



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Samuel S. Aronson Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 625

Collection Summary

Title	Samuel Schwartz Aronson Papers
Dates	1914-1948
Collection Number	MS-625
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Aronson, Samuel S. (Samuel Schwartz), 1921-
Extent	1.2 linear feet (3 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch Samuel Schwartz Aronson was born August 15, 1921, the son of Arthur A. and Henrietta Aronson. He attended Needham Broughton High School in Raleigh, North Carolina, graduating in 1938.

From 1938 to 1942 Aronson attended Oak Ridge Military Institute, preparatory school and junior college, in Oak Ridge, North Carolina. He graduated from the College in 1941 and completed a year of post-graduate work the following spring. During the summers he attended military (Reserve Officer Training) camps at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and at Clemson College, South Carolina.

In late June, 1942, Aronson launched his career as an active reserve officer in the United States Army. He entered the service as a Lieutenant and began with two months of training at Fort Wheeler, Georgia. In August, 1941 he was assigned to duty at Fort Custer, near Battlecreek, Michigan. In November of the same year he was transferred to Camp Phillips, near Salina, Kansas, where he remained until March of 1943. From March until June, 1943, Aronson was posted at the Personnel Replacement Depot, Shenango, Pennsylvania.

In June of 1943 Aronson was reassigned to an infantry unit on active duty in North Africa. By August the unit had advanced to North Sicily and by October was in Italy. Aronson was wounded at Salerno, Italy, for which he received a Purple Heart. In September, 1944 he was sent home on a hospital ship. He convalesced at the Moore General Hospital in Swannanoa, North Carolina, from October, 1944, until being transferred to the Welch Convalescent Hospital in Daytona Beach, Florida in January, 1945. He retired from the army in June of 1945.

During his entire tour with the military Aronson corresponded often with his family, most often with his father, Arthur A. Aronson. In his letters, Samuel Aronson comments about living conditions in Italy for the local civilian population, as well as for himself and his peers, including economic situation, bouts with malaria and frostbite, both on the front line and behind the lines. He also describes some of his combat experiences, but without specific details because of censorship. And he comments on the work he did clearing minefields, censoring letters, and commanding a battalion. His letters are very descriptive of daily life in the military during World War II.

Scope and Content Correspondence, military records, military school rosters and commencement programs, news articles, address book, sound recording and photographs.

Arrangement The collection is arranged into three (3) series: A. Correspondence; B. Military Records and Miscellaneous; C. Photographs and Recordings.

Terms of Access The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.

Preferred Citation Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Samuel S. Aronson Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-625. Samuel S. Aronson Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

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Index Terms

Subjects Jewish soldiers / Jews -- North Carolina

Media Photographs / Sound Recordings

Series A. Correspondence, 1941-1948

Extent 0.6 linear feet (1.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Series A consists of correspondence between Samuel Aronson and his father, Arthur A. Aronson, and other family and friends, and letters from a girlfriend while he was at school in Oak Ridge, North Carolina. The bulk of material consists of letters from Lt. Samuel Aronson to his parents describing his life in the military and observations of conditions at army posts in the United States, North Africa, Sicily and Italy.

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 1. Folder 1. From Elizabeth Maynor (a girlfriend), 1942 January-May
- Box 1. Folder 2. To family, 1942 June-September
- Box 1. Folder 3. To family, 1942 October-December
- Box 1. Folder 4. To family, 1943
- Box 1. Folder 5. To family, 1944 January-May
- Box 2. Folder 1. To family, 1944 June-November
- Box 2. Folder 2. V-mail to family, 1943
- Box 2. Folder 3. V-mail to family, 1944
- Box 2. Folder 4. From Arthur A. Aronson, 1943 June-1945 June
- Box 2. Folder 5. From Uncle Henry, undated
- Box 2. Folder 6. Kallis, Fannie A., 1944, 1948 September
- Box 2. Folder 7. Miscellaneous correspondence, undated

Series B. Military Records and Miscellaneous, 1939-1948

Extent 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Series B consists of an annual bulletin, class rosters, commencement programs, postcards, notes and a publicity brochure from Oak Ridge Military Institute, Oak Ridge, North Carolina and news articles describing war games held by the military (Reserve Officer Training) camp at Clemson College, South Carolina in 1941; news articles, military records and miscellaneous pertaining to Aronson's military career; Samuel Aronson's address book; and news articles and miscellaneous pertaining to Arthur A. Aronson.

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 2. Folder 8. Oak Ridge Military Institute school records and miscellaneous, 1939-1941
- Box 2. Folder 9. Military records and miscellaneous, 1942-1948
- Box 2. Folder 10. Miscellaneous, 1934-1944, undated
- Box 2. Folder 11. Arthur A. Aronson miscellaneous, 1940, undated

Series C. Photographs and Recordings, 1914-1946

Extent 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Series C consists of one "Voice Letter" on a "Voice-O-Graph" sound recording disc from "Sam and Arlene" to Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Aronson, December, 1946; two photo albums; and two envelopes containing negatives. One photo album contains a collection of photos depicting events, family members and friends, and baseball players during the period just prior to Samuel's birth. The dates noted in the album are 1914-1915, but may include photos from as early as 1900 and as late as 1920. A second photo album contains a photographic record dated, 1940-1944, illustrating Samuel Aronson's experiences in school, and in the military, as well as photos of his parents, grandmother and younger brother, Buddy. The negatives in the last folder were found contained in two separate envelopes. One envelope contains color negatives and no identification of dates or subject are given. The second envelope contains black and white negatives and the label indicates the envelope once contained photos processed in January of 1945 for Lt. S. Aronson.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 3. Folder 1. Voice letter recording disc from Sam and Arlene, DeTavel, Fla., to Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Aronson, Raleigh, N.C., 1946 December 28

Box 3. Folder 2. Family photo album, Fayetteville, N.C., Orange, Tex., and Lake Raleigh, N.C., 1914-1915, undated

Box 3. Folder 3. Personal photo album, 1940-1944

Box 3. Folder 4. Miscellaneous negatives (no corresponding prints in collection), 1945, undated