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MS-204: Elisabeth Covington Smith Dewing Collection

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MS-204: Elisabeth Covington Smith Dewing Collection

Description
Elisabeth Covington Smith served as an officer in the Women's Army Air Corps and the Army at the end of WWII and during the Korean War. She loved to travel, visiting many countries during her time in the service and after her retirement in 1965. This collection contains photographs of her travels through Japan, Thailand, India, and the Philippines 1950-1953, photographs of For Lee, Virginia and a base near Atlantic City, New Jersey in the 1940s, her military medals ribbons and pins, and her uniform (ca. 1965) with cap, skirt, and jacket (with all insignia, buttons, patches and bars.)

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Keywords
U.S. Army Women's Air Corp (WAAC), Korean War 1950-1953, Japan, Thailand, India, Philippines

Disciplines
History | Military History | United States History | Women's History
Guide to the
Elisabeth Covington Smith Dewing Collection

January 2017
Provenance: Gift of Nancy and Andrew Dewing, May 2016.

Subjects:
U.S. Army Women’s Air Corp (WAAC)
Korean War 1950-1953
Japan
Thailand
India
Philippines

Biography:
Elisabeth Covington Smith was born on 25 April 1916 in Philadelphia, PA, to Earle Covington Smith (1885-1965), an engineer, and Elizabeth Fulton Drummond (1888-1916), a member of an old Philadelphia family. Elisabeth’s mother died within six weeks of her birth from complications of childbirth. In June, 1917, her father enlisted in the Army, Officers Reserve Corps, Ordinance Department and sailed to France in early 1918. Elisabeth was raised in the home of her paternal grandparents by her aunt, May Smith.

Elisabeth (Bess, Betty) attended Friends Select School in Philadelphia and the University of Pennsylvania, majoring in English and French. She later attended business school and was employed by AT&T. On 21 March 1944, she enlisted in the Women’s Army Air Corps, quickly rising to 1st Sergeant. In 1947, as the Army Air Corp was separating out to become the Air Force, she accepted a position as Warrant Officer and remained in the Army for the rest of her career.

During the beginning of the Korean War, Elisabeth was stationed in Japan, assigned to the office of General MacArthur. While in Japan, she used her leave time to travel through Japan, Hong Kong, Thailand, India, and the Philippines. A later posting in France allowed her to tour all over Europe when on leave. She met her future husband on a steamer while touring the Greek islands. Some of her other postings were New Jersey, Texas, California, Wyoming, Colorado. Her last posting was at the Pentagon and it was from there that she retired as a fourth level Warrant Officer (CWO-W-4) in February 1965. In March, she and Steven Bronson Dewing were married in Fairfax, Virginia. The Dewings moved to Maine and continued their love of travel. Following her husband’s death in 1996, Elisabeth continued traveling the world. Her last trips included Chile, Peru and Easter Island at age 88, sailing the Nile at 89, and a train ride to the bottom of Copper Canyon, Mexico, at 90.
Elisabeth Covington Smith Dewing died 5 January 5 2007.

**Scope and Content Notes:**
The collection consists photographs of Elisabeth’s travels through Japan, Thailand, India, and the Philippines 1950-1953; photographs of Fort Lee, Virginia and a base near Atlantic City, New Jersey in the 40s; her military medals, ribbons and pins; and her uniform (ca. 1965) with cap, skirt, and jacket (with all insignia, buttons, patches and bars).

**Box 1**

1 Inventory and research
2 Documents: Military Papers
3 Photos: Elisabeth Covington Smith
4 Photos: Atlantic City, New Jersey, 1944
5 Photos: Ft. Lee, Virginia, June 1950
6 Photos: Japan, Tokyo (Takashimaya and Ginza Christmas Decorations), 1950
7 Photos: Japan, Tokyo, 1950-1951
8 Photos: Japan, Shizuura Rest Hotel, Numazu, November 1950
9 Photos: Japan, Kamakura, 1951
10 Photos: Japan, Yugawara, Spring 1951
11 Photos: Japan, Fujiya Hotel, Hakone, September, 1951
12 Photos: Japan, Enoshima Island, Kanagawa Prefecture, November 1951
13 Photos: Japan, Nikko, January 1952
14 Photos: Japan, Asa Kanko, August 1952
15 Photos: Japan, Office in Yokohama, Hallandia Courts, October 1952
16 Photos: Japan, Osaka Castle, fishing boats, rice farmers – on the way to Kokara, October 1952
17 Photos: Japan, a trip on the “Q” boat in Tokyo Bay, August 1953
18 Photos: Japan, unidentified
19 Photos: India
20 Photos: Philippines, February 1953
21 Photos: Thailand
22 Photos: Miscellaneous-Friends
23 Photos: Miscellaneous-unidentified 1964

**Box 2**

1 Medals: U.S. Armed Forces National Defense Service Medal with ribbon and bar, original box
2 Medals: U.S. Army of Occupation WWII Service Medal with ribbon, bar and Japan clasp
3 Medals: WWII American Campaign Medal with ribbons and 2 bars, original box
4 Medals: Two U.S. Armed Forces Victory WWII Medals with ribbons & bars, original boxes
5 Medals: U.S. Army Commendation Medal, with ribbon, bar pin, and original box
6 Medals: Bronze Star Medal, ribbon, bar, pin, original box
7 Medals: Good Conduct Medal, original box
8 Medals: Two U.S. Korean Service Medals, ribbons, bar pin, one original box
10 Pins: WWII U.S. Air Corps Pilot Wings and Propeller round pin
11 Pins: WWII U.S. Army Warrant Officer Shoulder Rank, Jr. Grade Pin
12 Pins: This We’ll Defend pin, Meyer Insignia pin
13 Pins: Four U.S. Army insignia pins
14 Pins: U.S. pin
15 Pins: Two small Oak Cluster clasps

Box 3

Textiles: U. S. Army uniform, ca. 1965, consisting of skirt, cap, and jacket, complete with all insignia, buttons, patches, and bars.