

## Information Sheet

**R Sheahan, John P., -1944.**  
**203 Letters, 1943-1944.**  
**One volume.**

### **MICROFILM**

This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri](http://The State Historical Society of Missouri). If you would like more information, please contact us at [shsresearch@umsystem.edu](mailto:shsresearch@umsystem.edu).

These are letters written during World War Two by a native of St. Louis to his wife. Sheahan served with the 3206<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Service Company, training at camps in California, Florida, and Virginia. He died at Slapton Sands in the English Channel on 28 April 1944.

John Sheahan's letters to Grace Hawkins Sheahan begin on 13 February 1943 at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Sheahan was en route to the Desert Training Center at Camp Young near Indio, California. He wrote frequently during his training, relating his experiences in basic training at Camp Young, Camp Haan near Riverside, and Camp Ono near San Bernardino, California. A furlough and visit from his wife in May 1943 provided a pleasant respite from his often monotonous duties.

Sheahan's battalion of quartermaster personnel moved to the Amphibious Training Base at Fort Pierce, Florida, in September 1943. His training there and at Camp Pickett, Virginia, was geared toward the coming invasion of Europe, and included a mock invasion launched off the coast of Norfolk, Virginia, in October. He shipped to England in late January 1944. His letters were censored from that point, with the names and location of his stations purposefully omitted.

The last letter in the collection is dated 18 April 1944, just ten days before Sheahan died in the English Channel. While taking part in Operation Tiger, a rehearsal for D-Day, off Slapton Sands, England, Sheahan's ship, LST 531, was attacked and sunk by German E-boats. Due to military secrecy Grace Sheahan was not told the details of her husband's death. Grace Hawkins later remarried, but kept the collection of wartime letters intact. They were mounted in a scrapbook which was ultimately donated to the Dent County Museum in Salem, Missouri. With the exception of a few pieces of V-Mail, the letters are in chronological order.

*r244                      17 September 1984                      Dent County Museum                      Loaned for microfilming*

### Shelf List

These are letters written during World War Two by a native of St. Louis to his wife. Sheahan served with the 3206<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Service Company, training at camps in California, Florida, and Virginia. He died at Slapton Sands in the English Channel on 28 April 1944.

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>
1943, 13-17 February	Fort Leavenworth, Kansas
1943, 21 February—21 March	Camp Young near Indio, California
1943, 22 March—7 April	Camp Haan near Riverside, California

1943, 9 April—19 July	Camp Ono near San Bernardino, California
1943, 23 July—26 August	Camp near Gass, California
1943, 27 August—3 September	Transit depot, San Bernardino, California
1943, 5-9 September	En route to Fort Pierce, Florida
1943, 10 September—5 October	Amphibious Training Base, Fort Pierce, Florida
1943, 11-23 October	Camp Pickett near Blackstone, Virginia
1943, 23 October—4 November	Invasion training off Norfolk, Virginia
1943, 4 November—1944, 14 January	Camp Pickett, Virginia
1944, 9 February—18 April	Unnamed locations in England (censored).

r244            17 September 1984      Dent County Museum            Loaned for microfilming

### Index Cards

Camp Haan (Calif.).  
Camp Ono (Calif.).  
Camp Pickett (Va.).  
Camp Young (Calif.).  
Fort Leavenworth (Kan.).  
Fort Pierce (Fla.).  
Gass (Calif.).  
Great Britain—History—World War, 1939-1945.  
Military camps—Florida.  
Military camps—California.  
Military camps—Virginia.  
Sheahan, John P., -1944.  
Skelton, Grace Hawkins.  
United States. Army. Quartermaster Service Company, 3206<sup>th</sup>.  
United States. Army. Quartermaster Service Battalion, 538<sup>th</sup>.  
World War, 1939-1945—Personal narratives, American.