
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MS 1179
CONFER, LAWRENCE WILLIAM 1926-1985
Correspondence, 1943-1945

DESCRIPTION

Correspondence and photographs of Lawrence William Confer, sent to his family in Tucson while he was serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II. In his letters, Confer discusses attending Mass on base, receiving a "Your Letter from Home" newsletter sent to him from Tucson Laundry and Dry Cleaners and Oliver Drachman, and attending a USO show featuring the Andrews Sisters, Jimmy Durante, and Sophie Tucker. Confer also had a seemingly insatiable craving for his mother's homemade fudge and frequently requested more. In a letter dated August 16, 1945, he described the celebration when the war ended, "everybody went wild. Search lights crisscrossed the sky, horns, sirens and whistles from the ships in the harbor blew, and flares by the hundreds and of all colors went up. It was bigger and better and noisier than any 4th of July I have seen."

1 Box, .25 linear ft.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Lawrence William Confer was born in Tucson, Arizona on July 18, 1926. His parents were Roy M. and Katherine M. Confer; siblings included Phil, Don, David (Dade), Joe, and Betty. Lawrence attended Tucson High School, but quit when he was 17 to join the U.S. Navy. He attended boot camp and torpedo training school in San Diego, then was shipped out to Hawaii in June 1944. Once in Hawaii, letters were inspected, then the envelopes were stamped "passed by censor U.S.N."; letters had occasional chunks cut out of them (presumably by the censors). By July, Lawrence was training on P.T. boats, his location undisclosed. Lawrence Confer died in Tucson on March 5, 1985.

ACQUISITION

This collection was received from Lawrence Confer's daughter, Debbie Confer, in 2000.

ACCESS

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

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PROCESSING

The collection was processed by Dena McDuffie, December 2000.