

**ROBERT PAUL WARD MILITARY PAPERS**  
Finding Aid

Compiled by  
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Museum of South Texas History  
Margaret H. McAllen Memorial Archives  
Edinburg, Texas

2014



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## SUMMARY

<b>Size</b>	6 folders
<b>Geographic Locations</b>	Amarillo, Texas; Edinburg, Texas
<b>Inclusive Dates</b>	1943-1946
<b>Languages</b>	English
<b>Summary</b>	The World War II military records of Robert Paul Ward found in this collection include orders, medical records, and financial papers.
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	The collection is open for research. If you wish to examine items in the manuscript group, please contact the Archivist at 956-383-6911 to make an appointment to visit the Margaret H. McAllen Memorial Archives (MHMMA) reading room.
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<b>Related Collections</b>	UTPA Student Papers (1995.076.066), Ward, Robert Paul, RGDOC 307, E:17
<b>Citation</b>	Robert Paul Ward military papers. Margaret H. McAllen Memorial Archives, Museum of South Texas History, Edinburg, TX.
<b>Stack Location(s)</b>	SMC 39, RGDOC 2, B:1

### **BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

Robert Paul Ward was born on February 18, 1895 and was a lifelong educator. When he was 17 he became a first grade teacher. From 1920 to 1922, he worked with the bureau of education on the Philippine Islands. He attended Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos and, in 1926, earned his master's degree at the University of Texas. He also attended the University of Chicago.

By 1927 Ward was the principal of Edinburg High School and the Director of Edinburg Junior College in Edinburg, Texas. He was one of the education officials who helped establish the Junior College, which began as an extension of the high school. In 1931 he became the president of the college, which was known by then as Pan American College. He remained there for 30 years except during the mid-1940s when he served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He retired in 1960.

Ward served in the United States Army during both world wars. Though he was stationed in the United States from 1918 to 1919 during the World War I, he served in England, France, and Germany during World War II. He was a captain with the Civil Affairs Division and helped organize civil defense in those European countries.

Ward married his wife Ruth Shifflette in 1926 in Austin, Texas. She helped organize the Amarillo College in Amarillo, Texas in 1926. She taught there for 30 years. The Wards traveled back and forth from Edinburg to Amarillo during that time. Ruth moved to Edinburg in 1956.

#### **SOURCE:**

McKone, Jerry Clegg. "Ex-Pan Am President to Get Distinguished Service Award." *The Monitor* (McAllen, Texas), January 11, 1981, 1B.

### **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The World War II military records of Robert Paul Ward found in this collection include orders, medical records, and financial papers. Most of the orders pertain to Ward's assignment to Civil Affairs Training School at Fort Custer, Michigan and to leave of absences. Two documents state that he was assigned to the Civil Affairs Overseas Replacement Pool in 1944.

The medical records are for a physical examination that took place in 1946. Ward received a back injury when his vehicle struck a shell hole in Germany in 1945. The examination resulted in a recommendation that he receive an administrative discharge from the army.

The financial papers include receipts, insurance policies, and documents pertaining to storage of household goods at McAllen Bonded Warehouse Company in McAllen, Texas.

One folder contains two empty envelopes and a photograph. An unused envelope has "Amarillo College Amarillo, Texas" printed in the upper left-hand corner. A large manila envelope was mailed to Mrs. Ruth S. Ward in Amarillo, Texas from Captain Robert P. Ward in Camp Reynolds, Pennsylvania. It is dated March 23, 1944.

The photograph is a 3" x 5" black and white snapshot of an elderly man sitting in a chair in front of a tree beside a white house. "Dad" is written in pencil on the back. In a different handwriting in ink is "One of the keenest and most penetrating minds I ever knew—unschooled and unfettered by the conclusions and opinions of others." Glued to the front of the photograph is a small piece of newsprint that says, "He was not reading, he was not smoking, he was thinking. And on his face was a look of almost tragic loneliness. A man surrounded by people, problems, and war, and completely alone."