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Finding aid for the Glenn A. Barrett World War II collection Collection 509

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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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Summary Information

Repository:	Grand Rapids History Center
Title:	Glenn A. Barrett World War II collection
ID:	Collection 509
Date [inclusive]:	1934-1950
Physical Description:	4 Linear Feet 10 boxes
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	Glenn Albert Barrett (1923-2000) lived in Grand Rapids, Michigan and served in the Army during World War II (1943-1946). Through his service in the military, Barrett traveled extensively and wrote about his experiences in letters home to his mother, Myrtle M. Barrett (nee Burtles); grandmother; and to various friends. Some letters contained in the collection are written to Barrett as well. Additionally, the collection contains some photographs of Barrett and others. A researcher interested in viewing primary material related to World War II and/or interested in a personal, first-hand account of serving in the military would be interested in viewing this collection.

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Biographical / Historical

Glenn Albert Barrett was born March 20, 1923 in Grand Rapids, Michigan to Albert and Myrtle Barrett. Barrett graduated from Union High School in 1940.

According to Veterans Affairs records in the Fold3 database, Barrett enlisted in the army in February of 1943. He served overseas as a part of the 31st Signal Service Battalion part of the China-Burma-India Theatre. Barrett ultimately was released in May of 1946.

After his years of service, Barrett worked for the Jarecki Corp. and Tassell Industries, among others before retiring in 1985. Glenn Barrett passed away on May 8, 2000 and is buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

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Content Description

This collection contains printed material related to Glenn A. Barrett. The collection has two series. The first series is personal memorabilia such as scrapbooks, photographs, and Barrett's military ephemera.

The second series is correspondence between Barrett and his mother, grandmother, and friends. These letters are broadly organized by date ranges. The bulk of his letters are dated 1944 and 1945, although the range of inclusive dates is the late 1930s to the 1950s (with one item from the 1980s).

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Processing Information

The collection originally contained several other publications that were ultimately not retained in the collection, as they were national publications that are widely available and not unique to Barrett himself.

Letters from June and July of 1944 that had been mold-damaged were photocopied and the originals discarded. Also removed from the collection was one empty address book circa 1990.

Additionally, a small collection of Barrett's military and personal realia were transferred to the Grand Rapids Public Museum.

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Controlled Access Headings

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

Collection Inventory

Series I: Barrett's Personal and War Memorabilia

Scope and Contents

The first series of this collection contains the printed materials related to Glenn Barrett and his service in the military. This part of the collection ranges from the 1930s to his passing in 2000. Scrapbook materials make up the majority of this series. There are unbound scrapbook materials relating flowers collected by Barrett. There are three bound scrapbooks created by Barrett on various topics. The first scrapbook is a collection of ephemera and newspaper clippings relating to midwestern roller skating rinks visited by Barrett in the 1940s. The second scrapbook contains newspaper clippings and ephemera from the 1939 Union High football team, including ticket stubs; printed cheers songs; and schedule for home games for Union High School. The third scrapbook contains newspaper clippings and ephemera from the 1941 Union High football team.

Title/Description	Instances	
Business Card; Obituary; Census Page; Photo of Glenn Barrett in military uniform, circa 1943	Box 1	Folder 1
Pressed flowers on scrapbook pages with written descriptions 1937	Box 1	Folder 2
War Department Technical Manual: the Homing Pigeon	Box 2	Folder 1
War Department Technical Manual: Administration, October 10, 1942	Box 2	Folder 2
War Department Technical Manual: the Army clerk, April 1, 1943	Box 2	Folder 3
Scrapbook 1: Scrapbook on Roller Skating Rinks	Box 3	Folder 1
Scrapbook 2: Scrapbook on Fall 1939 Union High School Sports	Box 3	Folder 2
Scrapbook 3: Scrapbook on Fall 1941 Union High School Sports	Box 3	Folder 3

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Series II: Letters

Scope and Contents

This series contains the personal correspondence of Barrett. The majority of letters are in their original envelopes and are dated by the postal carrier service or have been tagged by Barrett with the day it was received and answered.

Title/Description	Instances	
1934-1943	Box 4	
1943	Box 5	
1944	Box 6	
1944	Box 7	
Letters Home from June and July of 1944	Box 1	Folder 3-4
1945	Box 8	
1945-1946	Box 9	
1947-1950	Box 10	

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