

Register of the

Booton Herndon
(Desmond Doss)
Collection

Collection 248

Center for Adventist Research
James White Library
Andrews University
Berrien Springs, MI 49014-1440
June, 2009
Processed by: Gluder Quispe

Booton Herndon (Desmond Doss) Collection

Collection 248

Scope and Content

Booton Herndon, a native of Charlottesville, Virginia and a non-Adventist, wrote two books related to Adventism. At the end of 1950s the MacGraw Hill Book Company, Inc. asked him to write on the Seventh-day Adventist Church, a work with many editions titled, *The Seventh Day: The Story of the Seventh-day Adventists*. Then, in 1966 the Pacific Press asked him to write the story of Desmond T. Doss. After agreement and researching on the topic, it was published with the title, *The Unlikeliest Hero*, in 1967.

To write the story of Desmond Doss, Booton Herndon first studied voluminous records of the war in the Pacific, including a lengthy magazine article he himself had written on Okinawa several years before. He also studied the history of the 77th Division, including the day by day log of the activities of the Company to which Desmond was assigned. He also talked personally with several of Desmond's buddies in the 77th and his friends and neighbors on Lookout Mountain, Georgia. Herndon spent a lot of time with Desmond Doss as well.

This collection consists of Booton Herndon's files that he compiled while researching and writing his book on Desmond Doss' story. The donation of the collection, the correspondence between Pacific Press and Booton Herndon, the drafts of the work, and the photographs are part of this collection as well.

Arrangement

The Booton Herndon Collection is arranged based on the "List of Folders" (Bx 1 Fld 2) sent by Herndon to Southern Missionary College. The processor separated some items of the folder "Research and Note," based on their importance.

Provenance:

Booton Herndon donated the collection to Southern Missionary College. After holding it for some time they transferred it to the Andrews University Center for Adventist Research.

Use:

All users of this collection are required to complete the "Application to Use Unpublished Records," and to observe the regulation specified in the "Patron Agreement" and "Researcher's Code of Conduct." All records in this collection are open and available for research. Citation for this collection:

Box ___ Folder ___, Booton Herndon Collection (collection 248), Center for Adventist Research, James White Library, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan.

Booton Herndon (Desmond Doss) Collection Collection 248

Inventory

I. Donation

- Bx 1 Fld 1 Letters between Booton Herndon and Southern Missionary College.
- Bx 1 Fld 2 List of Folders.
- Bx 1 Fld 3 "Narrative Report on Writing *The Unlikeliest Hero*."

II. Materials for *The Unlikeliest Hero*

Correspondence

- Bx 1 Fld 4 48 personal letters on the process of the book *The Unlikeliest Hero*, between Booton Herndon and Pacific Press Publishing Association.

Research Materials

- Bx 1 Fld 5 Background research, some clippings and articles.
- Bx 1 Fld 6 Handwritten notes.
- Bx 2 Fld 1 Press release from War Department, Bureau of Public Relations Press Branch: Conscientious Objector, Medical Aid Man, Awarded Medal of Honor (oversize).
- Bx 1 Fld 7 Transcribed tapes (1-3): Herndon's interview of Desmond Doss.
- Bx 1 Fld 8 Pamphlet: Corporal Desmond T. Doss

Drafts

- Bx 2 Fld 2 First draft of the book *The Unlikeliest Hero* (oversize).
- Bx 1 Fld 9 Second draft of the book *The Unlikeliest Hero*, chapters 1 to 6
- Bx 2 Fld 3 Second draft of the book *The Unlikeliest Hero* corrected after conference with Doss, chapters 1 to 6.
- Bx 1 Fld10 Third draft of the book *The Unlikeliest Hero*, first copy.
- Bx 1 Fld11 Third draft of the book *The Unlikeliest Hero*, second copy. Page 136 is different than the first copy.

Bx 2 Fld 4 Third draft of the book *The Unlikeliest Hero* with corrections.
Bx 2 Fld 5 Finished Manuscript-1.
Bx 2 Fld 6 Finished Manuscript-2.
Bx 3 Fld 1 Finished Manuscript-3.
Bx 3 Fld 2 Finished Manuscript-4.

Pictures

Bx 3 Fld 3 Letters related to photographs.
Bx 3 Fld 4 Photographs and photo negatives.

Financial

Bx 3 Fld 5 Receipts for expenses.

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ THE END ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖