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## MS-178: David Woods '52 Papers

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## MS-178: David Woods '52 Papers

### Description

The David Woods Collections consists primarily of letters Woods wrote during his time serving in the Army, stationed in the Philippines. The letters are from August 1, 1946 to September 10, 1947. He was a consistent writer and sent letters home usually at least once a week. A concerned man, he frequently apologizes to his parents, and for not writing more often. All of the letters, except one, are addressed to his family, including his mother, Margaret McGaughy Woods, his father, David Walker Woods II and his little brother, William A. Woods. He liked to take photos and send them home, and he mentions a few times how thankful he is for the camera his father sent him. The collection does not include any letters that he received back from his family or friends.

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### Keywords

World War II, WWII, Second World War, War Correspondence, Philippines

### Disciplines

European History | History | Military History | United States History

**Guide to the  
David Woods '52 Papers**



**Gettysburg College, Musselman Library  
Special Collections & College Archives**

**Processed by Kathryn Shirey  
June 24, 2015**

## **MS – 178: Papers of David Woods**

(2 boxes, .75 cubic feet)

Location: 5/F/7

Inclusive Dates: 1946-1980

Bulk Dates: 1946-1947

*Processed by: Kathryn Shirey (Shippensburg University M.A. student)  
(June 24, 2015)*

### **Provenance**

The David Woods '52 Papers were purchased at the estate sale of Virginia and David Woods by Gettysburg College Special Collections in 2012.

### **Biography**

David Woods was student who attended Gettysburg College on the G.I. Bill, after serving in the Army as a crypto technician in the Philippines. He graduated from the college in 1952. Born on April 25, 1929, he was the great-great-grandson of Samuel Simon Schmucker, who founded Gettysburg College and the Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary.

At Gettysburg College, he was a physics major. He was very active in extracurricular activities including the Rifle Team and Spanish Club. He was on the staff of "Mercury," which was a literary magazine. He was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon and the Outing Club. He was president of the TKE Alumni Association of Gettysburg College. He participated in ROTC. He was also in the Arnold Society, a national honor society for ROTC members.

Following graduation, he earned his master's degree and graduate work from Penn State. He also became president of the Adams County Shrine Club, a life member of Gettysburg Elks Lodge 1045, a life member of American Legion Post 202, Gettysburg, a member of Good Samaritan Lodge 336, Gettysburg, a member of the Kent Island, MD Yacht Club and the Zembo Shrine Yacht Club. He earned his Captain's License from the U.S. Coast Guard.

He was a teacher for the Gettysburg Area School System, retiring in 1989. Woods was also a veteran of the U.S. Air Force Reserves, retiring in 1972 as a major after 20 years of service. He was married to Virginia Arlene Kressman Woods. David Woods died on August 22, 2003.

## Scope and Content Notes

The David Woods Collections consists primarily of letters Woods wrote during his time serving in the Army, stationed in the Philippines. The letters are from August 1, 1946 to September 10, 1947. He was a consistent writer and sent letters home usually at least once a week. A concerned man, he frequently apologizes to his parents, and for not writing more often. All of the letters, except one, are addressed to his family, including his mother, Margaret McGaughy Woods, his father, David Walker Woods II and his little brother, William A. Woods. He liked to take photos and send them home, and he mentions a few times how thankful he is for the camera his father sent him. The collection does not include any letters that he received back from his family or friends.

The collection also includes a copy of the Schmucker Ancestry and a death notice of Mrs. Mary S. Schmucker. A price list of popular photography in 1947 and a letter addressed to Mrs. and Mr. Woods in 1980. There are two Gettysburg College publications including a commencement ceremony program from 1951 and a ten-year reunion program for the class of 1952.

His artifacts include a scrapbook with photos from his military services. The scrapbook is about half full, with photos of Woods and his fellow servicemen. It does not have any photos from his time spent at Gettysburg College. Also included are seven small political pins, a slide ruler and a metal compass, in the original case.

## Series Description

This collection is divided into two Series:

**Series 1: Letters from David Woods**

**Series 2: Photographs and David Woods' Items.**

### Box 1

1-0 Finding Aid

#### **Series 1: Letters from David Woods**

- 1-1 **David Woods '52 Papers: August – September 1946:** These letters include Woods' early military service including his arrival at Camp George Meade, MD and his basic training at Camp Lee, VA.
- 1-2 **David Woods '52 Papers: October – December 1946:** These letters include details about Woods' training, including his 5-hour class sessions and 2 hours of typing class. It also includes his travels to Pittsburgh, PA; the western part of Arizona; California; and Chicago, IL.

- 1-3 **David Woods '52 Papers: December 1946 – January 1947:** January 7, 1947, Woods was shipped out to Manila in the Philippines. He was on the “fastest ship in the Pacific.”
- 1-4 **David Woods '52 Papers: February – March 1947:** In these letters, Woods' has requested that his mother please date and number each letter she mails because the air mail is too slow. He mentions that he was on the last Victory Ship and he asks his father for a camera.
- 1-5 **David Woods '52 Papers: March – April 1947:** These letters mentioned that Woods' sent home an Army patch for his younger brother. He assured his mother that he has not been shot and thanks his father for the camera. He also informed his family that he was promoted to Private First Class.
- 1-6 **David Woods '52 Papers: April – July 1947:** Woods wrote that he might be sent to Guam, later in the month of April he finds out he is not. Woods also informed his family that the Philippines Airline started hauling the mail, not the Army, and the employees have went on strike.
- 1-7 **David Woods '52 Papers: August – September 1947:** In these letters, Woods tells his mother that there was a lot of shooting going on. He also mentions that he got another promotion to T/5 rating.
- 1-8 **David Woods '52 Papers: Miscellaneous Letters:** This folder includes a 1947 popular photography price list, A copy of a handwritten Schmucker ancestry (undated), a death notice for Mary Schmucker (dated February, but no year) and a letter addressed to Mrs. and Mr. Woods in 1980.
- 1-9 **David Woods '52 Papers: Gettysburg College Publications:** 1951 commencement program and Class of 1952 Ten-year reunion program.

## **Box 2**

### **Series 2: Photographs and David Woods' Items**

**David Woods' Pins:** Includes 7 lapel pins: Modern Health Crusader; Third Liberty Loan; Keep Coolidge; For Governor, John S. Fisher; Nixon Lodge; Liberty Loan; American Red Cross.

**David Woods' Metal Compass:** In original box.

**David Woods' Slide Ruler:** In original case.

**David Woods' Scrapbook:** Includes photos of Woods' time serving in the Philippines. Some photos are of him, some are of fellow service members and some are landscapes.

**Removed from Collection**

Children's Book: Billy Whiskers at the Fair by F.G. Wheeler

Location: Added to rare book collection.