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

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Prepared by R. Mayne

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URL: <https://www.grpl.org/research/history/>

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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.

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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

Coll. 215, Marie Cady Collection

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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	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	Box 1

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Series II. Scrapbooks

Title/Description	Instances
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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

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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	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. DeKraker(1 copy photo 2003) 2003.049	Box 3
LeRoy Bennett Photos	Box 13
LeRoy Bennett Photos	Box 14

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Series IV. Small Collections of memorabilia.

Sperry E. Roush papers

Title/Description	Instances
Sperry Roush war records, 1943-1947	Box 4 Folder 3
Company C. 96 Signal Battalion, Kunming, China, group photograph, Sept, 1945	Box 4 Folder 4

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	Box 4	Folder 5
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Ann Schmidt papers

Title/Description	Instances	
Photograph of group of nurses on front steps of unidentified public building. "Schmidt" on reverse.	Box 4	Folder 21
Ration books for Ann D & Walter R. Schmidt and Michigan Liquor Control Commission card for Ann Jeffrey Schmidt.	Box 4	Folder 20
Notebook. "Nurses Aide" 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.	Box 4	

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	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
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	
Edward J. Rettig, war records [2022.056] , 1943-1991	Box 4	Folder 2
Puptent Poets of the Stars and Stripes Mediterranean	Box 4	Folder 6
V-mailers, blank	Box 4	Folder 7
Great Lakes Bulletin newspaper, Vol. 20, No. 6, 1945-02-09	Box 4	Folder 8
Lowell Thomas' War Map of the World	Box 4	Folder 9
Wolverine Brass Works Army-Navy E Award presentation, 1944-06-29	Box 4	Folder 10
PFC Robert Howard obituary [2003.007]	Box 4	Folder 11

U.S. Naval Training booklet, Farragut, Idaho, 1944-06-29	Box 4	Folder 12
Occupying Japan, Reminiscences of a S.C.A.P. Official	Box 4	Folder 13
Photographs of Mary (Doane) Holland and Mary (Gillis) Gryka joining the WAVES, 1944	Box 4	Folder 14
Bud Bruinslot material	Box 4	Folder 15
Chicago Daily Tribune article "A-Bomb to Find Test Vessels Close Together" 22 June 1946	Box 4	Folder 16
Ration books, States and Dorman	Box 4	Folder 17
Ration tokens	Box 4	Folder 18
Ration books, Klimaitis, Szczepanski and Carlisle	Box 4	Folder 19
Photographs of atomic bomb blasts in the Pacific, mounted on oversized boards	Box 12	
Grand Marais Pilot and Pictured Rocks Review newspaper article, "(Neal) Beaver included in Life Magazine Article on D-Day", 1994-06-03	Box 5	
Recruit Training Command, U.S. Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Illinois. Includes Robert John Kirkpatrick, 1944-12-02	Box 5	

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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

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Series VI. Vertical File Transfers & Ephemera

Subseries A. Vertical File Transfers

Title/Description	Instances
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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	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	Box 16
The Henry A. Goss, U.S. Army Reserve Center. Naming Ceremonies, 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	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	Box 16
[Chart. Second War Loans, April 1943] Michigan Region, with Iowa Region on the verso, 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 Personalities; Peoria Blue Print & Photopress Co., ca. 1942. P2000.037, 1942	Box 4	Folder 1
General		
<p>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. ..."</p>		
Zeeland Community Honor Roll WWII. William De Pree Company [2017.081]	Box 21	Folder 1

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Series VII. Realia

Title/Description	Instances	
Proximity Fuse [Exhibit item]		
Processing Information		
<p>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.</p>		
<u>Processing Information:</u>		
Processing Information		
<p>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.</p>		

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Series VIII. Veterans

Title/Description	Instances	
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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

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Glen Barrett Materials MOVED TO OWN COLLECTION

Processing Information:

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.

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

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