



MG 585 – Woolsey Family Collection

Dates: 1943 - 1944

Extent: 1 file

Biography: Two of the letters in this grouping were written by V-10860 Telegrapher Leonard R. Woolsey, who was an original member of the crew of the HMCS Athabaskan, which was disabled by German air attack in August 1943. He later served at sea in H.M.C.S. Chaudiere, and finally received a commission, ending the war attached to the Royal Navy as a Fleet Air Arm fighter controller. The other correspondence was written by his mother, and include content about the early service of the Athabaskan, and about her sinking in 1944. The letters were written to Leonard's brother L.A.C. Eldon Woolsey, R-120650, who served overseas in the R.C.A.F. from 1943 to 1945, much of the time with 422 Squadron. [Two other brothers, Donald, served in the Canadian Parachute Corps late in the war and Able Seaman Boyd H. Woolsey, who served at sea on anti-submarine duties in Fairmile motor launches.]

Scope and Content: Five original WWII Canadian letters, with content about the destroyer H.M.C.S. Athabaskan, pride in service, the W. R. E. N. s, criticisms of those young men not serving, and duties while in service.

Custodial History: This collection was purchased by the University Library in 2016 from M. Benjamin Katz of Toronto.

Restrictions: There are no restrictions on access.