

## Captain Royall B. Fleming Collection (AC158)

### ***Introduction:***

The Royall B. Fleming Collection contains primary materials chronicling Fleming's service in World War II. Fleming was a medical professional who worked in Kansas City at General Hospital #2 and later served in World War II in the 92nd Infantry Division as a captain in the Medical Corps.

### ***Descriptive Summary:***

Creator: Royall Fleming

Title: Captain Royall B. Fleming Collection

Date Range: 1942-1951

Bulk Dates: 1942-1945

Size: 1.88 (Linear feet) 2 boxes

Collection Number: AC158

### ***Donor Information:***

Found in Collection.

### ***Citation Note:***

Captain B. Fleming Collection (AC158), the Black Archives of Mid-America

### ***Related Collections:***

AC50: GENERAL HOSPITAL #2 COLLECTION

AC132: HAYWOOD MCNAIRY COLLECTION

### ***Subjects:***

World War II

92nd Infantry Division

U.S. Army Medical Corps

***Administrative Information:***

Reproduction Restrictions: Unrestricted.

Access Restrictions: Unrestricted.

***Biographical Sketch:***

Royall Brandon Fleming was born on July 6, 1902, in Elizabeth City, North Carolina.

Fleming attended the first HBCU in North Carolina at Shaw University in Raleigh. He then graduated from Howard School of Medicine in 1930. Fleming later established a connection to Kansas City during his two-year tenure at General Hospital #2, where he served as a medical doctor. While there, he supervised the allergy clinic and performed minor surgeries, contributing to the hospital's daily operations and patient care.

During World War II, Fleming served as a captain in the United States Army Medical Corps. He entered active duty on June 29, 1942, and was assigned to the 366th Infantry Regiment, part of the 92nd Infantry Division—a segregated African American division that saw significant combat in Italy between 1944 and 1945. Of the three African American divisions that served in the war, only the 92nd served as a full division in combat. For his bravery and service, Fleming was awarded both the Silver Star and the Purple Heart. He was honorably discharged from active duty on February 15, 1946.

***Scope and Content Note:***

[OS] indicates Oversized Material. Oversized items in Series 2 are located in Flat File #1, Drawer #2. Oversized items in Series 3 are located in Flat File #1, Drawer #2

**Series 1: *Gay-Craft* Field/Medical Jacket**

This series consists of a *Gay-Craft* field/medical jacket. The *Gay-Craft* company was contracted by the U.S. Army in 1940. They were designed for durability, utility, and the ability to wear over a standard uniform. The design was based on a civilian windbreaker design suggested by Major General James K. Parsons. It is olive drab wool with a roomy fit and a 3-button structure with a chest pocket. *Gay-Craft* and similar contractors designed products for the U.S. Army up to 1960. The jacket pocket has sustained ink damage.

**Series 2: Certificates**

This series contains three certificates. One, an undated certificate from the President of the United States of America, Franklin D. Roosevelt. Fleming was awarded the certificate for his uncompensated services in the Selective Service System for a total of two years. Fleming also received a certificate for a Fifteenth Officers' Course from The Medical Field Service School, United States Army, which focused on subjects: military art, administration, military sanitation, logistics, and field medicine and surgery. Fleming received an honorable discharge certificate from the Armed Forces on February 6, 1951.

**Series 3: Panoramic Photograph**

This series includes a wide photograph of the 92nd Infantry Division, showing Captain Fleming in the first row, fifteenth from the left. The 92nd Infantry Division was part of the 5th Army that fought in Italy during World War II. It was also the only infantry unit made up entirely of African Americans to fight in Europe. While in Italy, from August 1944 until the war ended in May 1945, the 92nd moved forward over 3,000 square miles and captured more than 20,000 German soldiers. They also had many losses, with more than a quarter of the unit killed or hurt in battle. For their actions, the 92nd received more than 12,000 awards and honors, including two Medals of Honor. *The photograph is very fragile.*

**Series 4: United States Army Uniform Patches**

This series contains two U.S. Army uniform patches. One is identified as a U.S. Army 5<sup>th</sup> shoulder patch, often recognized as a Class A patch. It is now known as the North patch. The design features a white "A" and "5" on a blue background, outlined by a red shape representing a mosque, symbolizing the unit's activation in North Africa. The second patch is identified as a World War II US Army First Army Medical Department insert patch. It features a rectangular shape with a dark base and a green lower section. The top section contains a small brown square outlined in white. This specific design was used to indicate medical personnel attached to the First Army unit.

**Series 5: United States Army Identification Cards**

This series contains two types of identification cards. An Officer's Identification Card was issued by the War Department on Sept 30, 1942, in Washington, D.C. It identifies Captain Fleming with a short description, a headshot, and his right-hand fingerprints. The second identification card is a membership card for the Fifth Army Officers' Rest Hotel in Rome, Italy, for room No. 414.

**Series 6: Newspaper Clipping**

This series contains an unidentified newspaper clipping that provides detailed information on Captain Fleming receiving a Silver Star for gallantry action on February 8, 1945, in Italy. He exposed himself to hostile artillery, mortar, small arms fire, and anti-personnel mines by immediately setting up first aid stations, administering aid to those in need, and comforting the wounded. Fleming worked day and night from Feb 8<sup>th</sup> to Feb 11<sup>th</sup> to save as many lives as possible under hazardous combat conditions.

**Series 7: U.S. Army Records, 1942 -1951**

This series contains various military documents. Fleming received several appointment letters. The appointment to the rank of Captain and a restricted notification from the War Department about his upcoming Silver Star Award in 1945 stand out. Other records include an appointment to the Officers' Reserves and the Medical Corps posting, and his Military Report of Separation & Certificate of Service in February of 1946.

***Collection Inventory:*****Series 1: Olive Drab *Gay-Craft* Field/Medical Jacket**

f. 1 Field/Medical jacket

**Series 2: United States Army Certificates**

f. 2 Certificates [OS]

- a. Certificate of Appreciation, no date.
- b. Fifteenth Officers' Course, The Medical Field Service School, United States Army, 1942
- c. Honorable Discharge, February 6, 1951

**Series 3: Panoramic Photograph**

f. 3 92<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division photograph [OS]

**Series 4: United States Army Uniform Patches**

f. 4 Patches

- a. U.S. Army 5<sup>th</sup> Shoulder Patch
- b. World War II US Army First Army Medical Department Insert Patch

**Series 5: United States Army Identification Cards**

f. 5 Identification Cards

- a. Officer's Identification Card. War Department, Washington, D.C., Royall B. Fleming, Sept 30, 1942.
- b. Membership Card. Fifth Army Officers' Rest Hotel, Hotel Excelsior-Rome, Capt. Royall B. Fleming, Room No. 414.

**Series 6: Newspaper Clipping**

f. 6 Silver Star for Gallantry is Awarded Dr. R. B. Fleming, no date.

**Series 7: U.S. Army Records, 1942 -1951**

f. 7 Fleming's Records

**Processed by: Kat Miller, Assistant Archivist, March 2026**

**Sources:**

"Home." 2022. Army.mil. 2022. <https://achh.army.mil/>.

Rada, James. 2012. "92nd Infantry (Buffalo Division)." 92nd Infantry (Buffalo Division). April 25, 2012. <https://92ndinfantry.org/>.