Theatre. Army Medical Corps. War Memorabilia (Patch of Parachute from D-Day)
- Bacon, John. 8th Air Force. 8th Air Force Hist. Society Newsletter.
- Folder 3: Baggerman, William F. Pacific Theatre. 20th Air Force Hq. Sqdu., 21st Bomber Command. Correspondence to Parents (Feb.-Aug., 1942)
- Folder 4: Baggerman, William F. Correspondence to Parents (Sept., 1942-March, 1943)
- Folder 5: Baggerman, William F. Correspondence to Parents (April, 1943-Feb., 1944)
- Folder 6: Baggerman, William F. Correspondence to Parents (March, 1944-Jan. 1945)
- Folder 7: Baggerman, William F. Correspondence to Parents (Feb., 1945-Nov., 1945)
- Folder 8: Baggerman, William F. Correspondence from Parents (March, 1943-June, 1945)
- Folder 9: Baggerman, William F. Correspondence Enclosures from Parents
- Folder 10: Baggerman, William F. V-Mail (1944)
- Folder 11: Baggerman, William F. News Articles on Guam (1989)
- Folder 12: Baggerman, William F. Military Training Examinations Folder 13: Baggerman, William F. Roster of 20th Hq. Sqdu. (1945)
- Folder 14: Baggerman, William F. 20th Air Force Hq. Sqdu. Reunion (1990)
- Folder 15: Baggerman, William F. War Memorabilia
- Folder 16: Baggerman, William F. Correspondence to Parents (Undated)
- Folder 17: Baggerman, William F. Misc.
- Folder 18: Barham, John C. European Theatre. 18th Armored Division, 46th Armored Regiment. Correspondence (1944)
- Folder 19: Barham, John C. Military Correspondence to wife re: KIA Status
- Folder 20: Barham, John C. News Articles on MIA Status
- Folder 21: Barham, John C. Copies of Photos and Military Documents
- Folder 22: Bates, Walter L. Booklet: U.S. Navy Career Woman
- Folder 23: Baumann, J. Fred. U.S. Army Air Force, Fighter Pilot. Excerpt from Memoirs
- Folder 24: Bigger, Erwin. European-African Theatre. Lt. Col., 504th Parachute Inf. Reg., 82nd Airborne Div. Books on 504th Parachute Infantry
- Folder 25: Bigger, Erwin. Clippings, Photos, and Memorabilia
- Folder 26: Bopp, William F. European Theatre. 8th Infantry Div., 7th Armored Inf. Btn. Personal Narrative
- Folder 27: Bopp, William F. Honorable Discharge
- Folder 28: Bowers, James S. European Theatre. 99th Infantry Div., 393rd Infantry Reg. Account of Experiences of 393rd Infantry Regiment in ETO