

Joseph A. Foley (1913-1943)
Papers, 1936-1943, bulk 1942-1943

Manuscript Collection, FAM-35

.417 linear feet (1 box)

Biographical Sketch: Corporal Joseph A. Foley was born in Woburn, Massachusetts, in 1913, the son of James Walter and Alice May Foley. He was a graduate of Woburn High School and a chief usher at the Strand Theatre. During the Works Progress Administration he worked as the district chief injury claim investigator for four years. He attended Bentley College in Waltham, Massachusetts. Foley joined the military in March 1942 and was trained at Camp Lee in Virginia and Mitchel Field in New York. He was selected for the medical corps and sent to the Walter Reed Hospital in Washington to train in First Aid and Hospitalization, graduating with second honors. Throughout his training he regularly sent letters home to Woburn. In December 1942, Foley volunteered to serve in North Africa where medical servicemen were needed. While serving in the 2nd Air Defense Wing at an undisclosed location, he continued to send letters home. On June 27th 1943 he was killed in a truck accident near Oran, Algiers. He was survived by his parents, one brother, James W. Jr. Foley, and four sisters, Mrs. Margaret Fitzgibbons, Mrs. Alice Ambrose, Mrs. Mary Kelleher and Rita Foley.

Scope and Contents Note: The collection consists primarily of Joseph A. Foley's letters sent home to his family in Woburn, Massachusetts during his training and deployment as a medical officer in the U.S. Army during World War II. The majority of the 129 letters are written to his mother Alice May Foley, with six to his father James Walter Foley (items 40, 74, 86, 92, 105, and 128), one to both his parents (item 123) and one to his sister Rita (item 115). Foley's letters (Series I) are mailed from Camp Lee, VA (Folder 1), Mitchel Field, NY (Folders 2, 3 and 4) and Walter Reed Hospital in Washington D.C. (Folder 3). After deployment in January 1943, Foley writes from North Africa (Folders 4, 5 and 6). Folder 7 contains four empty envelopes addressed to Foley's mother, three from Foley during his training in Washington, D.C. and one from his sister Mary. Incoming mail (Series II) consists of eight letters: seven sent to Foley in April 1942, apparently from friends and relatives, and one May 1943 letter to Foley from his mother that was returned stamped "status deceased." Series III consists of related material in four folders. Ephemera (Folder 1) includes clippings of Army base newspapers *The Camp Lee Traveler* and *MEDICO*, and St. Anthony's Guild pamphlets and seals addressed to Foley's father. Images (Folder 2) includes a reproduced photograph of Foley and a 1936 photograph of an unidentified woman on the beach. Three additional digital images of Foley are also part of the collection. Biographical Material (Folder 3) includes copies of five 1943 *Woburn Daily Times* articles about Foley's fatal accident and Pro-Burial Mass. Separated Items (Folder 4) contains ten items taken from Foley's letters, including two postcards to Foley, a copy of President Roosevelt's address to congress, three *MEDICO* clippings, a military comic, an illustration of military equipment, a completed medical center exam, and a memo with packing instructions for embarkation.

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Arrangement: Arranged in three series: 1. Outgoing letters (chronological); 2. Incoming letters (chronological); 3 Related Materials (topical).

Acquisition: The collection was acquired as a gift from Jayne Lee of Woburn, niece of Joseph A. Foley.

Access: Unrestricted.

Copyright: Contact the Archivist about questions on the copyright status of this collection.

Preferred Citation: The Joseph A. Foley Papers.

Processor: Anna Van Someren

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Series I: Outgoing correspondence

Folder Item

1	1	March 30, 1942
	2	March 31, 1942
	3	April 02, 1942
	4	April 05, 1942
	5	April 07, 1942
	6	April 10, 1942
	7	April 12, 1942
	8	April 13, 1942
	9	April 15, 1942
	10	April 16, 1942
	11	April 20, 1942
	12	April 20, 1942
	13	April 22, 1942
	14	April 28, 1942
	15	May 06, 1942
	16	May 19, 1942
	17	May 23, 1942
	18	May 26, 1942
	19	May 27, 1942
	20	May 29, 1942
	21	June 09, 1942
	22	June 11, 1942
	23	June 13, 1942
2	24	June 15, 1942
	25	June 21, 1942
	26	June 24, 1942
	27	June 27, 1942
	28	June 30, 1942
	29	July 02, 1942
	30	July 04, 1942
	31	July 07, 1942
	32	July 09, 1942
	33	July 10, 1942
	34	July 13, 1942

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Folder Item

2	35	July 15, 1942	
	36	July 21, 1942	
	37	July 26, 1942	
	38	July 29, 1942	
	39	August 01, 1942	
	40	August 04, 09, 10, 1942	
	41	August 05, 1942	
	42	August 06, 1942	
	43	August 11, 1942	
	44	August 18, 1942	
	45	August 22, 1942	
	46	August 24, 1942	
	47	August 27, 1942	
	48	August 29, 1942	
	49	August 31, 1942	
	3	50	September 02, 1942
		51	September 08, 1942
		52	September 10, 1942
		53	September 14, 1942
54		September 16, 1942	
55		September 19, 1942	
56		September 21, 1942	
57		September 26, 1942	
58		October 03, 1942	
59		October 07, 1942	
60		October 08, 1942	
61		October 12, 1942	
62		October 13, 1942	
63		October 16, 1942	
64		October 18, 1942	
65	October 20, 1942		
66	October 23, 1942		
67	October 23, 1942		
68	October 29, 1942		
69	November 03, 1942		
70	November 05, 1942		
71	November 06, 1942		
72	November 09, 1942		
73	November 12, 1942		

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3	74	November 18, 1942
4	75	November 19, 1942
	76	November 20, 1942
	77	December 01, 1942
	78	December 05, 1942
	79	December 08, 1942
	80	December 09, 1942
	81	December 11, 1942
	82	December 18, 1942
	83	December 20, 1942
	84	December 21, 1942
	85	December 24, 1942
	86	December 26, 1942
	87	December 31, 1942
	88	January 01, 1943
	89	January 02, 1943
	90	January 02, 1943
	91	January 04, 1943
	92	January 06, 08, 1943
	93	January 10, 1943
	94	January 12, 1943
	95	January 23, 1943
	96	January 27, 1943
	97	February 04, 1943
5	98	February 17, 1943
	99	February 24, 1943
	100	March 06, 1943
	101	March 02, 03, 1943
	102	March 18, 1943
	103	March 25, 1943
	104	March 29, 1943
	105	March 30, 1943
	106	April 01, 1943
	107	April 02, 1943
	108	April 06, 1943
	109	April 11, 1943
	110	April 16, 1943
	111	April 20, 1943
	112	April 25, 1943
	113	April 28, 1943
	114	May 01, 1943

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5	115	May 02, 1943
	116	May 10, 1943
	117	May 13, 1943
	118	May 14, 1943
	119	May 18, 1943
6	120	May 22, 27, 1943
	121	May 23, 1943
	122	May 26, 1943
	123	May 30, 1943
	124	June 04, 1943
	125	June 05, 1943
	126	June 15, 1943
	127	June 18, 1943
	128	June 21, 1943
	129	June 23, 1943

Series II: Incoming correspondence

Folder Item

1	1	no date
	2	April 13, 1942
	3	April 15, 1942
	4	April 15, 1942
	5	April 21, 1942
	6	April 24, 1942
	7	April 25, 1942
	8	May 31, 1943

Series III: Related Materials

Folder

1	Ephemera, 1906-1943
2	Images, 1942
3	Biographical materials, 1943
4	Separated materials, 1942-1943