

TITLE: Brinegar – Bethancourt Persian Gulf Collection

DATE RANGE: 1939 – 1985

CALL NUMBER: FM MSS #54

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.25 linear feet (1 document box)

PROVENANCE: Donated by David Brinegar, 1990. Donated to the Arizona Historical Society in 2012 by the Arizona Historical Foundation.

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RESTRICTIONS: This collection is unrestricted.

CREDIT LINE: Brinegar – Bethancourt Persian Gulf Collection, FM MSS 54, Arizona Historical Society-Papago Park.

PROCESSED BY: Paul Hollmann, April 2010

HISTORICAL NOTE: The Brinegar – Bethancourt Collection is comprised of materials collected by David Brinegar who was a Captain in Coast Artillery Corps and Wiltz Bethancourt, the Head of the United States Army Censorship Department in Iran. They remained in contact after their years of military service, both being active in the "Last Man's Club" and Persian Gulf Command Veterans Organizations. These two gentlemen were two of an estimated 400 Arizonans who served in the Persian Gulf Command during World War II. This operation was charged with creating and maintaining air, highway, and rail routes through Iran to supply the Soviet Union with materials for their fight against Nazi Germany on the Eastern Front.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: David Brinegar (1910 – 1998) was born in Rulo, Nebraska before moving to Tucson, Arizona with his parents at age 2. He was a lifetime journalist, getting his first job with the *Arizona Daily Star* while still a student at Tucson High School in April of 1925. In 1935 he moved to Phoenix and became the statehouse reporter for the *Arizona Republic*, where he worked before beginning his brief military career. In the late 1940s he became the first managing editor of the small paper *The Arizona Times*, before leaving to become executive secretary of the Central Arizona Project Association. He later worked as a copy editor for the *Arizona Daily Star*, eventually being assigned as its Executive Editor in 1961. He worked there until his retirement in 1974. Source: *Arizona Daily Star*, January 3, 1998, 8A.

Wiltz Bethancourt (1917 – 2003) was born in Santa Rita, New Mexico and moved to Phoenix in 1929. He served in the armed forces until 1961, where he served in Persian Gulf Command, the Korean War, and as a career officer in the Airborne Infantry and Armor in both the U.S. and Germany. He obtained his B.A. and M.A. degrees from Arizona State University and became a science teacher for the JFK Middle School and the Maricopa County Junior College system in Phoenix. Source: *Arizona Republic*, September 9, 2003, B6.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE: This collection includes primary sources detailing the experiences of David Brinegar and Wiltz Bethancourt during their service in the Persian Gulf Command and afterwards. Materials include correspondence, newsletters, unpublished manuscripts, U.S. Army regulatory manuals circa the 1940s - 1950s, & original copies of the *Persian Gulf Command Dispatch* newspaper. The condition of the correspondence and newsletters is good. The manuscripts and U.S. Army regulatory materials are in fair condition.

CONTAINER LIST:

No series. Content is organized alphabetically except for newspapers which are aggregated in the last folders.

Box	Folder	Title	Dates
1	1	Bethancourt Certificates	1952-1953
	2	Bethancourt Military Documents	1939-1960
	3	Bethancourt Photographs	1944-1951
	4	Brinegar Correspondence	1945
	5	Company A, 516 th Q.M. Regiment "Last Man's Club" Newsletters & Correspondence	1979-1985
	6	Persian Gulf Command Veterans Organization Correspondence	1979-1984
	7	<i>Somewhere East of Suez</i> by David Brinegar	n.d.
	8	<i>The Glamour That Was Persia: An American Soldier Looks at Iran</i> by Pfc. Wallace P. Rusterholtz	n.d.
	9	United States Army Censorship Regulations	1942-1943
	10	United States Army Regulations	1949-1959
	11	<i>When Sadat Drove A Hack</i> by David Brinegar	n.d.
	12	<i>Persian Gulf Command Dispatch</i> Newspapers	1943-1945
	13	<i>Persian Gulf Command Dispatch</i> Newspapers	1945