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ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

**BURTON, FREDERICK CULLEN, 1919-1945**

PAPERS, 1933-1949  
(bulk dates, 1940-1945)  
Quantity .5 linear ft.

ACQUISITION: Donated by Robert R. Calhoon

ACCESS: This collection is open for research without restrictions.

PHOTOGRAPHS: Photographs are located in Box 1.

PRINTED MATERIAL: Printed Material are located in Box 1.

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PROCESSED BY: Anne Hinseth, July, 2000

## History

Frederick Cullen Burton was born March 4, 1919 to Goldie P. and Fred Louis Burton in Academy, South Dakota. Burton attended Platte High School and graduated in 1936. He then went on to major in Journalism at the University of South Dakota from 1939-41 and was a talented bassoonist and writer. Although war was repugnant to him, Burton felt strongly that it was his duty to fight. Not willing to wait until the United States entered World War II, Burton joined the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) in Winnipeg, Manitoba in September of 1941. He served as an aircraftsman on the ground crew. When the United States entered the war, Burton was discharged from the Canadian Air Force and promptly joined the US Infantry. He attended officer's training in Fort Benning, GA and earned the rank of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant. In September of 1943, he was sent overseas and fought in Italy and France, as a part of 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. Burton was awarded the Bronze Star for action in Cassino, Italy,. Sometime after this he was promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant. Burton also received the Oak Leaf Cluster and a posthumous Purple Heart. He was killed during a patrol in Gries, France on January 24, 1945. He is buried at the United States Military Cemetery in Epinal, France.

## Scope and Content Note

Burton Collection is divided in to eight series: **Correspondence, Diaries, Manuscripts, Military Documents, Photographs, Printed Materials, Scholastic Documents and Typescripts.**

The **Correspondence** series consists mostly of letters written by Frederick Burton to family and friends while he was in the service. The letters are quite engaging and convey Burton's thoughts and feelings about the war. In the miscellaneous section there are letters from Guiseppe Stefoni to Burton's parents. Stefoni had befriended Burton during his time in Italy and after Burton's death he corresponded with his parents. The section also contains letters of condolence to his parents from various friends and family written at the time of Burton's death.

The **Diary** series contains a diary written by Burton while he was at war. Robert R. Calhoon described it best in his transcription of the diary as "not simply a record of training and battle experiences; he discloses in a tightly-written narrative his very deeply-held beliefs and opinions on army life, death, the beauty of the literature and music he so loved, economic justice, women, the officer hierarchy, and other matters of lasting import."

The **Manuscripts** series consists of Burton's writings. It contains poems, stories and essays. Much of the material is untitled and undated. Three items that were titled are a journal entry labeled "on train to Toronto" and two poems "A Punny Tale" and "Troopship."

The **Military Documents** series includes Burton's discharge papers charges, personal documents that were held by the military censors until they were deemed harmless, Pay Records, Clearance Certificates that stated Burton was clear of debt, and Special Orders.

The **Photographs** seem to have been taken when Burton served in Italy. There are pictures of some of the people he met, examples of the destructions of war, other service men, Rome and the Mountains. Included is a photo of Guiseppe Stefoni that was enclosed in one of his letters. There are also negatives of photographs Burton took when he served with the RCAF in Canada.

The **Printed Materials** series includes Military booklets collected during Burton's time in the Army, newspaper clippings of Burtons Obituary, Ernie Pyle's war column and other miscellaneous clippings from USD and war news.

The **Scholastic Documents** consist of the grades from Platte High School and a USD report card, a transcript from the registrar's office, and an English test.

The **Typescripts** contain a booklet compiled by Robert R. Calhoon. He transcribed Burton's hand written diary and some of the letters that are contained in this collection. Especially interesting is the certificate of death, which tells the details of Burton's death. Also included are poems, essays and stories. The Phi Eta Sigma Picnic and the undated essays seem to have been written while he was at the University and read like newspaper stories. Some of the short stories seem to be written during the war, because "The Eight Ball" is written on Maxwell Field, Montgomery, Alabama letterhead.

Box No. Description**Box 1**

## CORRESPONDENCE

## Incoming

1943 –1944, n.d.

## Outgoing

Molly Anderson (Mrs. A.J. Anderson) (1 folder)

Nov. 4, 1943– Aug. 23, 1944

Carl Bollinger (1 folder)

July 20, 1942

Burton (?) (1 folder)

Jan. 2, 1945

Clark Burton (1 folder)

June 19, 1942- January 15, 1945

Emma Burton (1 folder)

March 18, – Nov. 14, 1944

Mr. And Mrs. Fred Burton

April 1937-1941 (1 folder)

1942 (1 folder)

1943 (1 folder)

January – June 1944 (1 folder)

July 1944 – January 1945 (1 folder)

n.d. (1 folder)

Mildred Calhoon (Mrs. Robert R. Calhoon)

February 20, 1944 – January 7, 1945

Gerry (?)

January 13, 1942

George Donald Lillibridge

April 7, 1944 – December 30, 1944

Albert Luker

January 10, 1945

Mrs. E. D. Pasek

March 21, 1944

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Prather

March 8, 1933 – January 7, 1945

Uncle Rodney and Aunt Dorothy

November 23, 1944

## Miscellaneous

Guiseppe Stefoni

November 1946 – December 1949

Various Sources

January 29, 1940 –1945, n.d.

## DIARIES

June 11 – Dec. 28, 1941

## MANUSCRIPTS

“On train to Toronto,” journal entry

“A Punny Story,” Poem

“Troopship,” Poem

Short Stories, Essays and Poems (9), undated

Box No. Description

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**Box 1 cont.**

MILITARY DOCUMENTS

- Discharge Papers (1 folder)
  - Royal Canadian Air Force May 20, 1942
  - Promotion to Corporal August 10, 1942
  - Promotion to Sergeant September 15, 1942
  - Promotion to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant April 7, 1943
- General (1 folder)
  - January 9, 1943 – January 31, 1945
  - Map of 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Campaign, France Germany Austria
  - Map of 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Campaign, Italy
- Pay Records, Clearance (1 folder)
  - Authorization for Allotment of Pay
    - April 8, 1943
    - May 3, 1943
    - September 3, 1943
    - October 1943
  - Clearance Certificates
    - Aug. 14, 1943(2)
    - September 4, 1943
  - Soldier's Individual Pay Record August 6, 1942
- Special Orders (1 folder)
  - August 10, 1942 – March 24, 1944

PHOTOGRAPHS (1 folder)

- Canada (13 Negatives)
- Italy (49 photos)
- People
  - Guiseppe Stefoni
  - Unknown soldier

PRINTED MATIERALS

- Military (1 folder)
  - Graduation Program Officer Candidate Class 24<sup>th</sup> Company January 6 and 8
  - Maxwell Field, Alabama Headquarters S.E.A.A.F. Training Center 1942
  - The Story of the 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division
  - Your National Service Life Insurance Manual: What Every Serviceman, Servicewoman and Their families should know Told in words they can understand by Hubert T. Faulk
- Newspaper Clippings
  - Obituaries (1 folder)
  - Ernie Pyle Column (1 folder)
    - December 14, 1943 – February 3, 1944 (24 clippings)
    - Undated Columns sorted alphabetically by title (58 clippings)
  - Miscellaneous (12 clippings)

Box No. Description

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**Box 1 cont.**

SCHOLASTIC MATERIALS (1 folder)

Eight Grade Finals Scores

English 5 Test

University of South Dakota Report Card

June 26, 1940

February 14, 1941

University of South Dakota Transcript May 16, 1942

TYPESCRIPTS

The Diary and Letters of Frederick C. Burton 1919-1945 compiled by  
Robert R. Calhoon February 1992 (1 folder)

Writings

Phi Eta Sigma Picnic May 14, 1941

"Eight Ball"

"The Little Girl Next Door"

"Treaties on Waa-ah(War)"

"The Old Maid", Poem

"Astronomically speaking", Poem (2 copies)

"Blow you mad March wind", Poem

Essays (5), undated