



ArchivesSpace
a community served by ✦ LYRASIS

Finding aid for the Grand Rapids in World War II, 1941-1946 collection Collection 310

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on December 19, 2018.

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

111 Library Street NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

localhis@grpl.org

URL: <http://www.grpl.org>

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Scope and Contents	3
Administrative Information	4
Related Materials	4
Controlled Access Headings	5
Collection Inventory	5
Series I. Letters	5
Series II. Scrapbooks	5
Series III. Photographs.	6
Series IV. Small Collections of memorabilia.	6
Set I. 00.[0015].1-"World War II Misc. Donations", given pre-1998, but donors unknown.	6
Set II. Nelson K. Hurst. WWII memorabilia of his work as a naval radio operator. 2002.112	8
Series V. Kent County Historical Commission WWII Information Cards project.	9
Series VI. Vertical File Transfers & Ephemera	9
Subseries A. Vertical File Transfers	9
Subseries B. Ephemera	10
Series VII. Realia	11
Series VIII. Veterans	11
Glen Barrett Materials	11

Summary Information

Repository: Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department

Title: Grand Rapids in World War II collection

ID: Collection 310

Date: 1940s

Physical Description: 13.6 Linear Feet 20 boxes

Language of the Material: English

Abstract: This is a devised collection which brings together several accessions of materials related to World War II. Included are documents, letters, images and memories of those from the Grand Rapids and Kent County area who served during World War II. Other war memorabilia, such as ration books or newspaper clippings on the War at home, are also included. The collection also includes cards, collected by the Kent County Historical Commission, with information on individuals from Kent County who served in World War II. This is an open collection to which new materials may occasionally be added.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents

This collection contains primarily the documents, images and memories of those from the Grand Rapids and Kent County area who served during World War II. It also includes other war memorabilia, such as ration books or newspaper clippings on the War at home.

Several of the accessions were gathered, during a period of focus on this topical area, by City Historian Gordon Olson, during the 1999-2002 time period. Others have continued to come from that impetus, while some accessions were in the backlog of existing materials waiting for processing.

Provenance can be tracked within the finding aid, or through other archival files.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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

111 Library Street NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

localhis@grpl.org

URL: <http://www.grpl.org>

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Various donors and accession numbers.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Materials

Coll. 020, Grand Rapids Federation of Women's Clubs Records.

Coll. 028, M. Annie Leitch Papers, 1936-1984

Coll. 075, Thomas E. Walsh Papers.

Coll. 125, Robinson Studio Collection. See also the book "Grand Rapids Goes to War", which includes many images from the Robinson Collection.

Coll. 170, Wolverine Brass Company Collection

Coll. 173, United States Army Weather School Collection.

Coll. 205, Halden Adrion Collection of World War II Letters and Photographs

Coll. 218, Kent County Chapter American Red Cross History

Coll. 215, Marie Cady Collection

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History
- World War, 1939-1945
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Personal narratives, American

Collection Inventory

Series I. Letters

Title/Description	Instances
The Letters of Dr. Ralph Hager to Kelly Hager during World War II / prepared by Terry Hager, Jan. 1993. [Photocopy of original mss. With laser copies of images. 1993.015	Box 1
"Lest We Forget: memoirs of an Army Nurse, WWII, 1941-1946" / Alice Matthews, 1993 <u>Date</u> : 1993 (<i>circa</i>)	Box Unknown
"Written from letters I wrote home during 1941-1946"	Box Unknown
Pollard Family Roster, 1942-1947 : excerpts from World War II letters to the family members of former GRPL Librarian Annie Archer Pollard, transcribed and edited by her under this title. 2007.008	Box 1

General

Also includes Pollard family historian information and images (laser photocopy).

Dec. 15, 1946 Letter. Photocopy. Added by another family member/donor. 2008.046, 1946-12-15 <u>Date</u> : 1946-12-15	Box 1
---	-------

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series II. Scrapbooks

Title/Description	Instances
-------------------	-----------

PVt. John W. Ligtvoet Scrapbook. [Photocopies] 2002.011	Box 2
Laser copies of illustrations.	Box 12
Mable Read Fowler Scrapbook [2017.100]	Box 20
LeRoy Bennett Scrapbook	Box 15

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series III. Photographs.

Title/Description	Instances
James Stouten, Chief Petty Officer of Chief Bosaan's mate of the Oklahoma, when it went down at Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941. Date of photo unknown. Neg. #3768. 8x10 copy photo. (2 copies) 1998.110.1-2	Box 3
Clipping. GR Press. Dec. 7, 1995. "3 (Three) to be Remembered in Pearl Harbor Service." By Chris Meehan. Includes images of James Stouten, and also Raymond Boynton and Paul Platschorre.	Box 3
Transcription of misc. biographical notes.	Box 3
Dirk Vlug. Image shows President Harry S. Truman shaking hands with Vlug, as he presents him the Medal of Honor, ca. June 14, 1946, for Philippine Islands action, 19441215 <u>Date:</u> 19441215	Box 3
B/w snapshot. Image taken outside with a line of soldiers in wheel chairs, and others standing behind. Location of the ceremony unknown. 1999.016. Accompanied by a photocopied page with a paragraph about Vlug from an unknown source, with images by Schultz, 1987.	Box 3
Cecil H. DeKraaker(1 copy photo 2003) 2003.049	Box 3
LeRoy Bennett Photos	Box 13
LeRoy Bennett Photos	Box 14

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series IV. Small Collections of memorabilia.

Set I. 00.[0015].1-"World War II Misc. Donations", given pre-1998, but donors unknown.

Title/Description	Instances
Ann Schmidt Associated items	

	Box Unknown
Photos. Unidentified group of nurses on front steps of unidentified public building "Schmidt".	Box Unknown
Ration books for Ann D & Walter R. Schmidt	Box Unknown
Michigan Liquor Control Commission card no. 1618403 for Ann Jeffrey Schmidt.	Box Unknown
Envelop with Donald O. Saul, 1828 Federal Ave. SW, Wyoming, Mi. 49509 in return. Includes: Various ration books, mostly in the name of Klimaitis	Box Unknown
Plastic bag of ration points tokens.	Box Unknown
.1 Sperry Roush Associated Documents.	Box Unknown
[Book] Company Administration, including supply and mess management and personnel records / Lt. Col. C.M. Virtue. Harrisburg, Penna. : Military Service Publ Co., July 1942. 12th ed. Has name: Lt. Sperry E. Roush, in side front cover., 1942-07 <u>Date:</u> 1942-07	Box Unknown
.2 [Book] Puptent Poets of the Stars and Stripes, Mediterranean / compiled by Cpl. Charles A. Hogan & Cpl. John Walsh, III ; illus. By Sgt. Stanley Meltzoff. Edited by Lt. Ed Hill. Italy, 1945 <u>Date:</u> 1945	Box Unknown
.6 Notebook. "Nurses Aide" organiaed by the Office of Civilian Defense to train women in the routine duties of a nurse ...Small brown notebook, 3ring, with Typed notes on lined sheets of paper.	Box Unknown
.7 Manila folder of copied items related to Bud Bruinslot / Warner J. BruinSlot, via Theo R. Grevers? Oct. 22, 1995.	Box Unknown
.9 Oversized envelop with Gordon Lydekson's return address. Contains 4 photos of atomic bomb blasts in the Pacific, mounted on 2 oversized boards.	Box Unknown
General	
Also contains 4 5x7 photographics prints of sections of a newspaper clipping: A-Bomb to find test vessels close together / by Wayne Thomis. Chicago Daily Tribune. June 22, 1946.	
Series IV. Small Collections of memorabilia.	Box Unknown
.10 2 copy prints of a photo: Company C. 96 Signal Battalion, Kunming, China, Sept. 1945. With names of soldiers in the group shown. No verso IDS., 1945-09	Box Unknown

Date: 1945-09

.11 Copies of unused "V-Mail" folding mailers.	Box Unknown
.12 Lowell Thomas' War Map of the World. Sunoco. Chicago : Rand McNally, n.d. [color, folding]	Box Unknown
.13 2 copies of Wolverine Brass Works. Army E Navy Program. Presentation of the Army-Navy "E" Award for High Achievement in War Production ... Wolverine Brass Works, June, 29, 1944.	Box Unknown
.14 Tabloid. Great Lakes bulletin. U.S. naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Illinois. V. 20, no.6 , Feb. 9, 1945., 1945-02-09 <u>Date:</u> 1945-02-09	Box Unknown
.15 More ration books, perhaps not from the same source, in names of Clifton States, and Stella F. Dorman or Mrs. W. Dorman.	Box Unknown
.16 Photocopy of much later copy printed document: The University of Michigan, Center for Japanese Studies, Brown Bag lecture Series. Donald A. McLean, ... Occupying Japan : reminiscences ... Oct. 5, no year.	Box Unknown
.17. Clipping. Copy. Legal sized. "Grand Mar??s Pilot & Pictur???. Rocks Be????". Beaver included in life Magazine Article on D-Day. Neal Beaver, Michigan National Guard. Oct. 20, 1940.	Box Unknown
.18 Legal sized typed sheet. Recruit Training Command, U.S. Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Illinois. Dec. 2, 1944. Includes Robert John Kirkpatrick, 314-50-28., 1944-12-02 <u>Date:</u> 1944-12-02	Box Unknown
.19 2 b/w snapshots with note to Gordon from Oct. 20, 1993, from Mary A. Doane, later Holland, and also about Mary Gillis later Gryka. Image shows them at a reception for women entering services in the summer of 1944. They were in the Waves	Box Unknown
.20 [booklet] United States Naval Training Station, Farragut, Idaho. Contains lots of graphics. Accompanied by business card for Jim Riordan. Harry A. Baker Co., Inc.	Box Unknown

Set II. Nelson K. Hurst. WWII memorabilia of his work as a naval radio operator. 2002.112

Title/Description	Instances
Graphic clipping of Nelson K. Hurst, Naval Training School photo, 1945 <u>Date:</u> 1945 (<i>circa</i>)	Box 5 Folder 1
Typescripts of War summaries & Battle Broadcasts which he handled as a radio operator ca. 1945 + envelop, 1945	Box 5 Folder 1

Date: 1945 (*circa*)

Typescript of Historic Interview, Iwo Jima, between Don Pryor & Vice Admiral Richmond Kelly Turner & Lieutenant-General Holland M. Smith, aboard the flat ship, U.S.S. Eldorado (per Mrs. Hurst).	Box 5	Folder 15
Grace E. Ives nee Moore. Photos and Discharge papers from WACS	Box 5	
Japanese Ballons in Kent County. Photos and copies of FBI files. 98.[006]	Box 5	

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series V. Kent County Historical Commission WWII Information Cards project.

Title/Description	Instances
A-C	Box 6
D-G	Box 7
H-L	Box 8
M-P	Box 9
Q-R	Box 10
T-Z	Box 11

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series VI. Vertical File Transfers & Ephemera

Subseries A. Vertical File Transfers

Title/Description	Instances
Transcription. Speech given by Francisco Vega at the meeting of the Michigan Company of Military Historians and Collectors, June 10, 2002. 2003.104	Box 16
Correspondence. Melissa Burrill, England with Jim Van Dien, Caledonia, Mi. 1996/1997. + Brief Questionnaire by Burrill RE Van Dien's WWII experiences. 00.[2626].1	Box 16
Floating Vengeance: the Japanese Balloon Bomb Campaign in Michigan / Michael E. Unsworth.	Box 16
Paper delivered at the Annual Meeting, Historical Society of Michigan, Oct. 17, 1986. 00.[5114].1	
Union Veteran Project 1996. Union High School Sophomore Honors U.S. History students. 00.[5115].1	Box 16

Adjustments of Michigan Farm Families to War Conditions / by Charles R. Hoffer. Michigan State College, Agricultural Experiment Station, Section of Sociology. (Special Bulletin 333) June 1945. 00.[5116].1, 1945-06 <u>Date:</u> 1945-06	Box 16
Farm Management Aspects of the War / by J.C. Doneth and K.T. Wright. Michigan State College, Agricultural Experiment Station, Section of Farm Management, East Lansing. (Circular Bulletin 182) April 1942. 00.[5117].1, 1942-04 <u>Date:</u> 1942-04	Box 16
The Henry A. Goss, U.S. Army Reserve Center. Naming Ceremonies, 1962-05-19 <u>Date:</u> 1962-05-19	Box 16
Has a biography of Goss (1895-1944) on the back cover. Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart. 00.[5118].1	
Sitting Out World War II in Michigan : Our Little-Known POW Camps / James Mengarelli. Detroit Free Press, Detroit Magazine. 00.[5119].1, 1975-01-05 <u>Date:</u> 1975-01-05	Box 16
War Records of Michigan, World War II : manual for organizing committees to collect and preserve ... Bulletin no. 17. Lansing : Michigan Historical Commission, 1943. 00.[5120].1, 1943 <u>Date:</u> 1943	Box 16
[Chart. Second War Loans, April 1943] Michigan Region, with Iowa Region on the verso, 1943-04 <u>Date:</u> 1943-04	Box 12
Battle Casualties and Deaths by Geographic Area of Residence, Dec. 7, 1941-Dec. 31, 1946. (By State. 2 sheets)	Box 16
Battle Casualties by Type of Casualty & Disposition, and duty Branch, Dec. 7, 1941-Dec.31, 1946. (1 sheet)	Box 16
Fragment. "The State of Michigan suffered 38,739 battle casualties ...	Box 16
13,000 Hours : Combat History of the 32d Inf. Division, World War II / prepared by the Public Relations Office, 32d Inf. Division ... 00.[5121].1	Box 16

Subseries B. Ephemera

Title/Description	Instances
Grand Rapids Industries periodical clippings (5) Original source unknown. P2004.004.1-5	Box 5
Radio at War : WOOD, Grand Rapids, Michigan / compiled and edited by Brooks Watson. Peoria, Ill. : National Radio	Box 4

Personalities; Peoria Blue Print & Photopress Co., ca. 1942.
P2000.037, 1942

Date: 1942 (*circa*)

General

Mostly national in scope, this promo booklet the value of radio to the war effort. It was distributed in Grand Rapids by Wood TV, King-Trendle Broadcasting Corp., through area merchants. This copy has a sticker on the first inside page: Compliments of Grand Rapids Fibre Cord Co. ..."

Zeeland Community Honor Roll WWII. William De Pree Company [2017.081]	Box 21	Folder 1
---	--------	----------

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series VII. Realia

Title/Description	Instances
-------------------	-----------

Proximity Fuse [Exhibit item]

Processing Information

Removed from Collection in 2006 to the GR Police to examination as to risk. Not yet returned or notified of disposal, 6/26/2009. Believe previously used a paper weight by donor.

Processing Information:

Processing Information

Removed from Collection in 2006 to the GR Police to examination as to risk. Not yet returned or notified of disposal, 6/26/2009. Believe previously used a paper weight by donor.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series VIII. Veterans

Title/Description	Instances
-------------------	-----------

Agencies Offering Services to Veterans / prepared by Employment Department, the Employers' Association of Grand Rapids. Rev. edition, Aug. 1945. Formerly MKG335.115.Em73.00.[3075].1

Box 16

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Glen Barrett Materials

Processing Information:

Processing Information

Materials with minimal processing that need to be incorporated into existing series

Title/Description	Instances
Glen Barrett Materials: Scrapbooks, Letters, and Photos	Box 17
Glen Barrett Materials: Scrapbooks, Letters, and Photos	Box 18
Glen Barrett Materials: Scrapbooks, Letters, and Photos	Box 19

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)