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

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Description is written in: Undetermined.

Prepared by R. Mayne

Grand Rapids History Center
111 Library Street NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
localhis@grpl.org
URL: https://www.grpl.org/research/history/
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<td>Series VII. Realia</td>
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<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>
Summary Information

Repository: Grand Rapids History Center
Title: Grand Rapids in World War II collection
ID: Collection 310
ID [Archivists Toolkit Database::RESOURCE] : 318
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.

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.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Grand Rapids History Center
111 Library Street NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
localhis@grpl.org
URL: https://www.grpl.org/research/history/

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Various donors and accession numbers.

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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

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Controlled Access Headings

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

Collection Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Series I. Letters</th>
<th>Instances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Title/Description</strong></td>
<td><strong>Instances</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Lest We Forget: memoirs of an Army Nurse, WWII, 1941-1946&quot; / Alice Matthews, 1993</td>
<td>Box Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Written from letters I wrote home during 1941-1946&quot;</td>
<td>Box Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**General**

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


Series II. Scrapbooks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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Laser copies of illustrations. Box 12

Mable Read Fowler Scrapbook [2017.100] Box 20

LeRoy Bennett Scrapbook Box 15

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**Series III. Photographs.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td>Box 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transcription of misc. biographical notes.</td>
<td>Box 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td>Box 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Box 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cecil H. DeKraker(1 copy photo 2003) 2003.049</td>
<td>Box 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LeRoy Bennett Photos</td>
<td>Box 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LeRoy Bennett Photos</td>
<td>Box 14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Series IV. Small Collections of memorabilia.**

**Sperry E. Roush papers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sperry Roush war records, 1943-1947</td>
<td>Box 4 Folder 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Company C. 96 Signal Battalion, Kunming, China, group photograph, Sept, 1945</td>
<td>Box 4 Folder 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ann Schmidt papers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Title/Description</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photograph of group of nurses on front steps of unidentified public building. &quot;Schmidt&quot; on reverse.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ration books for Ann D &amp; Walter R. Schmidt and Michigan Liquor Control Commission card for Ann Jeffrey Schmidt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notebook. &quot;Nurses Aide&quot; organized 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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nelson K. Hurst. WWII memorabilia of his work as a naval radio operator. 2002.112</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Title/Description</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graphic clipping of Nelson K. Hurst, Naval Training School photo, 1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Typescripts of War summaries &amp; Battle Broadcasts which he handled as a radio operator ca. 1945 + envelop, 1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Typescript of Historic Interview, Iwo Jima, between Don Pryor &amp; Vice Admiral Richmond Kelly Turner &amp; Lieutenant-General Holland M. Smith, aboard the flat ship, U.S.S. Eldorado (per Mrs. Hurst).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grace E. Ives nee Moore. Photos and Discharge papers from WACS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese Ballons in Kent County. Photos and copies of FBI files. 98.[006]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward J. Rettig, war records [2022.056] , 1943-1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puptent Poets of the Stars and Stripes Mediterranean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V-mailers, blank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Lakes Bulletin newspaper, Vol. 20, No. 6, 1945-02-09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowell Thomas' War Map of the World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolverine Brass Works Army-Navy E Award presentation, 1944-06-29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PFC Robert Howard obituary [2003.007]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title/Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Naval Training booklet, Farragut, Idaho, 1944-06-29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupying Japan, Reminiscences of a S.C.A.P. Official</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photographs of Mary (Doane) Holland and Mary (Gillis) Gryka joining the WAVES, 1944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bud Bruinslot material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago Daily Tribune article &quot;A-Bomb to Find Test Vessels Close Together&quot; 22 June 1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ration books, States and Dorman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ration tokens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ration books, Klimaitis, Szczepanski and Carlisle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photographs of atomic bomb blasts in the Pacific, mounted on oversized boards</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A-C</td>
<td>Box 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-G</td>
<td>Box 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H-L</td>
<td>Box 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M-P</td>
<td>Box 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q-R</td>
<td>Box 10</td>
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<td>T-Z</td>
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Series VI. Vertical File Transfers & Ephemera

Subseries A. Vertical File Transfers

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Box</td>
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<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transcription. Speech given by Francisco Vega at the meeting of the</td>
<td>Box 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan Company of Military Historians and Collectors, June 10,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002. 2003.104</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correspondence. Melissa Burrill, England with Jim Van Dien,</td>
<td>Box 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caledonia, Mi. 1996/1997. + Brief Questionaire by Burrill RE Van</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dien's WWII experiences. 00.[2626].1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floating Vengeance: the Japanese Balloon Bomb Campaign in Michigan</td>
<td>Box 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/ Michael E. Unsworth.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper delivered at the Annual Meeting, Historical Society of</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan, Oct. 17, 1986. 00.[5114].1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union Veteran Project 1996. Union High School Sophomore Honors U.S.</td>
<td>Box 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History students. 00.[5115].1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjustments of Michigan Farm Families to War Conditions / by</td>
<td>Box 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles R. Hoffer. Michigan State College, Agricultural Experiment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Station, Section of Sociology. (Special Bulletin 333) June 1945.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00.[5116].1, 1945-06</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm Management Aspects of the War / by J.C. Doneth and K.T.</td>
<td>Box 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wright. Michigan State College, Agricultural Experiment Station,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section of Farm Management, East Lansing. (Circular Bulletin 182)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 1942. 00.[5117].1, 1942-04</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Henry A. Goss, U.S. Army Reserve Center. Naming Ceremonies,</td>
<td>Box 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962-05-19</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has a biography of Goss (1895-1944) on the back cover. Silver</td>
<td>Box 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart. 00.[5118].1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sitting Out World War II in Michigan : Our Little-Known POW Camps /</td>
<td>Box 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Mengarelli. Detroit Free Press, Detroit Magazine. 00.[5119].</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 1975-01-05</td>
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<tr>
<td>War Records of Michigan, World War II : manual for organizing</td>
<td>Box 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>committees to collect and preserve ... Bulletin no. 17. Lansing :</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan Historical Commission, 1943. 00.[5120].1, 1943</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Chart. Second War Loans, April 1943] Michigan Region, with Iowa</td>
<td>Box 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region on the verso, 1943-04</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battle Casualties and Deaths by Geographic Area of Residence, Dec.</td>
<td>Box 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7, 1941-Dec. 31, 1946. (By State. 2 sheets)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Battle Casualties by Type of Casualty &amp; Disposition, and duty</td>
<td>Box 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branch, Dec. 7, 1941-Dec.31, 1946. (1 sheet)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fragment. &quot;The State of Michigan suffered 38,739 battle casualties ...</td>
<td>Box 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13,000 Hours : Combat History of the 32d Inf. Division, World War</td>
<td>Box 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II / prepared by the Public Relations Office, 32d Inf. Division ...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00.[5121].1</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
Subseries B. Ephemera

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grand Rapids Industries periodical clippings (5) Original source unknown.</td>
<td>Box 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio at War : WOOD, Grand Rapids, Michigan / compiled and edited by Brooks Watson.</td>
<td>Box 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Radio Personalities; Peoria Blue Print &amp; Photopress Co., ca. 1942.</td>
<td>Folder 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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. ..."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zeeland Community Honor Roll WWII. William De Pree Company [2017.081]</td>
<td>Box 21</td>
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</table>

Series VII. Realia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proximity Fuse [Exhibit item]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.

Series VIII. Veterans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
**Glen Barrett Materials MOVED TO OWN COLLECTION**

**Processing Information:**

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

**Arrangement**

These 3 boxes (17-19) were moved to their own collection in 2019 - the Glenn A. Barrett Collection.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Glen Barrett Materials: Scrapbooks, Letters, and Photos</td>
<td>Box 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glen Barrett Materials: Scrapbooks, Letters, and Photos</td>
<td>Box 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glen Barrett Materials: Scrapbooks, Letters, and Photos</td>
<td>Box 19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>