

LIBERTY AVIATION MUSEUM



John Martin Ward Collection

MH.16.9

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Introduction

This collection of papers was given to the Liberty Aviation Museum by the former Michigan Military History Museum in 2014 along with a large collection of military history objects. The MMHM is now defunct. They were in the process of opening a museum in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and the project never fully materialized. This collection of papers is a small collection of military papers of John M. Ward, his spouse, Sharon L. (Gardner) Ward, and his father, Frederick F. Ward. All papers were the property of John M. Ward. Permission to use this collection for research purposes was granted by the donor.

Biographical Sketch

This collection features a small archive of military papers of John Martin Ward, his father and his spouse. John Martin Ward was born in New York City on 15 December 1935 to Mr. and Mrs. Francis Frederick Ward. His father, Francis F. Ward (whose own military papers, in small volume, are a part of this collection) served in the United States Navy during World War II as a Carpenter's Mate, 1st Class. John M. Ward enlisted in the US Navy at Teaneck, New Jersey on 23 July 1956. He went through basic training, aka, boot camp at Bainbridge, Maryland. After graduation from basic training at Bainbridge, he was sent to technical school at the Naval Training Center in Great Lakes, Illinois where he trained and was giving the rating of Engineman, 1st Class.

After his initial trainings, he was assigned to the USS Opportune from March 1957 to September 1959. He was then assigned to the USS Oglethorpe from October 1959 to November 1963.

During this time, while aboard the Oglethorpe, he took part in operations related to the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962. In January 1964, he was transferred to Recruit Training Command until March 1965. During this period, he married Sharon Lee Gardner on 27 February 1965. Sharon “Gardner” Ward was also in the US Navy and served as a Hospitalman, 1st Class. In early 1965, he was then sent to serve aboard the USS Redstart in Seattle, WA. from April 1965 to July 1965. His final service in the regular Navy was aboard the USS Hollister from July 1965 through November 1966. While aboard the Hollister, he completed two tours in the Western Pacific including operations in the Vietnam War conflict. He was honorably discharged from the US Navy in November 1966 with the rank of Petty Officer, 2nd Class.

From January 1974 through January 1978, J.M. Ward served in the US Navy Reserves as a Construction Mechanic, 2nd Class. He was assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 123 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He was then transferred in January 1976 to Norfolk, Virginia.

After serving in the USNR, John M. Ward enlisted in the US Army Reserves in ca. 1978. He served in the USAR from 1978 through ca. 1995 as a Sergeant, 1st Class. He was a Maintenance Platoon Sergeant in units such as the 791st Transportation Battalion, 180th Transportation Company, 97th Transportation Company at locations in Michigan, Virginia and elsewhere.

Mr. J.M. Ward was a career military person serving his country from 1956 through 1995 in military conflicts such as the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Vietnam War, and Operation Desert Storm as well as other minor events in the regular Navy and reserves.

Scope and Content

The collection of papers saved and preserved by John Martin Ward include military documents and personal papers, i.e. records, certificates, diplomas, official correspondence, military identification cards, licenses, photographs, maps, ephemera and like items. The total footprint of the records measure at 1 cubic foot. The records mainly encompass John M. Ward’s military service, however, also saved are military records of his father Francis Frederick Ward and his spouse, Sharon Lee “Gardner” Ward. This collection was appraised, processed, and organized in its original order as a series. The bulk of the records were arranged and organized into a 2” three-ring binder, by seven (7) titled, colored tab dividers by John M. Ward concerning his military career and his spouse’s military service. Overall, his original order, has been preserved, however, the military records of his father and other loose papers were unorganized and were processed and arranged into four (4) single tab file folders. Therefore, the system of arrangement for this

collection is by series into one (1) 2” grey three-ring binder with seven (7) colored tab dividers, four (4) single tab file folders in one legal size archival storage box.

Inventory

Binder 1

Tab 1—Orders

USAR reassignment orders, dated 21 June 1989.

Tab 2—NCO ER

USAR NCO Evaluation Report, dated 4 August 1989

USAR NCO Evaluation Report, dated February 1991

USAR NCO Evaluation Report, dated April 1991

Tab 3—Biography

Biographical Summary of John M. Ward from July 1956 thru April 1984, dated 28 December 1984 (3 pp.)

Individual Mobilization Augmentee Memorandum, 26 March 1990

Disposition Form for “Over 40 Test Results” for John M. Ward, dated 20 Sept. 1987

US Navy—Info Sheet on John M Ward, EN 1c

Tab 4—Awards

Graduation Review—Recruit Trng. Command—Ceremony Program, dated 6 Oct. 1956

USAR Certificate of Recognition for Continued Service, dated 21 July 1983

791st Transportation Battalion Certificate of Appreciation, dated 23 March 1984

USAR Certificate of Recognition for Continued Service, dated 24 March 1984

Letter of Recommendation from 97th Trans. Co. Commander, dated 7 February 1991

Tab 5—Schools

US Army Trng. And Doctrine Command Certificate, dated 23 May 1984

Dept. of Army, Certificate of Trng., 180th Trans. Co. for the 80 Hour Generator Operator/Mechanic Course, date unknown.

Dept. of Army, Certificate of Trng., MOS 64 Co. Motor TRANSPORT Driver Trng., dated 11 April 1979

Dept. of the Navy, Bureau of Naval Personnel, Certificate of Trng. Staff Indoctrination at the Staff Trng. School, Great Lakes, Ill., dated 13 March 1964

Dept. of the Navy, Bureau of Naval Personnel, Certificate of Trng. for the GM 8-268A Diesel Engine. Great Lakes, Ill., dated 2 September 1960

Dept. of the Navy, Bureau of Naval Personnel, Certificate of Trng. for the Military Requirements for PO 1 & C for the promotion to First Class Petty Officer dated 6 June 1960

Service School Command, U.S.N.T.C. Great Lakes, Ill. Honor Graduate Diploma for Engineman Class "C" (Boeing 502-6) completion of instruction, dated 12 August 1960

Service School Command, U.S.N.T.C. Great Lakes, Ill. Honor Graduate Diploma for Engineman Class "C" (539 Diesel Engine) completion of instruction, dated 14 October 1960

Dept. of the Navy, Bureau of Naval Personnel, Certificate of Trng. for the Cooper-Bessemer GS B8 Diesel Engine. Great Lakes, Ill., dated 1 August 1958

Dept. of the Navy, Bureau of Naval Personnel, Certificate of Trng. for the GM 16-278A Diesel Engine. Great Lakes, Ill., dated 11 July 1958

Dept. of the Navy, Bureau of Naval Personnel, Certificate of Trng. for the Fairbanks Morse 38D81/8 Diesel Engine. Great Lakes, Ill., dated 23 September 1960

Dept. of the Navy, Bureau of Naval Personnel, Service Schools Certificate of Trng. for the U.S. Naval School, Instructors, Class C-1. Great Lakes, Ill., dated 21 February 1964

Tab 6— DD214/DA348

Form DA-348 for Qualifications, Background & Experience, Performance Record, dated 25 April 1981

Tab 7—Certificates

Armed Forces Liberty Pass, USS Opportune, dated 10 December 1957

Armed Forces of the US, Geneva Conventions I.D. Card, ca. 1950s-60s

US Armed Forces Identification Card for J.M. Ward, expiration 5 November 1991

U.S. Government Motor Vehicle Operator's License I.D. Card, dated 8 November 1987

U.S. Government Motor Vehicle Operator's License I.D. Card, dated 10 December 1990

Recruit Trng. Command, Bainbridge, Maryland, Certificate of Promotion to Recruit (BMW) Petty Officer 2nd Class, ca. 1956

US Navy Certificate of Appointment to Company Commander of Co. 293, Great Lakes Illinois for John M. Ward, EN, 1st Class, ca. 1964

US Navy Certificate of Appointment to Company Commander of Co. 5913, Great Lakes Illinois for John M. Ward, EN, 1st Class, ca. 1964

USN Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Diploma of Graduation from the *Basic Hospital Corps School*, Great Lakes, Ill., to rating of *Hospitalman* for Sharon Lee Gardner, dated 14 June 1962

USN Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Certificate of on the Job Training at the Great Lakes Naval Hospital, Great Lakes Ill., for proficiency in *Electrocardiograph and Basal Metabolism Technique* for Sharon Lee Gardner, dated 8 October 1963

US Navy—Info Sheet on Sharon L Gardner, HN

Folder 1—Military Papers of Frederick Frances Ward (WWII)

Bulletin of Information for Persons Registered, dated 1940

Letter of Correspondence to “Mr. Frederick Ward” from Contractors Pacific Naval Air Bases about his inquiry for employment at Pearl Harbor, T.H. signed by Glen R. Hughs, dated 18 June 1942

USN Rating Description leaflet for *Carpenter’s Mate (CB) (Draftsman), First Class*, NAVPERS 15551, dated 20 November 1945

“Your Rights and Benefits as a Veteran” booklet, NAVPERS 15622, ca. 1940s

Folder 2—Frederick F. Ward Discharge Papers

USN Honorable Discharge Certificate for Francis Frederick Ward, Series C, C1188252, NAVPERS 660, dated 20 November 1945

Notice of Separation Form from US Naval Service, NAVPERS 553, for Francis F. Ward, dated 20 November 1945

Official Photocopy of USN Honorable Discharge Certificate for Francis Frederick Ward, Series C, C1188252, NAVPERS 660, dated 20 November 1945

Official Photocopy of Notice of Separation Form from US Naval Service, NAVPERS 553, for Francis F. Ward, dated 20 November 1945

Folder 3—Photographs

One (1) 6” x 9.5” photograph of the U.S.S. Texas, ca. 1914

One matted, 5" x 7" photograph of the U.S.S. Texas w/ crew sitting on 14" gun w/ sign declaring the "Texas" as the Winner of the Elementary Practice of 1914.

One matted, 5" x 7" photograph of the U.S.S. Texas w/ crew sitting on in front of sign declaring the "Texas" as the Winner of the Elementary Practice of 1914.

One (1) 8.5" x 11" duplicate photograph of the U.S.S. Texas.

One (1) 8.5" x 11" duplicate photograph of the U.S.S. Texas w/ crew sitting on in front of sign declaring the "Texas" as the Winner of the Elementary Practice of 1914.

Folder 4—Maps & Etc.

One (1) large, Macy's Dept. Store "World Battle Fronts" map for kids, WWII era.

One (1) large, Alcoa Aluminum "Global Map for Global War and Global Peace," WWII era

One (1) large, Hagstrom's "Follow the War" global map.

One (1) small, "Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek, Norfolk, Virginia" map, NAB Dwg, No. 2805

Two (2) [identical] bumper stickers with text, "USS Oglethorpe AKA 100, Former Crewmemeber, 908-475-4435."

Objects in relation to the John Martin Ward papers of the Michigan Military History Museum, Accession 2014.63, can be viewed upon request, on site, at the **Liberty Aviation Museum** in Port Clinton, Ohio.