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World War II collection

Title: World War II collection
Collection No: MSS.502
Extent: 0.76 cubic feet
Inclusive Dates: 1940-1984 and undated.

Abstract: The collection comprises items from various sources, and includes contemporary publications, posters and other items written about World War II.

Processed by: Gerald Chaudron, 2016-2018
Access: Open to all researchers.
Language: English, German
Preferred Citation: World War II collection, Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis.

Publication date: 2018 September
Scope and contents

The collection is an artificial one comprised of items from various sources. It includes some contemporary publications and others written about the war. An item of interest is a cloth map showing topographical, wind and sea current information for the Philippines from 1944.

The collection contains two sets of posters. The first includes 8 posters featuring “Jenny on the Job”, illustrated by Kula Robbins and issued by the U.S. Public Health Service in 1943. The second includes 2 posters from the 1940 presidential campaign of Democratic Party candidates Franklin D. Roosevelt and Henry A. Wallace.

Provenance

The group of German, Luxembourg and other war-related publications was donated by Reuben A. Peterson of Memphis, Tennessee.

Subject terms

Luxembourg.
Political posters--American--1930-1940.
Women in war--United States.
World War, 1939-1945.

Inventory

Box 1

Folder

Reuben A. Peterson collection:

1  Ley, Robert, Roosevelt Verrät Amerika!, Berlin: Deutschen Arbeitsfront, 1942.
Faithful Luxembourg to her Liberators: Letzeburg, 10 September 1944, Luxembourg: Jules Nicolay.

Echternach [Luxembourg], 12 views by E.A. Schaack.
Postcards: 10 Luxembourg canton coats of arms; Luxembourg map with Grand-Duchess Charlotte; Liberation of Luxembourg workman, 10 September 1944 (possibly reproductions).

Advertising material: Calling All Girls magazine, 1943.


News release: Liaison and Information Branch, American Graves Registration Division, Memphis General Depot, “114 Tennessee World War II Dead Returned From Italy Aboard USAT Carroll Victory”; “58 Louisiana World War II Dead Returned From Italy Aboard USAT Carroll Victory”, 1948 July 7.


“The Memflite”, U.S. Naval Station, Memphis, Tenn., Vol. 4, No. 8, 1945 June 1.


Box 2

1 “Jenny on the Job” posters by Kula Robbins, United States Public Health Service, 1943. (8)

2 Democratic Party presidential campaign posters, 1940. Franklin D. Roosevelt and Henry A. Wallace.

3 Lavern W. Renfro papers, 1941-1945:
Lavern Woodson Renfro (1910-1974) was born in Tippah County, Mississippi, to William Weeden (1887-1959) and Lettie Pearl Drewry Renfro (1895-1962). He had a brother, Hugh Wilson, and four sisters, Emily Elizabeth, Gladys Pearl (1921-1988), Serene Juanita, and Mary Jean. Lavern was drafted into the army in 1942 in Memphis, Tennessee. He trained at Camp Croft, South Carolina, and was with Company A, 63rd Quartermaster Battalion at Camp Edwards, Massachusetts. PFC Renfro was serving in Company L of the 60th Infantry in Germany in 1945.

Correspondence:
Postcard: Private Lavern Renfro, 63rd Quartermaster Battalion, Co. A, Camp
Edwards, Mass., to Mrs. W.W. Renfro, Memphis, Tenn., 1942 August 10. Image on card is of Main Post Exchange, Camp Croft, S.C.

Card: Lavern Renfro, Co. L, 60th Infantry, to Emily Wiggs, Memphis, Tenn., 1944 November 21. “Greetings from Overseas... A Very Merry Christmas and a Victorious New Year,” 9th Infantry Division stationery with division emblem; “Season’s Greetings” card on 60th Infantry Regiment stationery with unit emblem.

V-mail letter: Lavern Renfro, Germany, to Emily Wiggs, Memphis, Tenn., 1945 January 25. “I am glad you and all had a nice xmas for my self I had a good diner I was in the hospital...I have never got those boxes you sent... we get more cigrett than we can yues. You wanter to no what we were January we are just staying in one place all we haft to do is just pull gard now we still have plenty of snow...”

Letter: Lavern Renfro, Ingolstadt, Germany, to Emily Wiggs, Memphis, Tenn., 1945 July 21. “…thanks a lot for the Blads we got 5 Blads last week and 2 this week so I have a nof. We get 7 pack of cigetts & 6 Bar of candy so that is a nof for me. Well Sis I am not sure what we are going to [unclear word] we got lasts of new men in this week and all new offers all of the men witch have 85P Have gone...This week have been having a little troble about 7 or 8 GI. We fond ded just out side of town so thay dont have a ide of this dedd so thay are shooting at all of the house 6 me from my compy went out for about 2 ours and got 3 Rifels 2 pistol and showed? Big nife so thay are going out a gin to night”

Hand copied certificate allowing Renfro to take home “1 Gearman Rifel”, 1945 July 8.

Clipping: Memphis draft board list for May 1942, including Lavern Renfro.

Selective service notice of classification, Shelby County, Tenn.; L.W. Renfro, 1941 September; Address notice: L.W. Renfro, Camp Croft, S.C. (copy).


Map of the Berghof area and bunkers, Germany, undated. Key is in German and English.


Program: Mid-South Navy Mothers Club of America, Hotel Peabody, 1941 October 10.

Ration books: Ration books three and four, Memphis, Tenn. (5). Names include: Douglas W. Hammers, 1301 N. Center; Dan P. Thompson, Mary Thompson, Anna Lamey, 988 New York. Also 3 ration book holders.

Poem: The Fusilliers and Anzio”. Copy of undated poem by unknown author.

Photographs: B-25 “Memphis Menace” flown by L.J. Davidson, 1943; 42nd Bomb Group (M), 75th Bomber Squadron (copies).

Eugene Greer papers, 1942-1945:

Private Eugene Greer was born in Edison, Tennessee, on August 9, 1911. He served with the 624th Ordnance Ammunition Company from January 5, 1943 until
November 29, 1945.
1. Detachment 1511th Service Unit, Medical Examination and Induction Board
   No. 6, Huntington, W. Va.: Guidelines for Enlisted Reserve Corps;
   Special Orders No. 226, 1942 December 29, Induction list.
2. Separation Qualification Record.
4. Change of address postcards, 1943. (2)
6. Postcard: Charles Greer, Co. B., Medical Service School, Fort Sam Houston,
   Texas, to Mrs. T.B. Greer, Kingsport, Tenn., 1944 May 12.

10 Riley S. Bringle papers:
   Private Riley Bringle of Covington, Tennessee, the son of Mr. and Mrs. N.N.
   Bringle, joined the U.S. Army on November 19, 1942, and served with the 349th
   Regiment of the 88th Infantry, U.S. Fifth Army in Italy.
   1. Letter: Private Riley S. Bringle, Italy, to Mrs. Norman Ashe, Brighton, Tenn.,
      1945 May 8.
   2. Clippings (3), photographs (2).
   3. Publications:
      “349th Infantry Regiment, Italy 1944”, Information – Education Section,
      349th Infantry Regiment, U.S. Army.
      “Mission Accomplished: Africa, Sicily, Italy”, Information and Education
      Section, MTOUSA (Mediterranean Theater of Operations, United
      States Army), 1945.
      “We Were There: From Gruber to the Brenner Pass. With the 88th
      Division, Italy”, Information and Education Section, MTOUSA.

11 Walter J. Martin papers:
   Second Lieutenant Walter J. Martin, Jr., served with the 436th Group Troop
   Carrier Command, Ninth Air Force, in Europe as a glider pilot from May 15,
   1944 to November 2, 1945. Martin was born on March 17, 1919 in Greenwood,
   Mississippi, and was a cotton classer before his military service. He later served
   in the Air Force Reserve as a First Lieutenant.
   2. Army Air Forces Pilot and Crew Member Physical Record Card, 1942-1944.
   3. Advanced Glider Course completion card, 810th AAF BU, L-MAAB, 1944 July
      14.
   4. European Wing Air Transport Command, Information Guide for Newly
      Arrived Personnel at Station No. 3.

OS
Note: The following maps were separated from the Walter J. Martin papers to the
Special Collections Map Collection:
American Red Cross map of Paris, 1944 (MISC. 48)
U.S.A.A.F. Aviation map of Central Europe, Essen sheet, 1944 (MISC. 51)

12 Thirtieth Bombardment Group:


“The Huddle”, Vol. 2, No. 3, 1945 October 16. 12-page newsletter “published by and for permanent personnel and patients of the Hospital Ship Jarrett M. Huddleston”. The ship was originally launched as the “Liberty Ship” SS Samuel F.B. Morse on September 28, 1942 before being sold to the War Department to be converted a hospital ship between November 1943 and August 1944. Commissioned USAHS Jarrett M. Huddleston in August 1944, the ship operated between the east coast of the United States and the Europe-Africa-Middle East Theater of Operations until it was decommissioned in December 1945. Commissioned as USAT Jarrett M. Huddleston in 1946, it became surplus in 1949 and was scrapped in 1971.