

Accession # UNK.043



Louisiana National Guard Archives, Jackson Barracks  
New Orleans, Louisiana, April, 2018

Collection: RAYMOND H. FLEMING COLLECTION

Location: Jackson Barracks Museum

Extent: Five (5) boxes.- letter sized document boxes, 39.5Lx26.5Hx12.5W centimeters  
Arranged and described by: Rhett Breerwood and Titus Firmin

Access Restrictions: None

Provenance and Acquisition: Part of the organizational files from his tenure that were donated by the Adjutant General's office to the archives. Produced by the Adjutant General's office between 1920 and 1974 dates and transferred to the vertical files of the AGO library prior to 2005. Damaged in hurricane Katrina 2005. Frozen, cleaned and re-folded by Louisiana Binding Service 2006-2011. Reorganized and finding aids produced by museum staff 2012-2018. An earlier "Huey Long" series finding aid created in 2013 under accession # UNK.088 is now included in this finding aid (folders 6-18 and oversized folder UNK.043.006).

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Preferred Citation: [item], Raymond H. Fleming Collection, Louisiana National Guard Archives, New Orleans Louisiana.

Scope and Content Note: 1928-1976

Five document boxes of personal papers produced or collected by Raymond H. Fleming. The bulk of the collection consists of correspondence which has been categorized as either "Military" or "Personal". As the Adjutant General, much of Fleming's letters contain a mix of official, unofficial, military, and civilian nature. These two characters of mail could also be interpreted/categorized as more or less "Official" or "Less than Official" and should be regarded lightly.

Historical Note:

Raymond Hartwell Fleming was born on July 5, 1889 in Waxahachie, Texas to Jesse H. Fleming and Viola Middleton. Fleming attended local schools in Texas before attending Trinity University in San Antonio where he received a B.A. degree. In 1916, Fleming enlisted as a private in the First Field Artillery, Louisiana National. Fleming served on the Mexican border with the First Battalion Field Artillery (Washington Artillery). During World War I, he served again with the 141<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery in France. After the war, Fleming commanded Battery A, 141<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery. Between 1920 and 1928, Fleming was promoted from Captain to Brigadier General.

On July 18, 1928, Fleming was appointed state adjutant general by Governor Huey P. Long. In 1940 he was ordered into federal service as state director of Louisiana Selective Service System, while he continued to serve as the Adjutant General. After WWII he undertook the reorganization of the National Guard. Fleming took command of the 39<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division of the

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National Guard of Louisiana and Arkansas and was promoted to Major General. Fleming served as the first chief of the Army Division of the National Guard Bureau from 1951-52. Fleming returned to Louisiana and served again as Adjutant General 1952-1956 and 1960-1964, holding the position for a total of twenty-eight years.

In addition to his membership in the National Guard Association of the United States and the Adjutants General Association, he was a director of the National Guard Publishing Company. The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Theta Xi Fraternity, Free and Accepted Masonic Order, Sojourners, New Orleans Chamber of Commerce, Salvation Army Advisory Board, President of the Young Men's Business Club of New Orleans, and the President of the Army and Navy Club of New Orleans.

Fleming married Elna V. Harrison and had two children: Raymond Jr. (killed in action WWII) and Doris. Fleming was also an active member of his church at the Third Presbyterian Church of New Orleans. Fleming died on November 23, 1974 in New Orleans and was interred at Hillcrest Burial Park, Waxahachie, Texas.

#### Processing:

Initial collection was processed by Rhett Breerwood. Titus Firmin verified Rhett's previously processed folders of the collection and reorganized into boxes. Every folder was reviewed to discern the contents, verify folder labels and dates. Folders were initially organized chronologically, though eventually the folders were organized thematically and sub-organized chronologically to assist future researchers.

Boxes one thru four were organized thematically and sub-organized chorological. Due to the volume and intersecting time period of material, box five contains documents related to the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in New Orleans and the Huey P. Long era during Fleming's tenure.

#### Related Materials:

Other objects in the Louisiana National Guard Museum at Jackson Barracks include:

- "The American Progress" Newspaper pages, Huey Long Assassination, September, 1935 issue (UNK.043.006)
- a pair of stirrups, 3 horse bits, w rangefinder, swagger stick, polo trophy, razor and soap dish (see Accession UNK.043) and an ammunition chest with contents (books, certificates, US 48-star flag, 1 star General Officer flag, state flag, 2 flag cases, purple neck scarf, 2 garrison caps, Distinguished Service Medal, desk plate, trophy; see accession UNK.088).
- Art: oil portraits painted by C. Richards, 1960s (2011.015.055) and Ella Wood, 1957 (4388); pen and ink sketch by Sidney Becnel, 1976 (4393)
- Photos: *Washington Artillery Battery D, 1919* (2012.003.420 ); *Louisiana National Guard Camp 1920* (2012.003.454); *Conference of Adjutant Generals National Guard on visit to President Coolidge, Washington, DC, May 1924* (2013.005.102); *Major General O. J. Daigle [photo collection], 1940-1979* (2013.049); *Cold War era Photographs, Louisiana National Guard, 1946-1956* (2015.002.018-1); *Photos, Louisiana National Guard Units, 1949-1959* (2015.002.048); *Louisiana National Guard Activity 1960s*

(2015.002.050); Framed photo of General Fleming autographed to Cpl Ashton Carmouche, 1955 (2015.043.001);

- "Memorandums, A.G.O. LA. 1933 to 1937 and 1938-1940" document books (2014.002.224-225).
- "Dixie Officers Gazette" with front page photo of General Fleming, February, 1936 (2015.002.016)

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References: Casso, Evans J. *Louisiana Legacy: A History of the State National Guard* (Gretna, LA: Pelican Publishing Company, 1976) and Breerwood, Rhett G., "From Containing Communism to Fighting Floods: The Louisiana Army National Guard in the Cold War, 1946-1965" (2015). *University of New Orleans Theses and Dissertations*. 2058.

<https://scholarworks.uno.edu/td/2058>