

COLLECTION: PETER KIM PAPERS

MANUSCRIPT NUMBER: 124

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1943-1984

ACCESSION NUMBER: 86-17

RESTRICTIONS: None

DONOR: Peter Kim

LOCATIONS: Vault - Upper Level

DATE OF GIFT: July 19, 1986

COLLECTION REGISTER AVAILABLE: Yes

SIZE: 1 linear foot

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL FEATURES:

Peter Kim was born in Soonan, Korea in 1912. His family first entered the U.S. around 1920. His father earned an M.D. degree and thereafter divided his life between the U.S. and Shanghai. At the outbreak of W.W. II, Peter Kim was imprisoned by the Japanese in Shanghai. He escaped to unoccupied Chungking, joined the U.S. Army and was assigned to the Joint Intelligence Collection Agency. The 79th Congress made him a naturalized citizen by a special act. In 1946 he was appointed a 2nd Lieutenant and served with the 4th Infantry Division's Army Language School at Fort Ord, California. From November 1950 to June 1952 he served in the Korean War with the U.S. Eighth Army as an intelligence officer. He returned to Fort Ord for service with the 6th Infantry Division. In 1960 he became Aide-de-Camp to Major General Marshall S. Carter. In 1961 he returned to the Army Language School, where he remained until his retirement in 1964.

FORMS OF MATERIAL:

- Military Personnel File
- Correspondence
- U.S. Army Fiscal Records
- Journal Notes
- Memoranda
- Speeches
- Photos

MAJOR CORRESPONDENTS:

- Marshall S. Carter
- Morris B. DePass, Jr.
- Kenneth G. Wickham
- Richard L. Irby
- Caspar W. Weinberger

SUBJECTS:

- Military career of Peter Kim
- U.S. Army Exchange Service
- Korean War, 1950-1953
- World War, 1939-1945 - China

ARRANGEMENT:

- Series established by forms of material;
- Chronological arrangement within each series.

MS #124

KIM, PETER, 1912 -

2 Boxes

Biographical Sketch

Peter Kim was born in Soonan, Pyens Yang province, Korea on June 10, 1912 to Korean parents. His family escaped from Japanese-occupied Korea to China in 1917 disguised as Chinese laborers, and entered the United States in 1919 or 1920 as Chinese citizens. His father, Chang-Sei Kim, earned an MD degree from the Jefferson Medical College in 1925. Thereafter his family moved back and forth several times between the United States and Shanghai, China. In 1934 his father died in the United States while the other family members, then Chinese citizens, were in China.

In Shanghai the family maintained active contact with the American community and enjoyed membership in the American Association, an organization which protected American interests after the outbreak of the war with Japan. Peter Kim served on the staff of the Swiss Consul General in Shanghai. In October 1943 he was imprisoned by the Japanese Gendarmerie for pro-American activities.

Kim escaped to Chungking in May 1944. He was accepted for enlistment in the U.S. Army and was assigned to the Joint Intelligence Collection Agency.

Through a special act of the 79th Congress, Kim became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1945, while residing in Shanghai. He received orders to represent the Supreme Allied Command in the uniform of a 1st Lieutenant, but his official status remained that of an enlisted man.

On February 25, 1946 he was appointed a 2nd Lieutenant. After entering the U.S. in January 1948, he was stationed at Fort Ord, California with the 4th Infantry Division assigned to the Army Language School.

From November 1950 until June 1952 he served in Korea with the U.S. Eighth Army, active in the field of intelligence and of political situation appraisal. At the end of the Korean War, he returned to Fort Ord, California, where he served with the 6th Infantry Division.

In January 1960 he became the Aide-de-Camp to Major General Marshall S. Carter. By May 1951 he was back with the U.S. Army Language School as Director of the Special Projects and Analysis Division, where he remained until his retirement on October 31, 1964.

He accepted a position with the Ampex Corporation in January 1965, where his interest was focused on the application of technology to education and training.

Scope and Content

The Peter Kim Papers contain materials from as early as 1943 and as late as 1984. The bulk of the material, however, is from the period 1944-1964, the period of Kim's active duty with the U.S. Army. The papers are divided into the following series: U.S. Army Personnel Files; Correspondence; Speeches and Writings; U.S. Army Assignments; Photographs and Scrapbook. There are also artifacts, listed in the separation record, that came with this collection. These are housed in the Marshall Museum.

The U.S. Army Personnel Files comprise almost half of this collection. In addition to the usual "201 File" material--efficiency reports, commissions, general orders, etc.--there are subseries of special orders and of a variety of papers concerning travel, leave, and assignments. Kim's naturalization as a U.S. citizen, and the difficulties brought about by his awkward status during parts of 1945 and 1946--he had orders as an enlisted man but acted in an officer's capacity--are dealt with in the "201 File". ("201 File" here refers to Kim's personal file which includes copies of many Army personnel documents. This is not, of course, the U.S. Army's military personnel record jacket of Peter Kim.)

The Correspondence includes general correspondence, chronologically arranged from 1943-1970, and one folder each of correspondence concerning: (1) naturalization and, (2) correspondence with Marshall S. Carter and members of Carter's family.

The general correspondence, especially in the 1940s, is often a continuation of the personnel records, with memoranda, credentials and certificates augmenting letters on such matters as Kim's naturalization and his status in the U.S. Army. A broad range of personal business, however, is discussed here. Prominent correspondents include Caspar W. Weinberger, Richard L. Irby, Thomas Kenan, Kenneth G. Wickham, and Morris B. De Pass, Jr.

The correspondence with Marshall S. Carter includes official memoranda and correspondence--again much of it treating Kim's naturalization and commissioning in the U.S. Army. Kim and Carter, however, remained close friends long after their military association ended, and a warm personal correspondence continued through several decades.

The one folder of Speeches and Writings includes a script for a 1958 slide presentation describing the U.S. Army Language School; a description of a Korean court in session in Seoul, 1960; a 1968 article, "So Let's Scrap the Oath"; and an undated 3-page history of Marines In China.

The U.S. Army Assignments papers include army fiscal records and reports relating to Kim's responsibilities in the Army Exchange Service in Shanghai and at Ford Ord, California.

Scope and Content (continued)

Records of Kim's assignment in Korea include: typed journal notes that he kept in September and October, 1951; one folder of memoranda and reports, 1951-1952; and one folder of intelligence reports, 1950-1951.

The Photographs, though arranged by subjects enumerated in the container list, nevertheless, are in roughly chronological order. The elements of a scrapbook detailing the presentation of the Medal of Freedom to Ruth Kim, Peter Kim's wife, in 1951 are in the last folder of the collection.

PETER KIM PAPERS

Container List

Box/Folder

Description

United States Army Personnel Files, 1944-1964

1	1-6	"201 File", 1945-1964 & n.d.
	7-11	Special Orders, 1944-1964
	13	Papers Concerning Travel, Leave, and Duty Assignments, 1944-1964
		Papers Concerning allotments and equipment use, 1945-1964
	14	Military pay and allowance, 1946-1961
	15	PER DIEM and travel expenses, 1945-1964
	16	Personal finances, 1956-1960
	17	Equipment transfer, 1946-1964
	18	Retirement, 1963-1964

Correspondence

		General
	19-21	1943-1950
	22	1953-1956
	23	1960-1964
	24	1966-1970 and n.d.
2	1	Naturalization, 1945-1950
	2-3	Marshall S. Carter, 1945-1984

Speeches and Writings, 1958, 1960, 1968-1969 and n.d.

United States Army Assignments

	4	Army Exchange Service, 1946-1947
	5-8	Shanghai, 1946-1947
	9	Ford Ord, 1948-1949
		KOREA
	10	Kim's Journal Notes, Sept. 1951-January 1952
	11	Kim's Memoranda and reports, July 1951-Jan. 1952
	12	United Nations and Far East Command Intelligence Reports - Korea, June 1950-June 1951
	13	Special Operations Research Office (SORO) of the American University, 1958

PHOTOGRAPHS AND SCRAPBOOK

	14	Army identification photos of Peter Kim, c. 1945 and c. 1949
	15	Kweichow Province, China, December 1944
	16	China, 1945
	17	Korea, 1950-1953
	18	Korea - Cartoons by Harry V. Douglas, 1952
	19	Miscellaneous Subjects, 1956
	20-21	Korea, 1959-1961
	22	Marshall S. Carter & Miscellaneous Subjects, 1966-1971
	23	Scrapbook - Presentation of Medal of Freedom to Ruth Kim, 1951

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GEORGE C. MARSHALL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

SEPARATION RECORD

124 COLLECTION: PETER KIM PAPERS

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The following items have been removed from the collection:

Description of items	Location
1) Citations, Commissions, and Certificates, 1948-1964 1 folder 15¼" x 11½"	Map case
2) Printed Materials A) War Department Field Manual FM 8-50 Medical Department. <u>Bandaging and Splinting</u> 15 January 1944 B) War Department Technical Manual TM1-455 <u>Electrical Fundamentals</u> . 10 August 1944 C) Department of the Army Field Manual FM27-10 <u>The Law of Land Warfare</u> . July 1956 D) Department of the Army Field Manual FM101-5 <u>Staff Organization and Procedure</u> . June 1968	Library - To be originally catalogued Deaccessioned
3) Artifacts A) Uniform Clothing 2 U.S. Army uniform suits (1 off-white, 1 khaki) 2 U.S. Army uniform hats (1 off-white, 1 olive) 3 Ascots (2 light blue, 1 camouflage) 2 sets of uniform gold braid B) Military Medals Yun-Hui (Chinese National Decoration) Freedom Medal (2) awarded to to Ruth Kim Soldier's Medal for Valor (2 & miniature) Bronze Star (& miniature) World War II (& miniature) Asiatic Pacific Campaign (& miniature) C) Uniform Accessories 1 box (5"x3"x2½") of patches, ribbons, dog tags and a gold hat emblem 1 box (6"x3¼"x1½") of brass buttons and gold and silver decorations	Museum 

GEORGE C. MARSHALL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

SEPARATION RECORD

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The following items have been removed from the collection:

Description of items

Location

D) Miscellany

- 1 Knife (4½" blade) and leather sheath
- 2 leather bands
- 3 watch bands
- 1 Jon-e warmer

Museum

