Claude Sirois U. S. Marine Corps insignia and tobacco pipes collection
MCC-00499

Finding Aid

Total boxes: 3
Cubic feet: .53

Prepared by
Anne Chamberland, October 21, 2020
Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes
University of Maine at Fort Kent
Fort Kent, Maine

Claude Sirois U. S. Marine Corps insignia and tobacco pipes collection (MCC-00499)

Shelf List Number: AX-499

Collection Overview

Creator

Claude Sirois

Dates:
1950-1953

Extent:
3 boxes (.53 cubic feet)

Provenance:
Material was brought in by an anonymous source in June 2017

Language:
English

Conservation notes:
All items were wrapped in tissue paper and placed in archival boxes.

Conditions Governing Access and Use

Restrictions

Access:

None

Physical:

None

Technical:

None

Rights Statement
Copyright has been assigned to the Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes

Recommended Citation:
Claude Sirois U. S. Marine Corps insignia and tobacco pipes collection (MCC-00499) Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent.

Collection Description

Biographical Information

Jean-Claude Sirois (1930-2011) was born on September 17, 1930, the son of Charles Sirois and Agnes Daigle of Frenchville, Maine. Claude was married to Agnes Daigle in Baker-Brook, New Brunswick, on June 20, 1961. Mr. Sirois was the owner of Sirois Dairy with his brother, Hermel. He worked at Fraser Paper for 15 years and served in the United States Marine Corps. From his 1952-53 journal, it appears Mr. Sirois travelled all over Europe, Asia, Africa, and South America while he was in the Marine Corps in the 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment. Mr. Sirois was a member of the American Legion, the Knight of Columbus Third Degree, and a member of St. Thomas Cell St. Agnes group.

Mr. Sirois passed away at a health care facility in Frenchville, Maine on October 17, 2011.

Historical Information

The history of the United States Marine Corps (USMC) begins with the founding of the Continental Marines on 10 November 1775 to conduct ship-to-ship fighting, provide shipboard security and discipline enforcement, and assist in landing forces. Its mission evolved with changing military doctrine and foreign policy of the United States. Owing to the availability of Marine forces at sea, the United States Marine Corps has served in nearly every conflict in United States history. It attained prominence when its theories and practice of amphibious warfare proved prescient, and ultimately formed a cornerstone of U.S. strategy in the Pacific Theater of World War II. By the early 20th century, the Marine Corps would become one of the dominant theorists and practitioners of amphibious warfare. Its ability to rapidly respond on short notice to expeditionary crises has made and continues to make it an important tool for U.S. foreign policy.

In World War II, the Marines played a central role, under Admiral Nimitz, in the Pacific War, participating in nearly every significant battle. The Corps also saw its peak growth as it expanded from two brigades to two corps with six divisions, and five air wings with 132 squadrons. During the Battle of Iwo Jima, photographer Joe Rosenthal took the famous photo *Raising of the Flag on Iwo Jima* of five Marines and one naval corpsman

raising a U.S. flag on Mount Suribachi. The Korean War (1950–1953) saw the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade holding the line at the Battle of Pusan Perimeter, where Marine helicopters (VMO-6 flying the HO3S1 helicopter) made their combat debut. For more information, visit:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_United_States_Marine_Corps [1]

The eagle, globe, and anchor together or EGA is the official emblem and insignia of the United States Marine Corps

2nd Battalion, 6th Marines (2/6) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based out of Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Also known as "The Ready Battalion" or "2/6 Spartans", it consists of approximately 800 Marines and Sailors and falls under the command of the 6th Marine Regiment and the 2nd Marine Division. The regiment falls under the command of the 2nd Marine Division of the II Marine Expeditionary Force. The 6th Marines combat history dates back to World War I when they were part of the American Expeditionary Force. They fought in the Pacific Theater in World War II most notably at the battles of Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan, Tinian and Okinawa. More recently, the regiment has seen combat during the Gulf War and in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Scope and Content

This collection consists of a pocketsize calendar/diary and some loose papers with notes and names of places, US Marine Corps insignias and identification tags or dog tags belonging to Claude Sirois, a “Fourragère” (Pogey rope), USMC Corporal Chevrons, *We The People* Constitution hat or lapel pin 7/8", 8 personal tobacco pipes, one zippo lighter with USMC insignia, a ceramic hookah, and an intricately detailed wooden opium pipe.

On the inside cover of the 1953 calendar is the name CPL Claude Sirois, 2nd Bn 6th mar (2d Battalion, 6th Marines). The 1953 pocketsize calendar and loose papers contain notes and entries from October, November, and December 1952 through December 1953.

Arrangement

Not specified.

Separated materials:
Four zippo lighters and one box of Field & Steam tobacco were discarded.

Subject Headings

Armed Forces – Insignia
Korean War, 1950-1953 – Peace

[1] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_United_States_Marine_Corps

Korean War, 1950-1953 – Veterans
Military decorations
Military dog tags
United States. Marine Corps
United States. Marine Corps. Marine Regiment, 2nd. Battalion, 6th Maine.
Tobacco pipes
Veterans – Maine – United States

Related Materials

Not applicable.

Collection Inventory

Box	Item	Description
1	1	1953 calendar/diary. Example of entries: *Thursday January 8, 1953 – Left for Viequez; Friday January 16 arrived in Viequez & made a landing; February 10, 1953 we set up communication; March 6, 1953 We left for Colon, Panama; March 28, 1953 arrived at Onslow beach & made landing in m-track; April 17, 1953 Robert birthday; May 4, 1953 arrived in Gibraltar; May 12, 1953 left Gibraltar for Sardinia.* Etc. Brown cover, measures 7 cm x 14cm
1	2	Nine loose leaves with destinations and ships' names. 9 cm x 14.5 cm
1	3	Fourragère (Pogey rope) green with red stripes and brass tip. The ***fourragère*** is a military award, distinguishing military units as a whole, in the form of a braided cord worn usually around the left shoulder. The award was first adopted by France, followed by other nations such as the Netherlands, Belgium, Portugal, and Luxembourg. Fourragères have been awarded to units of both national and foreign militaries.
1	4	Corporal chevrons (6), green and red.
1	5	Oval Identification tags (2) or "dog tags" stamped with *Sirois, Claude, 1156410 C, O T 11-50 USMC*
1	6, 7	One *Marksman* badge and one *Sharpshooter* badge with cross.
1	8	Three ribbon award in one: *Presidential Unit Citation medal; National Defense Service medal; Navy Occupation Service medal.*
1	9, 10	*United State Navy Presidential Unit Citation ribbon; Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal ribbon.*
1	11, 12, 13	United State Marine Corps emblems. **The Eagle**, Globe, and Anchor is the official emblem and insignia of the United States Marine Corps. It is commonly referred to as an EGA. Item 11 is about 4 cm high, items 12 & 13 are smaller, about 2.5 cm high made of brass.

Box	Item	Description
1	14, 15, 16	United State Marine Corps emblems. **The Eagle**, Globe, and Anchor is the official emblem and insignia of the United States Marine Corps. It is commonly referred to as an EGA. The Items are about 2.5 cm high and probably made of brass.
1	17	*We the People* signing of the constitution lapel pin
1	18	Brushed chrome Zippo lighter with United States Marine Corps emblem
2	1	Torpedo or cigar-shaped briar tobacco pipe with metal tip. About 5 inches long.
2	2	Intricately hand-carved, brown **bullhead** with horns tobacco pipe with curved stem and a *Bruyere Garantie* seal (made of briar wood) measuring about 5½ inches long.
2	3	Vintage brown tobacco pipe with curved stem and marking on the neck *CENTURY OLD IMPORTED BRIAR ITALY*. It measures about 5 inches long with 1-inch diameter bowl.
2	4	Vintage brown tobacco pipe with curved stem and marking on the neck *CENTURY OLD IMPORTED BRIAR ITALY*. It measures about 5 inches long with 1-inch diameter bowl.
2	5	Straight, metal stem tobacco pipe with brown, round wood bowl. Bowl is 1 inch in diameter. The pipe measures about 6 inches long. Well used with bite marks.
2	6	Handmade corn cob tobacco pipe with oval shape bowl, straight wooden stem, and curved bit. There are seven handmade marks, roughly ½ a centimeter long, on the wooden stem probably made by the owner. The pipe measures approximately 6 inches long and the bowl is one inch in diameter.
2	7	*Barnacle, Made in France, Imported Briar* are markings on this tobacco pipe. This pipe has a rustic, crusty textured look and curved stem. Height is 4 inches with 3/4 bent billiard chamber.
2	8	Vintage hand-carved Indian head tobacco pipe with *Genuine Briar* markings, measuring approximately 4 inches long. The letter *L* was carved on the curved stem.
2	9	Elaborately decorated bamboo opium pipe. The long bamboo stem is made of five segments, interconnecting with the globular shape pipe-bowl, with a dark brown/ black mouthpiece, measuring about 40 inches long. The pipe is a brown caramel color with black and caramel color carvings with one bamboo ring on each segment. The pipe is clean and has never been smoked, most likely a souvenir from Southeast Asia.
3	1	One hookah pipe made of a light blue, black, white, and brownish colored ceramic bowl and neck (neck is broken) with yellow, green stem, and red disc to contain ashes. The tube is of dark blue plastic with a yellow mouthpiece. This hookah is clean and has never been smoked, most likely a souvenir from Southeast Asia.