



## William R. Eddleman Papers (CG0022)

**Collection Number:** CG0022

**Collection Title:** William R. Eddleman Papers

**Dates:** 1934-1988, no date

**Creator:** Eddleman, William R.

**Abstract:** Correspondence between Barbara and Christopher Eddleman and their four sons, William H., Harley, Riley Russell, Rodney J. during World War II. William H. Eddleman died as a prisoner of war in the Philippines in 1942. Included in this collection is correspondence from the War Department about his death benefits to his parents, William H. Breen, Jr. and his wife Enid Breen, and Abie Abraham, after the war. Abraham was with William when he died.

**Collection Size:** 0.4 cubic feet  
(6 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-Cape Girardeau](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at [capegirardeau@shsmo.org](mailto:capegirardeau@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

**Restrictions on Use:** Copyright retained by the Donor during his lifetime, at which point it will revert to the State Historical Society of Missouri.

**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *William R. Eddleman Papers* (CG0022); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Cape Girardeau [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Cape Girardeau].

**Donor Information:** The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by William R. Eddleman on February 28, 2018 (Accession No. CGA0022).

**Processed by:** Processed by Garret B. Kremer-Wright, March 16, 2018.

**Biographical Note:** Christopher C. Eddleman and Barbara A. Fulbright were married on January 1, 1905 in Cape Girardeau County. They moved to Cape Girardeau in the 1940s. The

couple had eleven children, six boys and five girls. During World War II two of their sons served their country, William H. and Riley Russell. Another son, Rodney J. served in United States Marine Corps in 1948. William H. Eddleman served in Company E, 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry in 1934. Later, he served as sergeant in the 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment in 1940. Eddleman died while held as a prisoner of war by the Japanese in the Philippines on August 12, 1942. Riley served from 1944-1945 in the Netherlands and Moluccas Islands rising to the rank of corporal in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Air Service Squadron.

**Scope and Content Note:** The William R. Eddleman Papers contain forty letters written between the Christopher C. and Barbara Eddleman and their four sons, William H., Harley, Riley R. and Rodney J. while they were serving in the military during World War II from 1934-1948. The majority of letters were written between the brothers. Correspondence is also included from Enid Eddleman Breen (sister) and her husband, William H. Breen, Jr. Of interest is correspondence of Abie Abraham. He served with William H. Eddleman while he was a prisoner of war and tracked down the family several years after the war.

Also included is correspondence with the War Department regarding death benefits for William.

#### Container List:

- f. 1 William H. Eddleman correspondence, 1934-1941 and 1960
- f. 2 Riley Russell Eddleman correspondence, 1944-1945
- f. 3 William H. Breen, Jr. and Enid Breen correspondence, 1944-1945 and 1958-1960
- f. 4 Rodney J. Eddleman and Harley Eddleman correspondence, 1948
- f. 5 Abie Abraham correspondence, 1979, 1988, and no date
- f. 6 War Department death benefits for William H. Eddleman, 1942-1950

#### Index:

Index Term	Folder	Image
Abraham, Abie, 1913-2012	5	
Breen, Enid Eddleman, 1918-2016	3	
Breen, William H. Jr., 1914-1989	3	
Eddleman, Barbara, 1885-1960	1, 6	
Eddleman, Christopher C., 1877-1950	6	
Eddleman, Harley Lee Sr., 1912-2007	1, 4	
Eddleman, Riley R., 1906-1996	1, 2, 5	
Eddleman, Rodney J., 1928-2017	4	
Eddleman, William H., 1909-1942	1	Yes
Gallagher, Gusta, 1890-1988	1	
Hawaii	1	
MacArthur, Douglas, 1880-1964	6	
Schofield Barracks (Hawaii)	1	
World War II, 1939-1945	1-6	

<b>Index Term</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Image</b>
World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns--Philippines	1, 6	