

North Carolina Collection

William Lee Papers

Title:	William Lee Papers, 1943-1991
Inclusive Dates:	1943-1991
Extent of Materials:	3 file folders, 1 oversized folder
Location:	NC Room, Cabinet 5, Drawer 3
Date of Accession:	41765
Donor:	Thelma Lee, wife of William Lee
Relationship of donor or materials to the DCL/NCR	
Processor:	Kristen Merryman
Description:	The William Lee Papers consists of photographs, certificates, and newspaper clippings relating to William Lee's career in the military, spanning the time from World War II until the 1960s. A few certificates and clippings also relate to his life in Durham after he retired from the military and returned to Durham to live.
Subject Headings:	United States--Armed Forces--History--World War, 1939-1945.
	World War, 1939-1945--African Americans.
	Korean War, 1950-1953--Veterans--North Carolina.
	African American real estate agents
Abstract:	
Scope and Content:	The William Lee Papers consists of photographs, certificates, and newspaper clippings relating to William Lee's career in the United States Army, which spanned twenty years, from World War II until his retirement in 1963. A few certificates and clippings also relate to his life in Durham after he retired from the military, including opening his real estate company, Lee Realty Company.
Related Materials:	World War II Scrapbooks, http://durhamcountylibrary.org/ncc/ww-scrapbook/
	USO Club Scrapbook
Restrictions:	This collection is open for research.
Biographical/Historical Note:	William Lee was born and raised in Durham, North Carolina, graduating from Hillside High School in 1942. He entered military service in January 1943 and completed basic training at Fort Bragg. During World War II, he was assigned to the 686th Field Artillery Battalion in Europe. During the Korean War, he was stationed in Korea with the 55th Ordnance Company (AMMO), 83rd Ordnance Battalion. In 1963, he retired as chief warrant officer W3, and was stationed at Fort Benning, Ga. with Headquarters Co. 1st Battalion 87th Infantry. Following his retirement from the military, he graduated with a BS from the University of Maryland in 1964. He and his wife Thelma returned to Durham in the late 1960s, where Lee started Lee Realty Company. He died in Durham in 1999.
Condition Notes:	

Organization of Collection:	The collection is organized chronologically.
Container List	
Folder 1	Certificates relating to accomplishments while in the military, 1945-1966
	News clippings from the Carolina Times and Army Times about Lee's service, 1958-1963, 1985
Folder 2	Photographs of Lee while in the military, 1953-1987
Folder 3	Certificates from Lee's activities after he retired, including from the Environmental Protection Agency, City of Durham, and the North Carolina Real Estate Commission, 1960-1991
Oversized Folder 1	Company "A" 16th Training Battalion 5th Regiment Fort Bragg, NC, photograph, 1943
	Company C Ordnance School, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD, photograph. April 26, 1947
	57th Battalion BSvSg (fighter jet) Fort Richardson, Alaska, photograph, September 1948
	Army Commendation Medal award, July 3, 1961
	United States Army Ordnance School diploma, February 8, 1962
	University of Maryland diploma, August 31, 1964
	United States Environmental Protection Agency certificate of appreciation, April 6, 1977

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