

Major General Raymond F. Hufft Collection

Louisiana National Guard Archive, Jackson Barracks
New Orleans, Louisiana
Object # 2021.002.058

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with Historical Note by Rhett Breerwood, LANG Historian

Revised May 2021

HISTORICAL NOTE

Major General Raymond F. Hufft was a New Orleans native born August 4, 1914. He joined the Louisiana National Guard in 1934 with the 108th Cavalry, Troop I (New Orleans). In 1938, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant.

The unit was reorganized as the 105th Separate Battalion of Coastal Artillery (Anti-Aircraft) just before the beginning of World War II. Hufft left with the unit to Canton Island (Pacific Theater) in 1942, then returned to the United States after approximately one year. He then transferred to the 1st Replacement Battalion, which departed for Europe in November 1943. He became a battalion commander with the First Special Services Force, a prototype of today's Special Forces (popularized as "The Devil's Brigade), and later served with the 180th Infantry Regiment, 45th Division, 7th Army. Hufft was among the first soldiers to arrive in Italy, France, and Germany, participating in many harrowing situations. A sampling of Hufft war stories would include repositioning of an ammunition truck under heavy fire, capturing a Nazi fortress deep behind enemy lines, and securing of the surrender of 75 enemy soldiers in Germany. He was the first Allied officer of the Seventh Army to cross the Rhine River. Lieutenant Colonel Hufft and three of his soldiers crossed at night to reconnoiter the area before the main body of troops moved the next day. Wounded in combat, he was found by medics and spent the last days of the war recovering in a United States hospital. Due to his actions, Hufft is the most decorated Louisiana soldier of World War II.

In 1948, newly elected Louisiana Governor Earl Long appointed Raymond Hufft, aged 33, Adjutant General of the Louisiana National Guard. He is the youngest Louisiana Adjutant General to date (as of 2021). He served two tenures (1948-1952 and 1956-1960), during which time he led responses to events such as Hurricane Audrey and the Port Allen levee crevasse. His influence helped the Louisiana National Guard to acquire Special Forces units in 1958, though they were deactivated in 1972. It was under Hufft's tenure that Hungarian refugees from Soviet oppression found temporary shelter at Jackson Barracks. After resigning as Adjutant General in 1960, Hufft was appointed as the federal customs collector of New Orleans. He died in New Orleans in 1972 at the age of 58.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains biographical research, sketches, testimonials, and accounts of Major General Raymond F. Hufft. It comprises materials pertaining to Hufft's military career, sorted chronologically into subseries: Pre-WWII (1936-1941), WWII (1942-1945), and Adjutant General Career (1948-1960). These subseries include official correspondence, special orders, memorandums, and promotion and resignation documents. Among these are documents signed by Earl K. Long in Box 1, folder 15, and Box 2, folder 11. This collection also includes awards and commendations pertaining to Hufft and his units, as well as official documentation of his medical and professional history. Post-mortem records include correspondence, programs, and newspaper clippings about Hufft's death, his Louisiana National Guard Hall of Fame induction, and the dedication of Hufft Hall. Relevant newspaper clippings from Hufft's career Pre-WWII to after his death are present throughout.

LIST OF SERIES AND SUBSERIES

- Series I. Biographical information**
- Series II. Military career (1936-1960)**
Subseries 1. Pre-WWII (1936-1941)
Subseries 2. WWII (1942-1945)
Subseries 3. Adjutant General career (1948-1960)
Subseries 4. Medical records
- Series III. Post-military life and death (1966-1999, 2009-2011)**
Subseries 1. Later years and death (1966-1972, 2015, undated)
Subseries 2. Honors and awards (1972-1976, 1999, 2009-2011)
- Series IV. Photographs**

CONTAINER INVENTORY

Series Box Subseries Folder

Series I. Biographical Information

Box 1

1. Biographical sketches
2. Statements of personal history (1956)
3. Testimonials and published accounts (1975, 1998, 2001)

Series II. Military Career (1936-1960)

Box 1

Pre-WWII (1936-1941)

4. 1936 Fort MacPherson Investigation (1936)
5. Pre-WWII records (1938)
6. Pre-WWII records (1940-1941)
7. Awards for stabilization of civil unrest in New Orleans during 1934-1935 election period

WWII (1942-1945)

8. WWII Newspaper Clippings (1942-1945, undated)
9. WWII Documentation (1942-1945)
10. WWII Awards (1945-1949)
11. First Special Force Congressional Gold Medal Act (2013)
12. *First Special Service Force* by Burhans (1975)
13. 180th Infantry
14. Notes on 105th Coastal Artillery Battalion (c. WWII)

Adjutant General Career (1948-1960)

15. Selective Service. Earl K. Long communication (1948)
16. Selective Service. Newspaper clippings (1948)

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17. Commendations and Communications (1948)
18. Commendations and Communications (Jan 1949-Aug 1949)
19. Commendations and Communications (September 1949-November 1949)
20. Commendations and Communications (1951)
21. Commendations and Communications (1952-1956)
22. Expense Reports (1948-1949)
23. Expense Reports (1950)
24. Expense Reports (1951-1952)
25. Emergency Operations (1948, 1951)
26. Promotion -- Adjutant General (1948-1949)

Box 2

1. Official Memos and Special Orders (1948-1951)
2. Official Memos and Special Orders (1952-1958)
3. Civil Defense Records. Newspaper Clippings (1949-1951, 1966, undated)
4. Civil Defense Records. Press Releases (1950-1951, 1956)
5. 1950 River Flooding Records (1950)
6. Courses and Special Training (1950-1951)
7. Anti-communism speeches (1950, 1952)
8. Awards (1951)
9. Flight with MSGT Paul Boren (22 January 1952)
10. Resignation (1952)
11. Promotion (1956)
12. Parachute Qualification (1958-1959)
13. Awards (1958)
14. VHF Channel 4 Lawsuit (1958)
15. TAG Conference (1959)
16. Resignation

Medical records

17. Medical Records (1939-1956)

Series III. Post-military life and death (1960-1999, 2009-2011)

Box 2

Later years and death

18. Newspaper Clippings (1966-1972, undated)
19. Death of Raymond Hufft Newspaper Clippings (1972)
20. Death of Raymond Hufft Records (c. 1972, 2015)

Honors and Awards

21. Hufft Hall Dedication Records (1972-1973)
22. Hufft Hall Dedication Records (1973, 1976, 1999)
23. LANG Hall of Fame Induction Records (2009)
24. LANG Hall of Fame Induction Records (2010-2011)

Series IV. Photographs

Box 2

25. Photographs