

**Francis Edward Abbey, 1918-1991**  
**Military Recruiting Photographs, 1944-1951**  
**FB-84**

**Introduction**

This collection contains photographs and military booklets collected by military recruiting officer Francis E. Abbey in the course of his work in northern Vermont and New Hampshire during the period approximately 1944 to 1951. The collection was given to the Vermont Historical Society by Richard O. Hathaway in 2002 (ms. acc. no. 2002.21). It is stored in one archival flip top box and consumes .5 linear feet of shelf space.

**Biographical Note**

Francis Edward Abbey was born August, 31, 1918, in Barre, Vermont, son of Herbert Lewis and Mary (Silva) Abbey. After graduating from Spaulding High School in Barre, Vermont, he developed a career in the Army Air Forces. He appears in some of the photographs as a tech sergeant. He later moved to Orlando, Florida and died in Bushnell, Florida on March 16, 1991, leaving his wife Beatrice Abbey, two daughters, two sons and a sister all in Florida. Francis was buried with full military honors at Florida National Cemetery in a service conducted by Rev. Dennis Redstone and members of MacDill Air Force Base Honor Guard.

**Scope and Content Note**

The collection consists of ten folders of photographs of military recruiting efforts and four folders of military booklets belonging to Francis Edward Abbey as he performed his work in northern Vermont and New Hampshire during the period 1944 to 1951. The photographs document recruiting activities in central Vermont. The photographs show that the recruiting effort was aided by non-military organizations such as the Masons, as evidenced by many group photographs in various settings such as club rooms and hotels. The photographs also document Army Day parades showing extensive window displays, and recruiting teams working at many fairs around the area. Also included are photographs of broadcasts held at several radio stations. Several photographs depict induction ceremonies and the awarding of citations. Many, but not all, of the locations and people in the photographs are identified.

Among the booklets is "The Official Guide to the Army Air Forces" which describes the organization, aircraft, purpose and history of operations as well as major personnel. It includes very detailed descriptions of most every aspect of the air force. Another booklet about Okinawa contains numerous photographs of the people and island with history of the role of the 1<sup>st</sup> Air Division there.

A separate listing of the names of persons identified in the photographs is in Folder 0 and on the web at <http://www.vermonthistory.org/documents/transcriptions/abbeyNames.pdf>.

### Inventory

- FB-84:01 Groups, ca. 1950
- :02 Gov. Weeks, Gibson, Arthur, 1947-51
- :03 Parades, Montpelier and Barre, 1950
- :04 Dinner Meetings
- :05 Radio Interviews
- :06 Portraits, Personal, c. 1949
- :07 Equipment, Supplies, c. 1948
- :08 Window Displays, Army Day, 1949
- :09 Recruiting at Fairgrounds, 1946-1948
- :10 Inductions, Citations, c. 1948
- :11 Booklet, "The Official Guide to the Army Air Forces," 1944
- :12 Miscellaneous Booklets, 1938-51
  - "The Children We Teach," Edith B. Ruby, 1938
  - "French Africa, The Problem of Private Investments," 1951
- :13 Military Manuals, 1945-49
  - "Military Justice Handbook: The Trial Judge Advocate and The Defense Counsel," Dept. of the Army Pamphlet 27-6, 1949
  - "Military Sanitation," War Dept. Field Manual FM 21-10, 1945
  - "First Aid for Soldiers," War Dept. Field Manual FM 21-11, 1946
  - "Army Troop Information Topics: More Sweat Less Blood," Dept. of the Army Pamphlet 20-132
- :14 Booklet, "1<sup>st</sup> Air Division, Okinawa," 1947

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