

4-2-2019

Guide to MS301 James B. Murray papers

Owen Williamson

Guide to
MS301
James B. Murray papers
1846-1970
1 foot, 8 inches (linear)

Processed by Owen Williamson
April 2, 2019

Donated by Mrs. Freda Murray, 1983.

Citation: James B. Murray papers, 1846-1970, MS301, C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department. The University of Texas at El Paso Library.

C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department
University of Texas at El Paso

Biography

James Bingham Murray Sr. was born on 24 March 1919. He served in the United States Army in World War II, Korea and Viet Nam, and achieved the rank of Master Sergeant. He died on 25 May 1981 in El Paso at the age of 62, and is buried at Fort Bliss National Cemetery.

Fort Bliss is a United States Army post in New Mexico and Texas, with its headquarters in El Paso, Texas. Named in honor of Lt. Col. William Wallace Smith Bliss (1815-1853), General Zachary Taylor's chief of staff during the Mexican War and later his son-in-law. Ft. Bliss has an area of about 1,700 square miles (4,400 km²); it is the largest installation in FORSCOM (United States Army Forces Command) and second-largest in the Army overall (the largest being the adjacent White Sands Missile Range). The portion of the post located in El Paso County, Texas, is a census-designated place with a population of 8,591 as of the time of the 2010 census. Fort Bliss provides the largest contiguous tract (1,500 sq. mi. or 3,900 km²) of restricted airspace in the Continental United States, which is used for missile and artillery training and testing. Fort Bliss also boasts the largest maneuver area with 992,000 acres (ahead of the National Training Center, which has 642,000 acres). The garrison's land area is 1.12 million acres, ranging to the boundaries of the Lincoln National Forest and White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico.

Sources:

"Fort Bliss," in Wikipedia, retrieved 2 April 2019.

Handbook of Texas Online, Leon C. Metz, "FORT BLISS," accessed April 04, 2019, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/qbf03>.

Series Description or Arrangement

Folders are arranged generally in chronological order.

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains research materials for a (never published) history of Fort Bliss, Texas from its founding in the 1840s until 1970. This collection consists of both primary and secondary sources, the latter including a large number of photocopies of selected scholarly articles taken primarily from the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*. The collection also includes a photocopy of the complete text of the master's thesis of Allan W. Sanderstrum, dated June 1962, titled *Fort Bliss, The Frontier Years*. Other than a stack of unattributed 3" x 5" handwritten index cards with research information, found in

Box 2, Folder 2, and possibly an unattributed manuscript for a speech, none of Murray's personal writings appear to be included. Information in the collection indicates that Murray obtained some of the materials included with the help of UTEP Professor Bruno J. Rolak.

All contents are in English except for one undated Spanish-language visitor's guide to Fort Bliss, circa 1957, "La Réplica de El Fuerte Bliss," in Box 2, Folder 9, and a German-language document, "Ungliederung und Verlegung der Raketenschule der Luftwaffe in die USA," in Box 2, Folder 6, associated with the visit of West German Chancellor Willi Brandt to the then newly-established German Air Force Air Defense School at Fort Bliss on 6 June 1970. An unofficial English-language translation is attached to the latter document.

The collection also includes (in Box 2, Folder 10) an unattributed and undated (evidently circa 1970) handwritten draft of what appears to be a speech condemning antiwar protests of the era and calling for support of the U.S. war effort in Viet Nam.

Provenance Statement

Donated in at least two accessions by James Murray's widow, Mrs. Freda Murray, in 1983 and 1984.

Restrictions

A few (but not all) of the U.S. Army photographic prints in this collection are stamped "Reproduction of this photograph is not authorized unless approved for release by a Public Information Office at any Army Activity or Installation and is so noted hereon. Its use in commercial advertisement must be approved by the Public Information Division, Office of the Chief of Information and Education, Department of the Army, The Pentagon, Washington 25, D.C. If published, please credit as 'U.S. Army Photograph.'"

A document in Box 2, Folder 6 related to West German Chancellor Willi Brandt's visit to Fort Bliss in June 1970 is hand-marked "Restricted—Do not publish in Entirety."

Literary Rights Statement

Permission to publish material from these papers must be obtained from the C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library. Citation should read, James B. Murray papers, MS301, C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, The University of Texas at El Paso Library.

Notes to the Researcher

The UTEP Library also holds the Dr. Bruno Rolak collection MS308, on the history of Fort Bliss.

The UTEP Library holds two additional copies of the 1962 master's thesis of Allan W. Sandstrum (Box 2, Folder 1 of this collection) titled *Fort Bliss: The Frontier Years*. The call number is F394.F6 S36 1962.

Container List

Box #	Folder #	Title	Date
1	1	Fort Bliss History, 1846-1848. Contents: Photocopies of selected articles and book chapters. Also correspondence of Dr. Bruno Rolak with US Government GSA.	1921-1970
1	2	Fort Bliss History, 1848-1861. Contents: Copies of selected articles and book chapters. Also, correspondence of Dr. Bruno Rolak with Col. C.C. Clendenen.	1907-1970
1	3	Fort Bliss History, 1861-1865. Contents: Copies of selected articles, book chapters and newspaper clippings. Contains typescript copy of a letter from the Confederate War Department to Brig. Gen. H. H. Sibley at Fort Bliss, countermanding orders for "extermination of hostile Indians."	1862-1970
1	4	Fort Bliss History, 1865-1898. Contents: Six photographs, plus photocopy of Army inspection reports.	1865-1898
1	5	Fort Bliss History, 1898-1916. Contains photocopied article, assorted newspaper clippings, plus an undated 14-page typed list of "Officers of the El Paso Patrol District," giving names and addresses.	1898-1970
1	6	Fort Bliss History, 1916-1920. Contents: 50+ photographic prints related to the Mexican Revolution and World War I. Also, copies of primary documentation, a photo and reports on the so-called "Houston Race Riot" or "Fort Logan Riot," involving the all-Black 3 rd Battalion, 24 th Infantry Division, on 23 August 1917, and legal action taken against soldiers involved.	1916-1970
1	7	Fort Bliss History, 1920-1940. Contents: Photocopy of one scholarly article, 2 EI	1920-1970

		Paso newspaper articles, C.1948, other unattributed photocopies.	
1	8	Fort Bliss History: General. Contents: Brochures from 1966 and 1969, memoranda and correspondence from 1964-1970, newspaper clippings from 1970.	1964-1970
1	9	Fort Bliss History: 40-50. Contents: Fort Bliss welcome brochure in Spanish (undated), "La Réplica de El Fuerte Bliss," and an unattributed photocopy of an article dated 1948.	1948-1957
1	10	Fort Bliss History: 50-70. Contents: Brochure C.1961, photographs, correspondence, newspaper clippings. Undated, unattributed manuscript for a speech condemning antiwar protests.	1961-1970
2	1	Thesis: Photocopy of a master's thesis by Allan W. Sanderstrum dated Jun 1962, <i>Fort Bliss: The Frontier Years</i> . 182 pps.	1962
2	2	Fort Bliss History: White Sands Missile Range. Contents: a. Bound volume, "Land Acquisition 1848-1948," Vol. 1. Fort Bliss Land Acquisition. b. Several hundred 3 x 5 index cards with research notes.	1948-1970
2	3	Fort Bliss History: USAADCEN. Contents: "Director of Engineering Brochure, USAADCEN," prepared for LTG Frederick J. Clarke, USA, 18 Feb 1970.	18 February 1970
2	4	Fort Bliss Facilities Report, 1970, Book 1.	1970
2	5	Fort Bliss Facilities Report, 1970, Book 2.	1970
2	6	German Air Force Air Defense School. Contents: Includes materials related to West German Chancellor Willi Brandt's visit to Fort Bliss, 6 Apr 1970.	1970

2	7	Biggs Field. Photocopy of one unattributed newspaper article (Some parts illegible).	Circa 1970
2	8	White Sands Missile Range. Typescripts, photographs, clippings and brochures, 1960-1970. Also contains sealed photo envelope titled "WSMR Commanders." Complete number of <i>Army Digest</i> , November 1969.	1960-1970
2	9	William Beaumont Army Medical Center. Photographs and folder for WBAMC groundbreaking ceremony, 1969. Newspaper clippings, 1970. Photograph dated 30 November 1920 showing earlier WBAMC building under construction. Correspondence addressed to Bruno J. Rolak.	1920-1970