

**LEARY (RICHARD K.) CORRESPONDENCE**

(Ms. 4687)

**Inventory**

Compiled by  
Charles F. Thomas  
1998

Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections  
Special Collections, Hill Memorial Library  
Louisiana State University Libraries  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Revised 2009

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**LEARY (RICHARD K.) CORRESPONDENCE**  
1942-1944

**Mss. 4687**  
LSU Libraries Special Collections

**SUMMARY**

<b>Size.</b>	1.3 linear ft.
<b>Geographic locations.</b>	Laconia, New Hampshire; Camp Livingston, Louisiana.
<b>Inclusive dates.</b>	1942-1944.
<b>Bulk dates.</b>	1943.
<b>Languages.</b>	English.
<b>Summary.</b>	Mainly World War II correspondence between U.S. Army soldier Richard K. Leary and his wife, with some letters from friends and other relatives. The 420 letters include two photonegatives of Richard Leary and Camp Livingston, Louisiana, and five photographs of family members in New Hampshire.
<b>Source.</b>	Placed on deposit, 1997.
<b>Copyright.</b>	Physical rights are retained by the LSU Libraries. Copyright of the original materials is retained by the creators, or their descendants, of the materials, in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
<b>Citation.</b>	Richard K. Leary Correspondence, Mss. 4687, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
<b>Stack location.</b>	UU:245-246.

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**BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

Richard K. Leary enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1942. He served during World War II as a guard in the 327<sup>th</sup> Military Police Escort Guard at Camp Livingston, a prisoner of war camp located in Louisiana. His new wife of only 3 months, "Bicky," remained with her family in Laconia, New Hampshire, for the duration of Leary's enlistment.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection consists of 420 letters, mainly between Leary and his wife. Leary's correspondence discusses his duties as a soldier; recreational activities; and the numbers and treatment of prisoners interned at Camp Livingston. Correspondence to Leary relates news from home and local events, and describes the impact of the war upon the town of Laconia.

Five photographs depict members of Leary's family. Two photonegatives show Richard Leary and Camp Livingston.

## **SERIES DESCRIPTIONS**

### **I. Letters to Richard Leary, 1942-1943 (2 boxes, .6 linear ft.)**

Most of this series consists of letters from Leary's wife, "Bicky." These letters express her love as a newlywed, since they were married in August or September of 1942, only a few months before Leary enlisted. She also relates news from home, her activities to deal with the loneliness, and the effects of the war upon the town of Laconia. Letters from other family relatives and friends congratulate Leary upon his successive promotions from private to sergeant, and discuss other general matters. Five photographs of some of Richard Leary's family are included with Series I. Envelopes are included with each letters, because the postmarks are more reliable chronologies than the dates penned on the letters.

### **II. Letters from Richard Leary, 1942-1944 (2 boxes, .6 linear ft.)**

Richard Leary corresponded with his wife almost daily. His letters vary in content, from expressions of love, to specific details on the numbers and treatment of prisoners of war interned at Camp Livingston. Minute details of his life as a soldier are included frequently. Two photonegatives depict Richard Leary and Camp Livingston. Envelopes are included with each letters, because the postmarks are more reliable chronologies than the dates penned on the letters.

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**INDEX TERMS**

Camp Livingston (La.)  
Military prisons--Louisiana  
United States--Army--Military life--Louisiana  
United States--Army--History--World War, 1939-1945  
United States--Army--327<sup>th</sup> Military Police Escort Guard

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**CONTAINER LIST**

<u>Stack location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders Per Box</u>	<u>Contents</u>
<b><u>Series I. Letters to Richard Leary</u></b>			
UU:245	1	6	Correspondence, Nov. 1942 - Mar. 1943.
UU:245	2	6	Correspondence, Apr. - Aug. 1943. Photographs, July 25, 1943.
<b><u>Series II. Letters from Richard Leary</u></b>			
UU:246	3	7	Correspondence, Dec. 1942 - June 1943. Photonegative, April 28, 1943.
UU:246	4	7	Correspondence, July 1943 - Apr. 1944. Photonegative, July 26, 1943.