

McLean County Museum of History

World War II Collection

Processed by Joann C. Yant
August 2000

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	2 boxes
COLLECTION DATES:	1941-45, 1986, 2011
RESTRICTIONS:	Many letters are fragile; please use transcriptions to avoid damaging originals.
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	See also WWII Photos in Subject Collection WWII Magazine Collection WWII oversize items in map cases

Scope

The World War II Collection contains papers, diaries, personal and military correspondence, photocopies of articles, and official documents that were kept or found by residents of McLean County, many of whom participated in the war. Whenever possible, a brief biographical note of either the donor or the subject of the donation is included with the box list. Manuscript correspondence has been transcribed; copies of the transcriptions are included in the relevant folders.

Donated maps, posters, and front pages of major newspapers, as well as military newspapers that were distributed to the soldiers while they were at the front, are stored in the WWII section of our map cases. (see list below) Magazines collected in this endeavor are in a collection called "World War II Magazine Collection" and photos are in our photo collections.

Folder List

- Folder 1. Gerald Burgess** 93-11-17
- 1.1 *History of the U.S.S. Hope (AH7)--Commissioned 15 August, 1944.*(15 Aug 1944-22 Sep 1945)--7 pages
 - 1.2 *History of the 215th Hospital Complement.* (n.d.)--95 pages
- Folder 2. Bloomington Chamber of Commerce**
Correspondence, newsletters and news clippings on Bloomington's Merchant's plans for V-E Day and V-J Day celebrations (1944-1945)
- Folder 3. Alfred E. Butts Papers of Frank Pistole** 93-11-21
Personal and family history and prisoner of war information.
- Folder 4. Marguerite Clark**
- 4.1 "Names of Servicemen either KIA or Died during WWII from Bloomington, Illinois" (revised Sep 1986)--photocopy, 39 pages
 - 4.2 Compiled newspaper clippings of War Dead WWII (n.d.)--photocopy, 7 pages
- Folder 5. Merle Diller** 93-11-15
Mr. Diller as an aircraft mechanic and flyer in Europe from 1942 onward.
- 5.1 Training diplomas
 - 5.2 *The Cactus*, Kingman Army Air Field (22 Jul 1943) newspaper, 10 pages
 - 5.3 8 articles and war stories (n.d.)--photocopied, source unknown
- In WWII section of our map cases: Scrapbook pages: including photos, newspaper clippings, War Savings Bond, Class A Pay Reservation Application (1943)--14 pages
- See also Photo Collection- Subjects – WWII for set of photos.
- Folder 6. Wilma Anderson Dooley**
Mrs. Dooley was the first woman to join the Navy from McLean County. Worked for Capt. Small in Secretary of Navy Knox's and James Forrestal's office; was present at dedication of Jefferson Memorial, met Eleanor Roosevelt. She met her husband, Kliffe Dooley, via "free" military mail.
- 6.1 "'Andy' in Washington" (1943)--photocopied portrait
 - 6.2 "Where I live" (n.d.)--photocopied newspaper picture and caption
- Folder 7. Alonzo Grove**
"A Service of Memorial for Alonzo W. Grove" (9 Dec 1945)--Memorial Service Card

Folder 8. Harold Hume

- 8.1 Helen Hume to "Sir": Letter explaining donated WWII items (26 Jul 1984)--manuscript
- 8.2 Harold to Mother (2 Oct 1943)--manuscript and envelope
- 8.3 Harold to Mother (24 Nov 1944)--vmail
- 8.4 Harold to Mother (9 Nov 1944)--manuscript and envelope

Folder 9. Phyllis Jacobs

94-05-36

Diary, Okinawa Invasion (Mar-Apr 1945)--source unknown

Folder 10. WWII-Era Cookbooks

- 10.1 Cold Cooking, Montgomery Ward, 1941. 56 pp.
- 10.2 How to Cook Finer Fish Dishes, 1941. Compliments of A&P Fish Dept. 36 pp.
- 10.3 Good Things, 1943. Church & Dwight. 15 pp.
- 10.4 A Guide to Wartime Cooking, 1943. H.J. Heinz Company. 46 pp.
- 10.5 Recipes for Today, 1943. General Foods Corp. 39 pp.
- 10.6 Wartime Recipes from Canned Foods, 1940s. American Can Co. 26 pp.
- 10.7 Make a Little Meat Go a Long Way, 1940s. U.S. Dept of Agriculture. 4pp.

Folder 11. Kenneth Mann

93-11-05

Kenneth Mann served in the U.S. Navy from October 1942 to December 1945. He served aboard Tank Landing Ship (LST) 266, which participated in the Normandy Invasion, as a Motor Machinist Mate Second Class. He was born in Bloomington on July 6, 1922.

- 11.1 Color photo souvenir from the United State Navy Memorial, Washington D.C. (n.d.)
- 11.2 Kenneth L. Mann business card (n.d.)
- 11.3 Christmas Day dinner program, Flotilla Flagship U.S.S. LST No. 266 (25 Dec 1943)
- 11.4 "Landing Ships Tank Nose Onto A Beach" (n.d.)--photograph postcard
- 11.5 "Remembrances of War" by Kenneth L. Mann, (n.d.)--photocopy, 9 pages
- 11.6 U.S. LST 266 Roster (n.d.)--original and photocopy, 3 pages each
- 11.7 "Notice to Registrant to Appear for Physical Examination" (17 Aug 1942) and "Notice of Classification" (4 Sep 1942)--photocopies, 1 page
- 11.8 Newspaper clippings (w/photographs) (n.d.) and "Just in Case", handwritten "will" by R.M. Vandeysool [sic] (n.d.)--photocopies, 1 page
- 11.9 Score and words to "Lilli Marlen" (n.d.)--photocopy, 2 pages
- 11.10 Declassified Operation Plans and Reports for UGS-36 (1944)--photocopies, 44 pages
- 11.11 Mooney, James L. (ed). *Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships: Volume VII*, pp. 569-572--photocopy
- 11.12 Honorable Discharge certificate (26 Dec 1945)--photostat
- 11.13 Pay and allowances information card (1 Jan 45-21 Apr)

- 11.14 "K.L. Mann" Stencil (n.d.)
- 11.16 German postcard with German manuscript (n.d.)

Also see one folder of photos in photo collection.
And, see WWII Magazines Collection for 2 issues of *LST Scuttlebutt* and
1 issue *Life Magazine*, 17 Apr 1944

Folder 12. W.A. Mattheson 93-12-11

- 12.1 Artillery Fire Control sheet (n.d.)
- 12.2 Correspondences and newspaper clippings concerning Army-Navy Production Award Ceremonies, awarded to Williams Oil-o-Matic Corporation, Bloomington, Illinois (1942)

Also see 2 sets of photos in photo collection.

Folder 13. William North

Going Back to Civilian Life (Feb 1946)--booklet, 90 pages

Folder 14. Helen Olofson

Pantagraph clipping of Navy trainers at Bloomington Airport (29 Sep 1942)

Folder 15. Mildred Roberts

94-11-01

- 15.1 Ralph E. Roberts; WWII Honorable Discharge papers
- 15.2 William E. Hirst; V-Mail to family members, primarily Mother, Ida M. Hirst (1942-1945) Mostly envelopes, includes a few letters.

Folder 16. Jennie Straight

Women's Army Auxiliary Corp (WACC); correspondence, orders, passes, information and regulations (1943-1945)

Folder 17. Third U.S. Army

Operations Summaries covering the following dates (Aug-Dec 1944 and Dec 1944-Mar 1945)

Folder 18. Bernard Wall

- 18.1 Bernard to Mrs. Anthony (Kathryn) Koos (17 Mar 1945)--manuscript, 3 pages
- 18.2 Bernard to Mrs. Koos; V-Mail (12 Feb 1945)--manuscript

Folder 19. German Soldier Safe Conduct Pass

Folder 20. Illinois War Dead

- 20.1 Mrs. Emmett F. Wheeler to *The Daily Pantagraph*; son previously reported missing now reported killed in action, please add his name to honor list (18 Dec 1945)--manuscript, 1 page
- 20.2 War department news release; army lists war dead and missing (27 Jun 1946)--3 pages

- 20.3 Omission report: Staff Sgt. Raymond E. Kemp not on honor list of casualties (29 Jul 1946)

Folder 21. War Food Administration

WWII War Food Administration stationery, three sheets

Folder 22. Tin Can Salvage Clippings (n.d.)

Folder 23. Citation

The United States Office of Civilian Defense; Citation for Merit to The Illinois War Council for defense against flood waters (12 Jul 1944)--2 copies

Folder 24. The Chaser (15 Aug 1945)

Folder 25. The *Pantagraph* newspaper clippings

- 25.1 Draft numbers (29 Oct 1940)--photocopy, 2 pages
- 25.2 Draft numbers (30 Oct 1940)--photocopy, 4 pages
- 25.3 "Central Illinois Boys Scattered Throughout Nation" (24 Aug 1941)--photocopy, 2 pages (includes map)
- 25.4 Clippings (10 Apr 1945 and 29 Apr 1953)

Folder 26. Lt. L.C. Merwin V-Mail (donor unknown)

- 26.1 Lt. L.C. Merwin; V-Mail to Mr. & Mrs. Russel B. Miller (Christmas 1944)
- 26.2 Lt. Loring Merwin; V-Mail to Mr. Russel B. Miller (10 Jun 1945)

Folder 27. Jim Altemus

- 27.1 Jim Altemus; typewritten letter to ? (no date) re: donation of following certificate
- 27.2 Private Roy J. Newman; Purple Heart Medal Certificate (14 Nov 1944)

Folder 28. Miscellaneous Memorabilia

- 28.1 Women's Army Corp Song Book; War Department (1 Aug 1944)
- 28.2 Pvt. Robert Jost; Postcard to Oscar Edwards c/o R.G. LeTourneau (12 Oct 1942)

Folder 29. 389th Engineer General Service Regiment Commemorative Book (n.d.)

Hardcover; lists S/Sgt. Virgil Dean (m. Kathryn Dean) of 1202 W. McArthur, Bloomington, Illinois

Folder 30. 372nd Infantry Commemorative Book *On Guard* (1944)

Paper bound

Folder 31. Lyle Snavley: Air Raid Warden

Misc. documents associated with Lyle Snavley becoming an Air Raid Warden

Folder 32. Merlin E. Tyner

- 32.1 "Aircraft Inspection and Maintenance Guide" for B-24D, RB-24E, B-24G

B24H and B-24J Aircraft, Issue No. 1 issued by U.S. Army Air Force, 1 May 1944. 88 pp.

32.2 "Welcome to the States!" pamphlet for Boston Port of Embarkation Camp Myles Standish. Guide for servicemen returning from overseas, undated.

32.3 Notes from the Telephone Center of New England Telephone & Telegraph Co., undated. Guidance on making long distances calls to other states.

Folder 33. Margaret "Jill" Pitts Knappenberger: Red Cross Clubmobile

33.1 Transcript of interview dated January 20, 2011 at the National Museum of the Pacific War, 23 pp.

Photo Collection These and other pertinent photos are in the Photo-Subject Collection.

Box 1

.1	Bloomington Red Cross	
1.2	Parades	
1.3	1997 Memorial Dedication	
1.4	Salvage Drives	93-08-01
1.5	Germans	Merle Diller 93-11-15
1.6	Texas Belle and Crew	Merle Diller 93-11-15
1.7	Japan	
1.8	Ships	93-11-26
1.9	Soldier with War Souvenirs	95-08-12
1.10	U.S. Signal Corps Photos: Folder 1	
1.11	U.S. Signal Corps Photos: Folder 2	
1.12	Shipyards	Kenneth Mann 93-11-05
1.13	Presentation of the Army/Navy "E" Award to Employees of Williams Oil-O-Matic	W. A Mattheson 93-12-11
1.14	Machinery: Folder 1, 4x6	Nadine Reining 93-12-17
1.15	Machinery: Folder 2, 4x6	Nadine Reining 93-12-17
1.16	1970 Snapshots: 3½ x5	Nadine Reining 93-12-17

Box 2

2.1	Pre-European "ABD": 4x6	Nadine Reining 93-12-17
2.2	Misc. Pre D-Day: 8x10	Nadine Reining 93-12-17
2.3	England Pre D-Day: 8x10	Nadine Reining 93-12-17
2.4	Misc. France and England: Folder 1, 8x10	Nadine Reining 93-12-17
2.5	Misc. France and England: Folder 2, 8x10	Nadine Reining 93-12-17
2.6	France D-Day Plus: Folder 1, 8x10	Nadine Reining 93-12-17
2.7	France D-Day Plus: Folder 2, 8x10	Nadine Reining 93-12-17
2.8	France D-Day Plus: Folder 3, 8x10	Nadine Reining 93-12-17
2.9	France D-Day Plus: Folder 4, 8x10	Nadine Reining 93-12-17

Oversize Items Stored in the “WWII” Section of Our Map Cases

1. Poster for Project Liberty Ship, an organization dedicated to preserving the S.S. John W. Brown, last surviving merchant marine Liberty Ship (n.d.)
2. Pages from *The Pantagraph*:
 - a. in Mylar
 - Front Page--Pearl Harbor Attack (8 Dec 1941)
 - Page 2--maps and charts (8 Dec 1941)
 - “Theater of War”; wall map of Pacific Ocean Area (12 Dec 1941)
 - Map for Fireside Chat (23 Feb 1942)
 - b. photoed
 - Page 3 (8 Jan 1942)
 - Page 13 and 15; photos (4 Jan 1943)
3. Front page of Times Herald, Washington D.C.; WAR IS OVER (15 Aug 1945)
4. Copy of portrait of Lieutenant-General Dwight D. Eisenhower; supplement to the Chicago Sun (26 Jul 1942)
5. Dated Events War map (color); distributed by H.L Stiegelmeier Hybrids (n.d.)
 - envelope marked “Your dated events ware map” addressed to Mr. Floyd Gathman, Arrowsmith, Illinois
6. Dated Events War map (color); distributed by Aetna Machinery (1942)
7. Honor list of those who served in World War II from Western Avenue Church Center (n.d.)
8. Give It Your Best, poster of American Flag; Office of War Information (1942)
9. Your Country Needs Scrap Rubber: Metal: Rags Deposit Yours Here, poster (n.d.)
10. V.E. Day Posters and information
 - a. Herald Poster Company; we are printing posters, you can buy some (31 Aug 1944)--photocopy, 1 page
 - b. We will close "V" Day. . ., 2 posters; sponsored by the Association of Commerce and the American Legion of the city of Bloomington (n.d.)
 - c. CLOSED TODAY in Commemoration of our Victory, 3 posters (n.d)
11. Scrapbook pages; Merle Diller (with World War II Collection Box 1, Folder 5)
12. Some of the Common Uses of Tin (Apr 1942)

13. *Chicago Sunday Tribune* (22 Mar 1942).
 - a. Know Your Army, side 1; w/Insignia definitions
 - b. How to Spot a Jap, side 2; color comic of "Terry and the Pirates"
14. Supplement to the 1944 State Farm Insurance Company's Road Atlas (1944)
15. War map (color)
 - a. War map (color); side 1
 - b. Map references, Army, Navy, and Marine insignia and decorations, and photos of airplanes, tanks, guns, and ships; side 2

