

**1279th Combat Engineers  
Alumni Association Collection  
MSS100**

**Finding aid prepared by Alexis Braun Marks**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

March 10, 2010

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History  
2008 February 6  
315 East Warren Avenue  
Detroit, Michigan, 48201  
313-494-5800

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History
<b>Creator</b>	1279th Combat Engineers. (WWII African American combat unit)
<b>Title</b>	1279th Combat Engineers Alumni Association Collection
<b>Date [bulk]</b>	Bulk, 1980-1990
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1952-1997
<b>Extent</b>	0.2 Cubic feet 1 halfsize Archives Box
<b>Language</b>	English

## **Administrative History**

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The 1279th Combat Engineers, an African America combat unit, dates back to 1937, where they served in World War II and the South Pacific, including the Solomon, Luzon, and Philippine Islands. The unit was re-designated as the 1279th Combat Engineers Battalion in 1944. First activated in 1947, the unit was federalized in August of 1950 and served in Germany during the Korean War as occupational troops. The Battalion was primarily responsible for building bridges and roads, and it was involved in a variety of community projects.

The Alumni Association was originally formed to give former members a "chance to meet other than at funerals."

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## **Scope and Contents note**

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The 1279th Combat Engineers Alumni Association collection consists of programs, clippings, and some correspondence from the original Battalion as well as from the Alumni Association. There are no founding documents, member lists, or information on events other than the President's Balls that were held in the 1950s and reinstated in the 1990s.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History 2008 February 6

### **Revision Description**

2009 February 19

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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**Subject(s)**

- Korean War, 1950-1953
- World War II

## Collection Inventory

### Alumni Association History

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Text	1	1

### Alumni Association

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Text	1	2

### Clippings File

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Text	1	3

### Correspondence about the 1279th Combat Engineers

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Text	1	4

## Correspondence with Michigan National Guard 1943-1953

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Text	1	5

## Programs 1950-1952

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Text	1	6

## President's Ball Programs

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Text	1	7

## Alumni Association Photographs (color copies)

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Graphic materials	1	8

## Armory Photographs

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Graphic materials	1	9

## Exhibit Photographs

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Graphic materials	1	10

## Miscellaneous Ephemera

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Graphic materials	1	11