

**S1168 WEAVER CORRESPONDENCE,  
LETTERS, 1941-1943  
28 FOLDERS**

**PROVENANCE**

The Weaver correspondence was donated by Jack and Ruth's daughters, Jacquelyn Weaver Donnelly and Bonnie Weaver Jenkins in September 2015.

**BIOGRAPHY**

Jack Weaver served in the United States armed forces during World War II. He held multiple positions while he served including Sergeant, Warrant Officer, and Officer. He spent most of his time off in St. Louis where he met Ruth Riddick. Ruth is a native to St. Louis and remained there for the majority of the war. Ruth and Jack married in June 1943. After spending some time in Washington the couple moved back to St. Louis where they spent the remainder of their lives.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The collection includes descriptions of Jack Weaver's time in the army both in the United States and in Alaska. He includes detailed descriptions of his daily life and the training he goes through at OCS. Ruth's letters to Jack include descriptions of life in St. Louis during the war. She includes detailed descriptions of her activities in a social sorority, church functions and work at United Motors as a secretary.

Folders 1-21: Jack Weaver to Ruth Riddick/Weaver: March 1941 to November 1943

Folders 22-28: Ruth Riddick/Weaver to Jack Weaver: May 1942 to November 1943

**FOLDER LIST**

**BOX 1 (012621)**

1. March to July 1941, stationed at Camp Robinson in Little Rock with the U.S. Army as Sergeant in the 138<sup>th</sup> Infantry (Service Company or Army Supply).

2. August to Oct 1941, includes a description of the War maneuvers that took place in and around Arizona and Louisiana.

-August 28, Newspaper Clippings containing maps and stories covering the War Maneuvers

-September 4, Mentions the passing of a bill and includes an issue slip for Field Rations

3. Oct 11 to December 31, 1941, Return to Camp Robinson, discharged from the army on October 24, 1941. However Jack stays in Little Rock as an electrician at the Ark Ordinance Plant.

-October 25, Mentions his new job and the pay rate

-December 11, Mentions President Roosevelt

4. January 1942, Working in Little Rock and Jack being drafted back into the army.
  - January 31, Post card sent on his way to Ft. Lewis
5. February 1942, Jack's travel too and arrival at Ft. Lewis. back as Sargent in army Supply.
6. March 1942, Jack's work in Army Supply, sorting and preparing shipments to Seattle then onto Alaska.
7. April 1942, Still at Ft. Lewis but is preparing to leave for Alaska
  - April 18, Includes an army issued, "Some Important Facts You Must Know" (rules to writing home from "overseas")
8. May 1942, First half of the Month spent at Ft. Lewis then his infantry is shipped to an unknown Alaskan base.
  - May 11, includes the dos and don'ts of censorship
  - May 20, post card posted from Ketchikan Alaska
9. June to July 1942, Jack's first months in Alaska, includes descriptions of his meals and daily doings.
  - June 13, includes political cartoon depicting the importance of the U.S. holding Alaska
10. August to September 1942, basic descriptions of army life in Alaska.
  - August 6, includes a description of the censorship of pictures
  - August 14, censored
  - September 3, censored, as he is describing a trip out of the camp
11. October to November 1942, descriptions of life in Alaska, includes recreation and the irregular mail delivery.
12. December 1942 to January 1943, Jack is promoted but rejects the promotion in order to stay at his current post. However he is later ordered to another post anyway.
  - December 6, honorably discharged as an enlisted man and sworn in as a warrant officer. But Jack reverts to Sargent after receiving orders to report to another post
  - December 16, ordered to new post as a warrant officer
  - January 29, newspaper clippings with stories covering U.S. troops stationed in Alaska involved in repealing Japanese troops
13. February to March 1943: life in Alaska and the selection process for promotion.
  - Feb 6, description of the process of applying for a promotion within the U.S. Army

- Feb. 16 Entertainment in the army
- March 12 Note on the electricity at the camp and insurance in the army
- 14. April to May 1943: Army life in Alaska and Jack Weaver's transition back to the United States.
  - April 23, mention of Alaska becoming a state
  - May 12, mention of the process Jack Weaver goes through to be promoted and get into OCS
- 15. July 1943: Arrival and training at Fort Belvoir, VA., being trained at Officer Candidate School, Jack Weaver acting as Platoon Leader.
  - July 24, training routine in OCS
  - Thursday Night (July 31), schedule for training in the OCS
- 16. August 2 to August 15, 1943, in-depth descriptions of Training at Fort Belvoir.
- 17. August 16, 1943- August 30, 1943, Training at Fort Belvoir.
  - August 21, mentioning war bonds and army pay
  - August 29, letter to the bond office
- 18. September 1943, in-depth descriptions of training and life at Fort Belvoir.
  - September 5, gives a breakdown of the financial cost of being in the army
- 19. October 1, 1943-October 11, 1943, Training at Fort Belvoir.
  - October 1 & 2, Mention of Jack's time in Washington when he gets passes to leave the base
  - October 9, mention of Jack's plans in Washington
- 20. October 17, 1943- October 31, 1943, Training at Fort Belvoir.
  - October 18, Postcard with image of Washington D.C.
  - October 19 & 31, Jack's time in Washington
- 21. November 1943, Training at Fort Belvoir and the Weaver's plans for after his graduation.
- 22. Ruth to Jack, May - July 1942, Life in St. Louis during the war particularly of events attended by Ruth and some mention of her job and sorority life.
  - May 30, rationing
- 23. August - November 1942, Life in St. Louis during the war with descriptions of Ruth's day to day and events she attends.

-September 27, break down of Ruth's federal taxes

-October 4, mention of the World Series

-October 9, mention of the World Series

-November 1, rationing

24. January - March 1943, Ruth continues to work for UMS and take part in sorority and church events.

-January 8, explanation of Ruth's pay for work and she mentions rationing

-February 4, rationing

-February 10, rationing and the conditions in Springfield for Ruth's friend Edna

25. April - June 1943, Ruth continues to work for UMS and take part in sorority and church events.

-April 10, mention of rationing and mention of Ruth's hours at work

-April 27, projections of the war ending in 1945 by the Washington Letter

-May 9, predictions for the war

26. July - August 1943 Ruth continues to work for UMS and take part in sorority and church events, in addition she is now cleaning up her new apartment.

-July 26, mention of WAVES and the application process

-August 2, accident at Lambert field killing the Mayor

August 5, mention of cigarette habits

-August 17, war predictions

-August 30, description of another man's (Bob) experience in Alaska

-August 31, Black out Practice

27. September 1943, Ruth continues her normal life in St. Louis with her work, the sorority and church activities but has begun planning her trip to Washington for Jack's graduation.

-September 1, Mention of Black out regulations

-September 2, Ruth describes the Black out

-September 19, Mention of a Bond Show

28. October - November 1943 Ruth continues with her normal activities but includes her preparations for leaving.

- October 10, mention of the cardinals game and some contemporary poetry
- October 12, more contemporary poetry
- October 21, mention of the train to Washington and where it stops and what company
- October 23, Ruth talks about train prices and different lines
- October 26, Ruth continues to explain her plans for the train and its price
- November 3, mention of War Chest and how it is handled

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