

# **Finding Aid for the United States Army Weather School collection Collection 173**

**Finding aid prepared by John Kaiser**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department  
December 1994  
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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
<b>Title</b>	United States Army Weather School collection
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1942-1943
<b>Extent</b>	3.0 Linear feet Five boxes
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>The Weather Training School of the United States Army Air Force was located in Grand Rapids, Michigan from 1942-1943. The school converted several downtown buildings, including the Pantlind Hotel and Civic Auditorium, into barracks, mess halls, classrooms, offices and officer's quarters. The collection includes newspaper clippings, photographs, school publications, invitations and programs for school events, a history of the school, rosters and the Weather School newspaper, the Forecaster.</p>

## **Biographical/Historical note**

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In November 1942 Grand Rapids received word that the Weather Training School of the Army Air Forces Technical Training Command would be moved from Chanute Field, Illinois. Several downtown buildings, including the Pantlind Hotel, Civic Auditorium, and Pantlind Exhibitors Buildings were converted into barracks, mess halls, classrooms, offices, and officers quarters. Classes began in January 1943, and by September, with more than 2,000 troops having received training, the school was closed.

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## **Scope and Contents note**

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Included are newspaper clippings, photographs, school publications, invitations and programs to school social events, a history of the school, rosters, and the Weather School newspaper The Forecaster. The bulk of the processed collection is the Forecaster tabloid newspaper. Microfilm of the available holdings is available (see staff), and should be used, instead of the originals, when making copies.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department December 1994

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition note**

Mary Medendorp, 1990, 1992, accession numbers 1990.032, 1992.004 Library purchase, accession number P2000.032 Wilton G. Hawes, unprocessed, accession number 86.385

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## **Related Materials**

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### **Related Archival Materials note**

Ask staff for assistance in locating the microfilm version of the Forecaster, housed with other departmental microfilm, for use in photocopying.

Collection 125, the Robinson Studio Collection: Search the online database for images from the Grand Rapids Herald newspaper about the Weather school.

Collection 310, the Grand Rapids Public Library World War II collection

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## Controlled Access Headings

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### Corporate Name(s)

- United States. Army Air Forces. Technical Training Command.

### Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History

### Subject(s)

- World War, 1939-1945

## Series I. Newspaper Clippings, 1942-1943.

## Collection Inventory

## Series I. Newspaper Clippings, 1942-1943.

## Scope and Contents note

Clippings on social and military events, awards for achievement by students and teachers, and the opening and closing of the Weather school while in Grand Rapids.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Newspaper Clippings, Dec. 7, 1942-Sept. 6, 1943.	1	1
		<b>Box</b>
Michigan Tradesman. Nov. 18, 1942. Grand Rapids Gets Army Weather School for 6,000. Includes a sketch of Hotel Rowe by N.I. Gornick, with caption "Grand Rapids Hotel taken for Army Weather School." Photocopy		5
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Weathermen in Khaki : reminiscences of a student in Grand Rapids' World War II Weather School / by Wilton G. Hawes. Grand River Valley Review, v. 5, no. 2, 1984, p. 22. [Added 6/2000]	1	34
		<b>Box</b>
Graphic clipping from unidentified scrapbook, ca. Sept. 6, 1943, bird's eye view of the Cadets of the Grand Rapids weather school marching possibly on Division near Reservoir Hill. 2008.003		5

## Series II. Photographs, 1943.

**People, 1943.****Scope and Contents note**

Images of awards, field exercises at Belknap Park, parades in the streets of Grand Rapids, students, officers, and instructors at the school, and classroom scenes.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Awards ceremonies, 1943. (2)	1	2
Classrooms, 1943. (1)	1	3
Dances, 1943. (1)	1	4
Field training, 1943. (4)	1	5
Furniture, 1943. (1)	1	6
Parades, 1943. (4)	1	7

**People, 1943.**

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Black, Colonel Edward C., 1943. (3)	1	8
Edwards, Colonel Sheldon B., 1943. (1)	1	9
LeBaron, Major W.F., 1943. (1)	1	10
Lewis, Harold B., 1943. (1)	1	11

**Series III. School Publications, 1942-1943**

Popkess, G. Edwin, 1943. (1)	1	12
Unidentified, 1943. (2)	1	13
Groups, 1943 (6)	1	14
Groups identified, 1943. (1)	1	15
<b>Series III. School Publications, 1942-1943</b>		
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		
Invitations and programs for events, a yearbook, telephone directory, and a copy of "On the Beam" a program for the musical review produced by the students.		
		<b>Box</b>
Enid Army airfield, yearbook, n.d.		2
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
The Grand Rapids "Craftsman" with advertisement for talk by Major Charles Rundquist, Feb. 1943.	1	16
Graduation programs, 1943.	1	17
Invitation and program for graduation dance, 1943.	1	18
Invitation and program for graduation ball, 1943.	1	19



**Series IV. Weather School Documents, 1943**

Program for graduation parade and exercises, 1943.	1	20
Program for Grand Rapids salute to the U.S. Army Air Forces, 1942.	1	21
Menu for farewell banquet for Col. Black, 1943.	1	22
On The Beam musical review, programs, 1943. [Note: A second copy found in Box 2, 6/2000, and added to this folder]	1	23
Program for Pearl Harbor day memorial service, 1942.	1	24
Telephone directory, 1943.	1	25
<b>Series IV. Weather School Documents, 1943</b>		
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		
Cadet orders, discharge notices, students essays, radio and news scripts and rosters.		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Aviation cadet orders, 1943.	1	26
Discharge notices for Alice Loomis, 1943.	1	27
History of Weather School.	1	28
Papers by forecaster, Pat Loomis, 1943.	1	29-31

**Series V. The Forecaster, 1943**

Radio and News scripts for Weather school, 1943.	1	32
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Rosters, 1943.	1	33
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**Series V. The Forecaster, 1943****Scope and Contents note**

Issues from January 30, 1943 - August 1943.

v. 1, Aug., 1943 Souvenir Edition [replacement rec'd. 3/15/2000]

Use the microfilm, not the originals, to make copies.

**Box**

The Forecaster Weather School newspaper, January 30, 1943 – August 1943. To make copies, ask staff for assistance in locating the microfilm of this newspaper.

2

**Series VI. Realia****Scope and Contents note**

Felt banner [Added May 2000, P2000.032]

**Box**

Felt Banner [Rolled in tissue paper] P2000.032

3

**Unprocessed material****Box**

4

**Box**

5