Guide to the
Files
of
Colonel John C. Nickerson Jr.

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Guide to the Files of Colonel John C. Nickerson Jr.

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Files of Colonel John C. Nickerson Jr

Collection number: Special Collections Colonel John C. Nickerson Jr.

Creator: Colonel John C. Nickerson Jr.

Extent: 4 linear ft.


Administrative Information

Access Restrictions: None

Publication Rights: Property rights reside with the repository.

Provenance: Gift of David Bowman.

Preferred Citation: [Identification of item] Files of Colonel John C. Nickerson Jr.  
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Scope and Content

The Files (4 linear ft.) includes a total of 7 Archival Boxes containing 26 subject folders. The Colonel John C. Nickerson Jr files is primarily focused on the records of his General Court Martial by the Commanding General Headquarters, Third United States Army. In addition to the official court martial records are files collected on the correspondence of
the Defense Counsel and the Trial Counsel during the conduct of the Trial. Additional information can be found in the many newspaper articles by several of the leading news agencies who covered the Trial proceedings.

Biographical Note

Colonel John C. Nickerson Jr was born in Paris Kentucky on November 18, 1915, to the parents Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Nickerson. His father was the Division engineer for the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, Cincinnati Division. John Nickerson has one brother and one sister. John's brother graduated from the University of Kentucky as a mechanical engineer in 1940. John's sister was Mary L. Nickerson. John attended grammar school and high school in Paris. After graduation from high school, John attended the University of Kentucky for one year, studying Industrial Chemistry. John was accepted into the U.S. Military Academy, West Point and graduated in June 13, 1938. After graduation was commissioned into the Artillery branch of the Army. John was assigned to the Scofield Barracks in Hawaii. John spent the next two years with a motorized Artillery Regiment. In the fall of 1940 was transferred back to the United States and assigned to the 4th Infantry Division for a short period. In 1941 was sent to Fort Sill for the Battery Officers Course. After this period was assigned to the 8th Infantry Division at Fort Jackson, South Carolina where he commanded a Artillery battery. John reached the rank of Battalion commander of the 56th Field Artillery Battalion. John went overseas in December 1943 as Lieutenant Colonel, commanding a Field Artillery Battalion, 8th Infantry Division. During the War Years John received the Bronze Star, Air Medal, two Silver Stars, the Luxemburg Croix de Guerra and the French Croix de Guerra. John returned to the United States in July of 1945. After returning to the States, John was assigned to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology. John returned to school and earned his M.S. Degree in rocket science from the California Institute of Technology. In the fall of 1954 John was made Executive Officer for the Rocket Branch Office of Research and Development Division, Chief of Ordnance. John went on to become Chairman of a committee known as the Jupiter committee. John was a member of the American Rocket Society.
Note to Researcher

The *Guide to the Colonel John C. Nickerson Jr files* is organized into six major subjects or series. Details on documents contained within each of the major subjects can be found by accessing the on line data base http://www.uah.edu/library, or manually from the University of Alabama in Huntsville, M. Louis Salmon Library. Dept of Archives/Special Collections, located in the lower level of the library.

All materials of this collection---books, documents, artifacts, photographs, drawings, film or film clips etc.---may not circulate outside of the library.
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