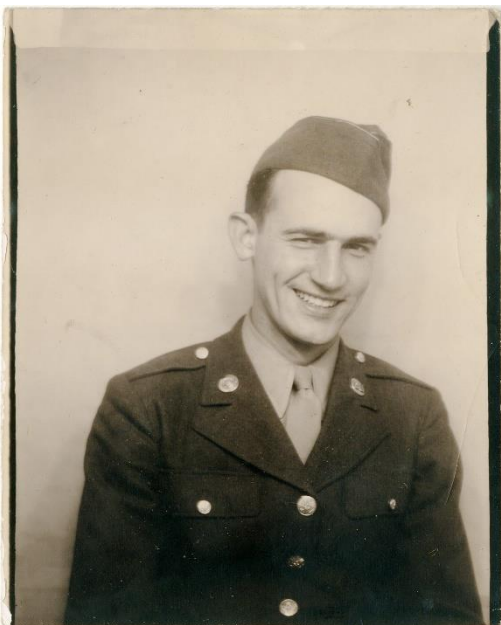


Gettysburg College
Musselman
Library
special collections

Guide to MS-211:

Earman Family Letters



Gettysburg College, Musselman Library
Special Collections and College Archives

Kayla Morrow
July 2017

MS-211: Earman Family Letters

Processed by Kayla Morrow, Barbara Holley Intern 2017-2018
July 2017

Size

3 boxes, 1.5 cubic feet

Location

Special Collections

Dates

Inclusive: 1942-1949

Bulk: 1944-1946

Provenance

Donated by John Regentin, May 2017 (Accession #2017-0155)

Biographical Note

Randolph Nelson Earman (1910–1987) and Ernest Earman, Jr. (1921–2016) were born in Maryland to parents Mary May [Deck] Earman (1888–1977) and Ernest Earman, Sr. (1886–1965). They had two sisters, Mary Virginia Earman (1912–2000) and Maxine Deck Earman (1914–1992), both of whom resided at the long-time Earman family home in Harper's Ferry, West Virginia.

Prior to the war, Ernest was unemployed and living with his family. After he was drafted, he enlisted in the army at Clarksburg, WV on Dec. 2, 1943¹ and served in the 724th Railway Operating Battalion, Company "A." He completed basic training in Texas at Fort Sam Houston and Camp Bullis before receiving technical training at Camp Shelby, where he worked on the Southern Railroad. In Aug. 1944, Ernest sailed from New York to France, where he assisted with train derailments, wrecks, and cleanups for over a year. He then served briefly in Augsburg before returning to Fort Meade for discharge in 1946. Throughout his service, Ernest rose in rank from Private, to Private First Class, to Corporal, to Sergeant. In Apr. 1951, he married Mary Elizabeth Burroughs (1923–2011) in Alexandria, VA, where he remained for the duration of his life. He passed away on Oct. 9, 2016 and is buried with Mary at Ivy Hill Cemetery in Alexandria.

Randolph Nelson Earman enlisted in the army at Fort Meade, MD on Mar. 6, 1944². Before the war, he worked as a bank teller in Fairfax, VA, where he resided with his wife, Dorothy Aliene Conard, (1913–

¹ National Archives and Records Administration. Electronic Army Serial Number Merged File, 1938-1946 [Archival Database]; ARC: 1263923. World War II Army Enlistment Records; Records of the National Archives and Records Administration, Record Group 64; National Archives at College Park. College Park, Maryland, U.S.A.

² The National Archives in St. Louis, Missouri; St. Louis, Missouri; *WWII Draft Registration Cards for Virginia, 10/16/1940 – 03/31/1947*; Record Group: *Records of the Selective Service System, 147*; Box: 221

2011) and his sons, Donald and Randolph. He completed basic training in various Missouri camps and served as a Private First Class in the Company “B” 27th Signal Training Battalion, the 37th Signal Training Battalion, and the 529th Signal Operating Company. He was deployed to Okinawa and Korea, serving only a year overseas before returning home to Virginia. Randolph died at his home on Oct. 21, 1987 and is buried with his father, mother, and two sisters at Harper’s Cemetery.

Scope and Content Note

The collection contains 389 letters, 15 V-mail³, and 166 additional items⁴ addressed to members of the Earman family home. The majority of the correspondence is sent from Ernest and Randolph to their mother, Mrs. Earman. Because the Earman brothers did not see much direct combat, the bulk of their letters are updates on health and daily activities, or candid observations on the war, the Army, the weather, and women. The rest of the collection includes letters addressed to the Earman family from distant or extended family, close friends, and Ernest’s foreign and domestic girlfriends.

Many of the letters are (legibly) handwritten, though some were typed. While the majority of the items are well-preserved inside their original envelopes, eleven letters are without envelopes and seven envelopes are without accompanying letters; these items are marked as “envelope only” or “letter only.” Many envelopes contain a variety of printed ephemera or artifacts like clippings, programs, advertisements, and photographs. There were 31 photographs/ephemera which were not enclosed in any specific letter or envelope; these loose items have been grouped together in Series VIII (see description).

There are brief gaps in correspondence which can be attributed to Army furloughs or overseas travel. Because some of the correspondence from Ernest, Randolph, and Granville (particularly the V-mail) was written under censorship, details about military location or movements have been omitted or physically removed from the letters. Historians researching WWII communication and censorship may be interested in the V-mail, telegrams, or letters from the soldiers immediately after they arrived overseas.

The collection’s female writers offer a helpful gendered perspective of the war, both on the home-front and abroad. Jo Bush’s letters detail the life and training of a Cadet Nurse. Mrs. (Dorothy) Randolph Earman’s letters express the concerns of a wife and mother trying to manage a household while worrying about the absence of her husband. The letters from Ernest’s foreign (often romantic) acquaintances reveal how French and German women saw America, Americans, and WWII.

Arguably the collection’s greatest strength is its view into the personal lives and relationships of U.S. soldiers while overseas. While he entertained multiple romantic interests during his time as a soldier, Ernest struck up a serious relationship in France with Catherine Seux, whom he hoped to marry one day after returning home. As time passed and marriage proved increasingly unlikely, Catherine’s progressively dejected letters—which end quite abruptly in Aug. 1946—give voice to foreign women

³ Victory mail, colloquially known as “V-mail,” was a form of communication used during WWII. It was introduced in 1942 as an efficient, safe way to mail letters to soldiers overseas. While the Post Office, War, and Navy Departments struggled to mail heavy letters, V-mail used microfilm processing to take photographs of letters and shrink them down to miniature size, thus producing less cargo. (Smithsonian National Postal Museum, Victory Mail Online Exhibit,” <https://postalmuseum.si.edu/victorymail/>)

⁴ Additional items include greeting cards, postcards, photographs, documents, ephemera, and artifacts.

who, charmed by American soldiers, hoped to marry and come to the United States but were met instead with cultural and economic setbacks.

Series Description

This collection is divided into eight series. **Series I:** Correspondence of Ernest Earman, Jr., **Series II:** Letters from Randolph Earman, Jr., **Series III:** Correspondence of Mrs. (Dorothy) Randolph Earman, Jr., **Series IV:** Letters from Corporal Granville B. Smith to the Earman Family, **Series V:** Letters from Mademoiselle Catherine Seux to the Earman Family, **Series VI:** Letters from “Jo” Bush to the Earman Family, **Series VII:** Letters from Miscellaneous to the Earman Family, **Series VIII:** Photographs and Ephemera.

The first six series correspond to a particular individual who wrote letters to members of the Earman family. If a series is entitled “Correspondence of,” (Series I or Series III) it includes both incoming and outgoing letters from the eponymous individual. If a series is entitled “Letters from,” (Series II, Series IV, Series V, or Series VI) it includes only outgoing letters to members of the Earman family. The items in each series are arranged chronologically by year, month, and day. In the case of letters with no written date, the postmarked date was recorded. In the case of letters where the writer only noted a specific day of the week inside the letter—i.e. “Thursday morning”—the exact date was calculated by cross-referencing the letter’s postmarked date with Google Calendar; any such calculated date which does not explicitly appear inside of the letter has been recorded in brackets.

Correspondence of Ernest Earman, Jr.

This series—which contains 250 letters, 6 V-mail, and 86 additional objects such as documents, cards, ephemera, or artifacts—consists of items sent by Ernest to his family members in WV, as well as items addressed to Ernest from the U.S. and abroad.

Letters from Randolph Earman, Jr.

This series—which contains 66 letters, 7 V-mail, and 15 other objects such as documents, cards, ephemera, and artifacts—consists of items sent by Randolph to his family members in WV.

Correspondence of Mrs. (Dorothy) Randolph Earman, Jr.

This series—which contains 12 letters and 5 greeting cards —consists primarily of letters sent by Dorothy to Mrs. Earman, as well as one letter addressed to Dorothy.

Letters from Corporal Granville B. Smith to the Earman Family

This series—which contains 14 letters, 2 V-mail, 1 V-mail template, 1 greeting card, 3 postcards, and 3 poems—consists of items sent by Granville to the Earman family.

Letters from Mademoiselle Catherine Seux to the Earman Family

This series—which contains 21 letters, 1 greeting card, and 1 postcard—consists of items written by Mlle. Catherine Seux to Ernest and to Mrs. Earman.

Letters from “Jo” Bush to the Earman Family

This series—which contains 14 letters, 2 greeting cards, 2 postcards, 1 announcement, and 4 photographs—consists of items sent by Josephine A. Bush⁵ to the Earman family.

Letters from Miscellaneous to the Earman Family

This series— which includes 12 letters, 3 V-mail, 8 greeting cards, 1 announcement, and 1 brochure—consists of items written by extended family, close friends, and acquaintances to various members of the Earman household.

Photographs and Ephemera

This series—which contains 21 photographs, 1 map, 1 business card, 2 military documents, 3 church bulletins, and 3 partial envelopes—consists of loose ephemera and artifacts which were sent to the Earman family but not contained inside of a specific letter or envelope.

Box List

Box 1

Series 1: Correspondence of Ernest Earman, Jr.

1-0 Finding Aid and Biographical Information

1-1 **Series 1, Subseries A — Letters to Mrs. Earman, 1942–43**

(21 letters, 3 greeting cards, 2 postcards, 3 ephemera)

- Christmas card, postmarked Dec. 16, 1942 — Alexandria, VA
- Postcard, Jan. 5, 1943 —Fort Hayes, OH
- [Apr. 27], 1943 —Alexandria, VA
- Mother’s Day card, postmarked May 6, 1943 —Alexandria, VA
- Aug. 5, 1943 —Alexandria, VA
- Sept. 23, 1943 —Alexandria, VA
- [Sept. 27], 1943 —Alexandria, VA
- [Sept. 29], 1943 —Alexandria, VA
- [Oct. 4], 1943 —Alexandria, VA
- [Oct. 7], 1943 —Alexandria, VA
- [Oct. 10], 1943 —Alexandria, VA
- [Oct. 12], 1943 —Alexandria, VA
- Oct. 20, 1943 —Alexandria, VA
- [Oct. 25], 1943 —Alexandria, VA
- [Nov. 3, 1943] —Alexandria, VA
- [Nov. 4, 1943] —Alexandria, VA
- [Dec. 4, 1943] —Alexandria, VA

⁵ Josephine’s full name is never mentioned in the collection; it was identified using the WWII Cadet Nursing Corps Card Files, 1942-1948 (National Archives and Records Administration; Washington, D.C.; Cadet Nurse Corps Files, compiled 1943 - 1948, documenting the period 1942 - 1948; Box #: 010)

- Christmas card, postmarked Dec. 18, 1943 —Alexandria, VA
- Dec. 25, 1943 —Ft. Hayes, OH
 - Enclosed: clipping for emergency relief; card for church services
- Dec. 26, 1943 —Ft. Hayes, OH
- Dec. 27, 1943 —Ft. Hayes, OH
 - Enclosed: U.S.O Christmas Program
- Dec. 28, 1943 —Ft. Hayes, OH
- Dec. 30, 1943 —Ft. Hayes, OH
- USO postcard, [Dec. 31,] 1943 —Ft. Hayes, OH

1-2 **Series 1, Subseries B — Letters to Mrs. Earman, Jan. 1944**
(16 letters)

- Jan. 2, 1944 —Ft. Hayes, OH
- Jan. 6, 1944 — “Aboard a troop train passing through St. Louis, Missouri”
- Jan. 10, 1944 —Ft. Sam Houston, TX
- Jan. 11 & 12 (2 letters), 1944 —Ft. Sam Houston, TX
- Jan. 13, 1944 —Ft. Sam Houston, TX
- [Jan.] 16, 1944 —Fort Sam Houston; San Antonio, TX
- Jan. 17, 1944 —Ft. Sam Houston, TX
- Jan. 19, 1944 —Ft. Sam Houston, TX
- Jan. 20-22, 1944 —Ft. Sam Houston, TX
- Jan. 23, 1944 —Ft. Sam Houston, TX
- Jan. 24, 1944 —Ft. Sam Houston, TX
- Jan. 25, 1944 —Ft. Sam Houston, TX
- Jan. 26, 1944 —Ft. Sam Houston, TX
- Jan. 27, 1944 —Ft. Sam Houston, TX
- Jan. 31, 1944 —Ft. Sam Houston, TX

1-3 **Series 1, Subseries C — Letters to Mrs. Earman, Feb. 1944**
(22 letters, 1 greeting card, 1 news clipping, 1 military document)

- Feb. 1, 1944 —Ft. Sam Houston, TX
- Feb. 3, 1944 —Ft. Sam Houston, TX
- Feb. 4, 1944 —Ft. Sam Houston, TX (*envelope only*)
- Feb. 7, 1944 —Ft. Sam Houston, TX
- Valentine’s Day card, postmarked Feb. 9, 1944 —Ft. Sam Houston, TX
- Feb.9, 1944 —Ft. Sam Houston, TX
- Feb. 12, 1944 —Ft. Sam Houston, TX
- Feb. 13, 1944 —Ft. Sam Houston, TX (*letter only*)
- Feb. 14, 1944 —Ft. Sam Houston, TX
- Feb. 15, 1944 — Ft. Sam Houston, TX

- Feb. 17, 1944 —Ft. Sam Houston, TX
- Feb. 18, 1944 —Ft. Sam Houston, TX
- Feb. 19, 1944 —Ft. Sam Houston, TX
 - *Enclosed: letter from Randolph Earman, dated Feb. 11, 1944*
- Feb. 20, 1944 —Camp Bullis, TX
- Feb. 21, 1944—Camp Bullis, TX
- Feb. 22, 1944 —Camp Bullis, TX
- Feb. 22, 1944 —Camp Bullis, TX
- Feb. 24, 1944 —Camp Bullis, TX
- Feb. 25, 1944 —Camp Bullis, TX
 - *Enclosed: temporary order of promotion to Private, First Class*
- Feb. 26, 1944 —Camp Bullis, TX
 - *Enclosed: local WV newspaper clipping about Ernest and Randolph Earman*
- Feb. 27, 1944 —Camp Bullis, TX
- Feb. 28, 1944 —Camp Bullis, TX (*letter only*)
- Feb. 29, 1944 —Camp Bullis, TX

1-4 **Series 1, Subseries D — Letters to Mrs. Earman, Mar. 1944**

(19 letters, 1 military document, 1 ephemera)

- Mar. 2, 1944 —Camp Bullis, TX
 - Enclosed: one small article about Texas
- Mar. 3, 1944 —Camp Bullis, TX
- Mar. 4, 1944 —Camp Bullis, TX
- Mar. 6, 1944 —“Out in the field, somewhere in Texas”
- Mar. 10, 1944 —Ft. Sam Houston, TX
- Mar. 11, 1944 —Ft. Sam Houston, TX
- Mar. 13, 1944 —Ft. Sam Houston, TX
- Mar. 15, 1944 —Ft. Sam Houston, TX
- Mar. 18, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS
- Mar. 19, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS
- Mar. 20, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS
- Mar. 21, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS
- Mar. 22, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS
- Mar. 24, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS
- Mar. 26, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS
- Mar. 27, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS
- Mar. 29, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS
- Mar. 30, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS
 - Enclosed: special order of promotion, Technician 5th Grade
- Mar. 31, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS

1-5 **Series 1, Subseries E — Letters to Mrs. Earman, Apr.–May 1944**
(17 letters, 1 greeting card, 1 news clipping, 2 insignia, 1 ephemera)

- Apr. 2, 1944 Camp Shelby, MS
 - Enclosed: 1 newspaper clipping about Pennsy's outfit railway unit
- Apr. 4, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS
- Easter card postmarked Apr. 5, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS
- Apr. 6, 1944 —Camp Bullis, TX
 - Enclosed: 2 shoulder sleeve insignia: the Army Service Forces insignia and the Technician 5th Grade (T/5) insignia
- Apr. 9, 1944 —Camp Bullis, TX
 - Enclosed: 1 Easter program, USO Victory Concert
- Apr. 10, 1944 —Camp Bullis, TX
- Apr. 12, 1944 —Camp Bullis, TX
- Apr. 14, 1944 —Camp Bullis, TX
- n.d., postmarked Apr. 17, 1944 —Hattiesburg, USO Club
- Apr. 19, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS
- Apr. 20, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS
- Apr. 23, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS
- Apr. 25, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS
- Apr. 28, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS
- May 1, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS
- n.d., postmarked May 5, 1944 —Hattiesburg, USO Club
- May 7, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS
- May 9, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS

1-6 **Series 1, Subseries F — Letters to Mrs. Earman, June–July 1944**
(28 letters, 1 greeting card, 4 insignia, 1 ephemera, 1 artifact)

- June 5, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS
- June 6, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS
- June 7, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS
- June 9, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS
- June 12, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS
 - Enclosed: flower picked from the railroad tracks at Camp Shelby
- June 14, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS
- June 18, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS
- June 20, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS
- June 22, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS
- [June 23, 1944] —Camp Shelby, MS
- June 25, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS

- June 26, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS
- June 27, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS
- June 29, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS
- [July 1, 1944] —Camp Shelby, MS
- July 2, 1944 —Hattiesburg, USO Club
- July 4, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS
- July 9, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS
- July 11, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS
- July 13, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS
- July 16, 1944 —Hattiesburg, Army/Navy Commission of the Lutheran Church
- July 18, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS
- Birthday card, postmarked July 19, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS
- July 20, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS
- July 23, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS
 - Enclosed: 2 Army Services Force shoulder sleeve insignia; “Army Hit Kit”
- July 25, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS
- July 27, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS
 - Enclosed: 2 Army Services Force shoulder sleeve insignia
- July 28, 1944 —Camp Shelby, MS
- [July 30, 1944] —Camp Shelby, MS

1-7 **Series 1, Subseries G — Letters to Mrs. Earman, Aug.–Oct. 1944**
(17 letters, 1 V-mail, 1 postcard, 1 bill)

- Aug. 3, 1944 —Undisclosed location
- Aug. 9, 1944 —Undisclosed location
- Sept. 2, 1944 —“Somewhere in France”
- Sept. 4, 1944 —France
- Sept. 8, 1944 —France
- Sept. 11, 1944 —“East of Paris”
- n.d., postmarked Sept.17, 1944 — [France] (V-mail)
- Sept.17, 1944 — “East of Paris”
 - Enclosed: postcard, Ancienne Abbaye de Saint-Jean des Vignes
 - This letter speaks of American war supplies, particularly gas and coal
- Sept. 21, 1944 —“East of Paris,”
 - Enclosed: French bill, “Deux Francs”
- Sept. 28, 1944 —“East of Paris”
- Oct. 1, 1944 —“East of Paris”
- Oct. 9, 1944 —France
- Oct. 15, 1944 —France
- Oct. 18, 1944 —“East of Paris”
- Oct. 24, 1944 —“East of Paris”

- Oct. 27, 1944 —France
- Oct. 31, 1944 —France

1-8 **Series 1, Subseries H — Letters to Mrs. Earman, Nov.–Dec. 1944**
(17 letters, 4 V-mail)

- Nov. 6, 1944 —France
- Nov. 8, 1944 —France
- Nov. 9, 1944 —France
- Nov. 14, 1944 —France
- Nov. 15, 1944 —France (V-mail)
- Nov. 16, 1944 —France (V-mail)
- Nov. 19, 1944 —France (V-mail)
- Nov. 22, 1944 —France
- Nov. 27, 1944 —France
- Nov. 28, 1944 —France
- Nov. 29, 1944 —France (V-mail)
- Dec. 4, 1944 —France
- Dec. 8, 1944 —France
- Dec. 11-12, 1944 —France
- Dec. 13, 1944 —France
- Dec. 14, 1944 —France
- Dec. 16, 1944 —France
- Dec. 19, 1944 —France
- Dec. 22, 1944 —France
- Dec. 27, 1944 —France
- Dec. 28, 1944 —France

1-9 **Series 1, Subseries I — Letters to Mrs. Earman, Jan.–Feb. 1945**
(21 letters, 1 V-mail)

- Jan. 4, 1945 —France
- Jan. 7, 1945 —France
- Jan. 11, 1945 —France
- Jan. 14, 1945 —France
- Jan. 16, 1945 —France
- Jan. 19, 1945 —France
- Jan. 22, 1945 —France
- Jan. 24, 1945 —France
- Jan. 26, 1945 —France
- Jan. 29, 1945 —France
- Jan. 30, 1945 —France

- Feb. 2, 1945 —France
- Feb. 5, 1945 —France (V-mail)
- Feb. 7, 1945 —France
- Feb. 9, 1945 —France
- Feb. 13, 1945 —France
- Feb. 15, 1945 —France
- Feb. 16, 1945 —Le Havre, France
- Feb. 19, 1945 —France
- Feb. 22, 1945 —France
- Feb. 25, 1945 —France
- Feb. 27, 1945 —France

1-10 **Series 1, Subseries J — Letters to Mrs. Earman, Mar.–May 1945**

(23 letters, 1 greeting card, 1 delivery card, 1 military document, 1 ephemera, 1 artifact)

- Mar. 3, 1945 —France
 - Enclosed: pink Paris handkerchief
- Mar. 4, 1945 —France
- Mar. 9, 1945 —France
- Mar. 12, 1945 —France
- Mar. 15, 1945 —France
- Mar. 17, 1945 —France
- Mar. 21, 1945 —France
- Mar. 28, 1945 —France
- Gift delivery card, Apr. 1, 1945 —France
- Apr. 1, 1945 —France
- Apr. 10, 1945 —France
- Apr. 13, 1945 —France
- Apr. 15, 1945 —France
- Apr. 20, 1945 —France
- Apr. 24, 1945 —France
- Apr. 29, 1945 —France
- n.d., postmarked Apr. 29 —France
 - Enclosed: Mother's Day letter to all army mothers from commanding major
- Mother's Day card, postmarked May 2, dated May 13, 1945 —France
- May 2, 1945 —France
- May 4, 1945 —France
 - Enclosed: National de l'opera program
- May 6, 1945 —France
- May 9, 1945 —France
- May 12, 1945 —France
- May 13, 1945 —France

- May 29, 1945 —France

Box 2

2-1 **Series 1, Subseries K — Letters to Mrs. Earman, June–Sept. 1945**

(11 letters, 1 greeting card, 1 news clipping, 8 military documents, 9 bills)

- June 4, 1945 —France
- June 14, 1945 —Compeigne, France
 - Enclosed: Army special order for Good Conduct Ribbon awards
- June 15, 1945 —France
 - Enclosed: 9 bills from Germany, France, Belgium, and Japan
- June 22, 1945 —France
 - Enclosed: news clipping; 3 historical reports from Company 'A,' 724th railway operating battalion for the months of Dec. 1944, Mar. 1945, and Apr. 1945
- June 22, 1945 —France
 - Enclosed: 4 historical reports from company 'A,' 724th railway operating battalion for the months of Dec. 1943, Oct. 1944, Nov. 1944, and Jan-Mar., 1945
- July 20, 1945 —Compeigne, France
- Mother's Day card, July 23, 1945 —France
- Aug. 17, 1945 —Compeigne, France
- Aug. 27, 1945 —Compeigne, France
- Sept. 4, 1945 —Compeigne, France
- Sept. 20, 1945 —Compeigne, France
- Sept. 26, 1945 —Compeigne, France

2-2 **Series 1, Subseries L — Letters to Mrs. Earman, Oct.–Dec. 1945**

(15 letters, 2 postcards, 4 military documents)

- Oct. 3, 1945 —Munich, Germany
- Oct. 7, 1945 —Augsburg, Germany
- Oct. 9, 1945 —Augsburg, Germany
- Oct. 16, 1945 —Augsburg, Germany
- Oct. 23, 1945 —Augsburg, Germany
- Oct. 25, 1945 —Augsburg, Germany
- Oct. 29, 1945 —Augsburg, Germany
- Nov. 1, 1945 —Augsburg, Germany
- n.d., postmarked Nov. 7, 1945 —[Augsburg, Germany]
 - Enclosed: letter from the army detailing Ernest's promotion; letter from a superior officer requesting a battle star for Ernest's participation in the Campaign of Ardennes (the Battle of the Bulge)
- Nov. 10, 1945 —Augsburg, Germany

- Enclosed: copy of the morning report, Company "D" 746th Railway Operating Battalion
- Nov. 18, 1945 —Augsburg, Germany (letter only)
- Dec. 4, 1945 and Dec. 5, 1945 —Augsburg, Germany
 - Enclosed: Army letter about Ernest's involvement in the Ardennes campaign
- Dec. 16, 1945 —Augsburg, Germany
- Dec. 23, 1945 —Augsburg, Germany
- Dec. 25, 1945 —Augsburg, Germany
 - Enclosed: postcard from the Allied Troops Nightclub
- Dec. 30, 1945 —Augsburg, Germany
 - Enclosed: German postcard, 1942

2-3 **Series 1, Subseries M — Letters to Mrs. Earman, 1946**

(16 letters, 1 telegram, 1 postcard, 3 military documents, 1 ephemera)

- Jan. 6, 1946 —Augsburg, Germany
- Jan. 8, 1946 —Augsburg, Germany
- Jan. 13, 1946 —Augsburg, Germany
- dated Jan. 16, 1946, postmarked Jan. 21, 1946 —Augsburg, Germany
 - Enclosed: list of army promotions
- Jan. 17, 1946 —Augsburg, Germany
- Jan. 21, 1946 —Augsburg, Germany
- Feb. 7, 1946 —Augsburg, Germany
- n.d., postmarked Feb. 18, 1944 —France
 - Enclosed: historical brochure of Augsburg Bavaria
- Mar. 10, 1946 — Le Havre, France
- Mar. 20, 1946 —Le Havre, France
- Mar. 23, 1946 —Le Havre, France
 - This letter describes the phenomena of war brides
- Mar. 26, 1946 —Le Havre, France
- Apr. 9, 1946 —Le Havre, France (letter only)
 - This letter mentions Catherine, Ernest's French love interest, for the first time
- 2 letters from Apr. 16, 1946 —Couilly, France (letters only)
- Postcard of the Eiffel Tower, n.d., 1946
 - This postcard is not dated by month or year but it is sent from the same address as the previous letter; the postcard also mentions that it is Ernest's last time in Paris before getting on the boat to Fort Meade
- April 17, 1946 —Le Havre, France
 - Enclosed: 2 copies of Army Special Order for processing & return
- April 24, 1946 —Le Havre, France
- May 6, 1946 —[Fort Meade] (Telegram)
- May 11, 1946 —Regional Hospital at Fort Meade, MD

- May 16, 1946 —Fort Meade, MD

2-4 **Series 1, Subseries N — Letters to other family members, 1943–45**

(1 letter, 6 greeting cards, 1 artifact)

- Christmas card to Maxine; n.d., postmarked Dec. 18, 1943 —Alexandria, VA
- Christmas card to Virginia; n.d., postmarked Dec. 18, 1943 —Alexandria, VA
- Valentine’s Day card to sisters; n.d., postmarked Feb. 9, 1944—San Antonio, TX
- Birthday Letter to Virginia; Mar. 1, 1945 —France
- Enclosed: cloth, “souvenir de France”
- Father’s Day card to Mr. Earman; dated June 17, postmarked June 6, 1945 —France
- Christmas card to Maxine; Dec. 7, 1945 —Augsburg, Germany
- Christmas card to Virginia; Dec. 7, 1945 —Augsburg, Germany

2-5.1 **Series 1, Subseries O — Letters to Ernest, from Abroad**

(4 letters, 1 greeting card, 1 postcard, 2 photographs)

- Feb. 19, 1946; from “Mary” —Augsburg, Germany
 - Enclosed: two photographs of Mary
- May 30, 1946; from Nicol Pereire —France
- July 6, 1946; from “Renee Seux” —Paris, France (letter only)
 - [One copy of the original French letter, two copies of the English translation]
- Aug. 12, 1946; from Nicol Pereire —France
- Christmas card, Jan. 27, 1947; from Nicole Pereire —France
- Postcard, postmarked Jan. 11, 1949; from Janine C. Martin —France

2-6 **Series 1, Subseries P — Letters to Ernest, from the U.S.**

(2 letters, 4 greeting cards, 8 postcards)

- Postcard, postmarked Aug. 26, 1942 —Jackson, TN
- Christmas card, postmarked Dec. 17, 1942; from “Dolly” —Washington, D.C.
- Christmas card, postmarked Dec. 19, 1942; from Pvt. James P. Kain —Camp Polk, LA
- Postcard, postmarked Dec. 11, 1943; from Pfc Leo. N. Deck —Dayton, OH
- Christmas card, postmarked Dec. 21, 1943; from “Nickles” family —Alexandria, VA
- Five Postcards, postmarked Aug. 26, 1944; from Walter Zarbaugh —San Antonio, TX
- Postcard, Sep. 7 1944; from “Nancy” —Charleston, SC
- —n.d., postmarked Dec. 27, 1945 (envelope only)
- May 20, 1946; from I. Nonweiler “Bill” Willis —Minneapolis, MN
- n.d., postmarked July 29, 1946 —Washington, D.C. (envelope only)
- Christmas card, postmarked Dec. 21, 1946; from Gerhard Muller —Detroit, MI
- Jan. 1, 1947; from “Julia,” —Jackson, MS (letter only)

Series 2: Letters from Randolph Earman, Jr.

2-7 **Series 2, Subseries A — Letters to Mrs. Earman, Jan.–June 1944**

(13 letters, 2 greeting cards, 2 postcards, 2 photographs)

- [Jan. 12, 1944] —Washington, D.C.
- [Feb. 25, 1944] —Washington, D.C.
- Mar. 8, 1944 —Fort Meade, MD
- Postcard, postmarked Mar. 15, 1944 —Fort Meade, MD
- [Mar. 17, 1944] —Fort Meade, MD
- [Mar. 22, 1944] —Fort Meade, MD
- Postcard, postmarked Mar. 28, 1944 —St. Louis, MO
- Apr. 1, 1944 —Camp Crowder, MO
- Easter card, postmarked Apr. 3, 1944 —Camp Crowder, MO
- [Apr. 8, 1944] —Camp Crowder, MO
- Apr. 14, 1944 —Camp Crowder, MO
- May 1, 1944 —Camp Crowder, MO
- Mother's Day card, postmarked May 9, 1944 —Camp Crowder, MO
- n.d., postmarked May 15, 1944 —Camp Crowder, MO (envelope only)
- [May 24], 1944 —Camp Crowder, MO
- June 11, 1944 —Camp Crowder, MO
- June 21, 1944 —Camp Crowder, MO
- [June 25], 1944 —Neosho, MO
 - Enclosed: two pictures of Randolph in uniform

2-8 **Series 2, Subseries B — Letters to Mrs. Earman, July–Dec. 1944**

(13 letters, 3 postcards)

- July 15, 1944 —Camp Crowder, MO
- July 30, 1944 —Camp Crowder, MO
- [Aug. 8], 1944 —Camp Crowder, MO
- Aug. 15, 1944 —Camp Crowder, MO
- [Aug. 30], 1944 —Camp Crowder, MO
- Aug. 31, 1944, postmarked Nov. 1, 1944 —Camp Crowder, MO (written by Dorothy, who was visiting)
- Postcard, [Sept. 15], 1944 —McLean, VA
- Postcard, postmarked Sept. 19, 1944 —Saint Louis, MO
- [Sept. 24], 1944 —Camp Crowder, MO
- [Oct. 1], 1944 —Camp Crowder, MO
- [Oct. 15], 1944 —Camp Crowder, MO
- Postcard, Nov. 2, 1944 —Neosho, MO (written by Donnie)
- Nov. 6, 1944 —Neosho, MO (written by Dorothy)
- [Nov. 25-26], 1944 —Neosho, MO (written by Dorothy)

- Dec. 3, 1944 —Neosho, MO
- [Dec. 4], 1944 —Neosho, MO (written by Dorothy)

2-9 **Series 2, Subseries C — Letters to Mrs. Earman, Jan.–Apr. 1945**
(8 letters, 7 V-mail)

- Jan. 4, 1945 —Camp Crowder, MO
- Jan. 9, 1945 —Camp Crowder, MO
- Jan. 15, 1945 —Camp Crowder, MO
- Jan. 21, 1945 — [Seattle, WA]
- Jan. 30, 1945 — “Somewhere in the Pacific”
- Feb. 4, 1945, postmarked Feb. 26—Honolulu (V-mail)
- Feb. 11, 1945 — “Pacific area” (V-mail)
- Feb. 18, 1945 —Honolulu (V-mail)
- n.d., postmarked Mar. 17, 1945 — “Somewhere in the Pacific” (V-mail)
- n.d., postmarked Mar. 19, 1945 — “Somewhere at sea” (V-mail)
- n.d., postmarked Mar. 29, 1945 — “Pacific area” (V-mail)
- Apr. 14, 1945 —undisclosed location (some words are blacked out or cut from page)
- n.d., postmarked Apr. 19, 1945 — “Somewhere in the Pacific” (V-mail)
- Date cut from letter, postmarked Apr. 22, 1945 —undisclosed location
- Apr. 29, 1945 —undisclosed location

2-10 **Series 2, Subseries D: Letters to Mrs. Earman, May–July 1945**
(12 letters, 1 military document, 3 bills)

- May 2, 1945 —undisclosed location
- May 15, 1945 —undisclosed location
- May 21, 1945 —undisclosed location
- May 25, 1945 —undisclosed location
- June 7, 1945 —undisclosed location
- June 13, 1945 —Okinawa, Japan
- June 19, 1945 —Okinawa, Japan
 - Enclosed: 3 Invasion Currency Bills— 1 Yen, 50 Sen, 10 Sen
- June 27, 1945 —Okinawa, Japan
- July 2, 1945 —Okinawa, Japan
- July 10, 1945 —Okinawa, Japan
- July 19, 1945 —Okinawa, Japan
 - Enclosed: Life–saving Army leaflet with instructions for surrender to American soldiers
- July 25, 1945 —Okinawa, Japan

2-11 Series 2, Subseries E: Letters to Mrs. Earman, Aug.–Nov. 1945

(17 letters, 1 photograph)

- Aug. 2, 1945 —Okinawa, Japan
- Aug. 8, 1945 —Okinawa, Japan
- Aug. 16, 1945 —Okinawa, Japan
- Aug. 22, 1945 —Okinawa, Japan
- Aug. 28, 1945 —Okinawa, Japan
- Sept. 2, 1945 —Okinawa, Japan
 - Enclosed: photograph of Randolph holding a machine gun
- Sept. 7, 1945 — “Aboard the USS Catocin”
- Sept. 17, 1945 — “Jinsen, Korea, Aboard the USS Catocin”
- Sept. 21, 1945 —Keijo (Seoul), Korea
- Sept. 27, 1945 —Keijo (Seoul), Korea
 - On the letter, there is a drawing of Randolph, “529 SOCO,” chained to Korea
- Oct. 8, 1945 —Keijo (Seoul), Korea
- Oct. 17, 1945 —Keijo (Seoul), Korea
- n.d., postmarked Oct. 20, 1945 —Keijo (Seoul), Korea
- Oct. 26, 1945 —Keijo (Seoul), Korea
- Nov. 1, 1945 —Keijo (Seoul), Korea
- Nov. 9, 1945 —Keijo (Seoul), Korea
- Nov. 10, 1945 —Keijo (Seoul), Korea

2-12 Series 2, Subseries F — Letters to other family members, 1944–45

(3 letters, 1 greeting card)

- Birthday card to Virginia, postmarked Mar. 9, 1944 —Fort Meade, MD
- Letter to Ernest, Apr. 23, 1944; to Ernest —Camp Crowder, MO
- Letter to Maxine, postmarked Oct. 20, 1945 —[Keijo (Seoul), Korea]
- Letter to Virginia, postmarked Oct. 20, 1945—[Keijo (Seoul), Korea]

Box 3

Series 3: Correspondence of Mrs. (Dorothy) Randolph Earman, Jr.

3-1 Series 3, Subseries A — Letters to Mrs. Earman, 1944–46

(11 letters, 5 greeting cards)

- [Mar. 13] 1944 —McLean, VA
- [Apr. 15], 1944 —Arlington, VA
- Mother’s Day card, postmarked May 11, 1944 —Arlington, VA
- [Jan. 28], 1945 — McLean, VA
- 3 Valentine’s Day cards, postmarked Feb. 13, 1945 —McLean, VA

- Mar. 15, 1945 —McLean, VA
- [Apr. 8], 1945 —McLean, VA
- Apr. 19, 1945 —McLean, VA
- May 10, 1945 —McLean, VA (letter only)
- Mother's Day card, postmarked May 11, 1945 —McLean, VA
- May 20, 1945 —McLean, VA
- Sept. 22, 1945 —McLean, VA
- Oct. 25, 1945 —McLean, VA
 - This letter details the psychological effects of Randolph's absence on his son Donnie
- Feb. 28, 1946 —Washington, D.C.

3-2 **Series 3, Sub-Series B: Letters to Dorothy Earman**

(1 letter)

- June 12, 1945; from Representative John E. Rankin —Washington, D.C.
 - This is a letter Mrs. Dorothy Earman wrote to a representative regarding military bonuses and the subject of married, older men being drafted for the war

Series 4: Letters from Corporal Granville B. Smith to the Earman Family

(14 letters, 1 greeting card, 3 postcards, 2 V-mail, 1 V-mail template, 3 poems)

- Postcard, postmarked Dec. 2, 1942; to the Earman family —Junction City, KS
- November 14, 1943; to Mrs. Earman — Camp Polk, L.A.
- Jan. 9, 1944; to Virginia —Shrevenport, L.A.
- Postcard, postmarked Apr. 21, 1944; to the Earman family—Saint Louis, MO
- Apr. 25, 1944; to the Earman family —Camp Polk, L.A.
 - Enclosed: 2 poems by Granville, "They Said unto Me" and "Troop Train"
- June 28, 1944; to Virginia —Camp Polk, L.A.
- July 16, 1944; to Virginia —Camp Polk, L.A.
 - Enclosed: poem by Granville, "A Soldier's Prayer"
- Sep. 7, 1944; to Earman Family — "Somewhere in England"
- Card, postmarked Nov. 1, 1944; to the Earman family —no location
- Jan. 15, 1945; to Virginia — "Somewhere in France" (V-mail)
- Feb. 18, 1945; to Virginia — "Somewhere in France"
- Feb. 25, 1945; to Virginia — "Somewhere in France"
- Mar. 15, 1945; to Virginia — "Somewhere in Germany"
- Apr. 5, 1945; to Virginia — "Somewhere in Germany"
- May 9, 1945; to Virginia — "Somewhere in Germany"
- June 30, 1945; to Virginia —[Münchberg], Germany
- Aug. 6, 1945; to Virginia —Landshut, Germany

- n.d., postmarked Sept. 4, 1945; to Virginia — “Somewhere on the ocean” (V-mail)
- Postcard with pictures, postmarked Sept. 7, 1945; to Virginia —London, UK
- Oct. 24, 1945; to Virginia —Luxembourg, Germany
- n.d., postmarked Nov. 7, 1945; to Virginia —no location
 - Enclosed: V-mail template

Series 5: Letters from Mademoiselle Catherine Seux to the Earman Family

3-4 **Series 5, Subseries A — Letters to Ernest Earman, Jr., Apr.–Aug. 1946**

(17 letters)

- Apr. 21 & 22, 1946 —Couilly, France
- May 20, 1946 —Paris, France
- May 22, 194 —Paris, France
- May 24, 1946 —Paris, France
- May 27, 1946 —Paris, France
- June 5, 1946 —Paris, France
- June 6, 1946 —Couilly, France
- June 10, 1946 —Paris, France
- June 13, 1946 —Paris, France
- June 18, 1946 —Paris, France
- June 27, 1946 —Paris, France
- July 2, 1946 —Paris, France
- July 4, 1946 —Paris, France
- July 8, 1946 —Paris, France
- July 10, 1946 —Paris, France
- n.d., postmarked July 11, 1946 —Paris, France (envelope only)
- July 26, 1946 —Couilly, France
- Aug. 6, 1946 —Couilly, France
- Date illegible —no location (envelope only)

3-5 **Series 5, Subseries B — Letters to Mrs. Earman, 1946–47**

(4 letters, 1 greeting card, 1 postcard)

- Apr. 16, 1946 —Paris, France (letter only)
 - Enclosed: postcard with inscription, “Ernie’s room” from Couilly, France
- May 1, 1946 —Paris, France
- May 16, 1946 —Paris, France
- Mother’s Day card, May 25, 1946 —Paris, France
- Feb. 14, 1947 —Paris, France

Series 6: Letters from “Jo” Bush to the Earman Family

(14 letters, 2 greeting cards, 2 postcards, 1 announcement, 4 photographs)

- Christmas card, postmarked Dec. 18, 1943; to Mrs. Earman —Alexandria, VA
- [Jan. 9], 1944; to Mrs. Earman —Alexandria, VA
- [Jan. 19], 1944; to Mrs. Earman —Alexandria, VA
- [Feb. 28], 1944; to Mrs. Earman —Alexandria, VA
- [Mar. 22], 1944; to Mrs. Earman —Alexandria, VA
- Mar. 29, 1944; to Virginia Earman —Alexandria, VA
- [Apr. 10], 1944; to Mrs. Earman —Alexandria, VA
- Apr. 18, 1944; to Mrs. Earman —Alexandria, VA
- Mother’s Day card, postmarked May 11, 1944; to Mrs. Earman —Alexandria, VA
- [Dec. 18], 1944; to Mrs. Earman —Alexandria, VA
 - Enclosed: 4 photographs of Ernest Earman in uniform
- n.d., postmarked Dec. 22, 1944; to Mrs. Earman —Alexandria, VA
 - Enclosed: announcement of the Alexandria Hospital School of Nursing
- Mar. 14, 1945; to Mrs. Earman —Alexandria, VA
- [Apr. 11], 1945; to Mrs. Earman —Alexandria, VA
- May 31, 1945; to Mrs. Earman —Washington, D.C.
- June 6, 1945; to Mrs. Earman —Alexandria, VA
- July 11, 1945; to Mrs. Earman —Roanoke, VA
- Aug. 3, 1945; to Mrs. Earman — Roanoke, VA
- Postcard, postmarked Sept. 7, 1945; to Mrs. Earman —Mount Vernon, VA
- Postcard, Sept. 24, 1945; to Mrs. Earman —Jefferson Memorial, Washington, D.C.

Series 7: Letters from Miscellaneous

3-7 **Series 7, Subseries A — to Mrs. Earman, 1944–46**

(5 letters, 5 greeting cards, 1 V-mail)

- Feb. 29, 1944; from Nellie Galley —Frederick, MD
- Mar. 22, 1944; from Ens. J.D. Eackles —San Francisco, CA (V-mail)
- Easter card, postmarked Apr. 1, 1944; from “Ruth” —Washington, D.C.
- Apr. 16, 1944 (misdated Apr. 16, 1943); from “Sister Irene” —Washington, D.C.
- Easter card, postmarked Mar. 28, 1945; from “Be[...]die” —Memphis, TN
- Mother’s Day card, postmarked May 12, 1945; from Maxine & Virginia Earman — Harpers Ferry, WV
- Oct. 1, [1945]; from Janine C. Martin —Compeigne, France (letter only)
 - While the year is not given, the above letter mentions that Ernie is in Compeigne and will soon travel to Munich (see Series I, Sub-Series K: Sept. 26, 1945 from Compeigne, France & Series I, Sub-Series L: Oct. 3, 1945 from Munich, Germany)

- Christmas card, postmarked Dec. 4, 1945; from Leo N. Deck; —N.Y., N.Y.
- n.d., postmarked Dec. 10, 1945; from Chaplain Stephen Galley — (envelope only)
- Feb. 19, 1946; from “Mary” — Augsburg, Germany
- Feb. 24, 1946; from Private Will (Billie) R. Deck —Parris Island
- Christmas card, n.d., faded postmark; from Janine C. Martin —Compeigne, France

3-8 Series 7, Subseries B — to Virginia Earman, 1943–45

(7 letters, 1 greeting card, 2 V-mail)

- Birthday card, postmarked Mar. 9, 1943; from “Mae” —Harper’s Ferry, WV
- Dec. 9, 1943; from Leo N. “Nelson” Deck —Patterson Field, OH
- [Feb. 26], 1944; from “Be[...]die” —Memphis, TN
- Mar. 9, 1944; from Pfc. Paul Bartles —San Antonio, TX
- Jan. 1, 1945; from “Violet,” c/o Mrs. June E. Avery —Vienna, VA
- Mar. 14, 1945; from Pvt. Charles Deck —“Somewhere in Germany” (V-mail)
- May 15, 1945; from Pvt. Charles Deck —France (V-mail)
- May 22, 1945; from “Violet” and “Aunt June” —Vienna, VA
- Aug. 4, 1945; from Pvt. Charles Deck —Czechoslovakia
- Sept. 3, 1945; from Pvt. Charles Deck - Czechoslovakia

3-9 Series 7, Subseries C — Miscellaneous to the Earman Family, 1944–45

(2 greeting cards, 1 announcement, 1 brochure)

- Christmas card, Dec. 18, 1944; from “Charlie and Clara” —Harper’s Ferry, WV
 - Enclosed: souvenir brochure from the Miniature Capitol Ltd. at Boggs & Buhl in Pittsburgh, PA
- Wedding announcement, postmarked Jan. 15, 1945; from the Casons —San Diego, CA
- Christmas card, postmarked Dec. 19, 1945; from the Piersons—Harper’s Ferry, WV

Series 8: Photographs and Ephemera

(21 photographs, 1 map, 1 business card, 2 military documents, 3 church bulletins, 3 partial envelopes)

- 18 photographs from Catherine Seux
- 10 pictures of Catherine; 3 pictures of Catherine & Ernest; 3 pictures of Ernest with Catherine’s family; 1 picture of Catherine & her mother; 1 picture of Catherine’s grandmother’s home
 - photographs from Janine C. Martin
- 2 Portraits of Janine dated Nov. 23, 1945
- 1 Picture of Janine, Ernie, & another couple dated July, 1945
 - American Red Cross Map of Paris, France

- Business Card for “American Perfumery” in Paris, France
 - Notice (Oct. 23, 1943) referring Ernest to Local Board for Preliminary Physical and Blood Test; Notice (Oct. 25, 1943) to Appear for Physical Examination
 - 3 Church Bulletins
- 1 Bulletin (Sep. 27, 1942) from Methodist Protestant Church in Alexandria
- 1 Bulletin (Dec. 27, 1942) from Washington St. Methodist Church in Alexandria
- 1 Bulletin (May 5, 1946) of Protestant Worship “En Route from Le Havre, France, to New York, SS Tufts Victory)
 - 3 Partial Envelopes
- 2 addressed to Mrs. Ernest Earman, 1 addressed to Pvt. Ernest Earman

Contact Information

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