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**THE “HOME FRONT TENNESSEE” WORLD WAR II
PROJECT RECORDS
1933-1995**

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INTRODUCTION

The “Home Front Tennessee” World War II Project Records, 1933-1995, were sent in from various donors to the Tennessee Historical Society for its “Home Front Tennessee” World War II project. The collection consists of 205 items relating to World War II and is housed in two manuscript boxes. The collection is arranged alphabetically by document type and since some of the items are personal memoirs and recollections there may be copyright concerns. Those who wish to use materials for publication or dissemination should obtain permission from the authors.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The “Home Front Tennessee” World War II Project Records, 1933-1995, include several World War II personal memoirs and experiences sent in by donors for the Tennessee Historical Society’s “Home Front Tennessee” WWII Project. The first of these memoirs was written by Cornelius Doyle, an Army Air Corps pilot during World War II. Mary Ellen and Christopher Doyle typed up his recollection and added some comments and illustrations. There are also five army newspapers, three of which belonged to the 120th Infantry, and are entitled “The Buzz Saw.” All three of these newspapers are dated 1943. The other three newspapers are also dated 1943 and are entitled “The Buzz” and “Lyons Roar”. These newspapers offered stories, poems, news, church service times, letters to the editor, sports, and introduction to new officers.

The collection also includes three diaries. The first is by Robert E. Barclay, dated 1943 to 1945. Barclay was the Chief Clerk in charge of Accounting and Plant Production at the Tennessee Copper Company in Copperhill, Tennessee. His diary chronicles life on the home front in East Tennessee. He comments on news about the war, the atom bomb, and rationing, as well as family news. The second diary belonged to Julian J. Gates, who recorded his experiences from 1942 to 1945. Gates was a Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Corps and was a prisoner of war at the Zentsuji POW Camp in Zentsuji, Japan. Gates recorded his experiences in the war, and included several photocopied newspaper clippings. The third diary in the collection belonged to Mattie Lewis who recorded her experiences from 1941 to 1944. Her diary primarily consists of accounts of her day-to-day life, along with family news. There are several photocopied pictures of Mattie and her family included in the folder.

In addition, there are several letters written by Ken Baum of the 120th Infantry Regiment to his family back home in Pennsylvania while he was at the Tennessee Maneuvers in 1943. Baum’s letters describe field conditions and the people he met while stationed in the South, as well as a first-hand account of the Tennessee Maneuvers from an enlisted man’s point of view. The collection also includes a brief biographical sketch of Ann Marby Barr. Barr’s family farm became what is known today as Fort Campbell. In her lifetime, Barr visited thousands of soldiers in the military stockades, hospitals, and prisons and was given a lifelong pass from Greyhound because she traveled back and forth so many times. There is also the “Historical and Pictorial Review Barrage Balloon Training Center” of the United States Army at Camp Tyson, Tennessee, 1942. The review includes pictures of all the staff workers, the soldiers, the maneuvering balloons, the Retreat Parade, the Shelter Tent Camp, the training center, and a history of the training center.

The collection also includes a memoir by Fred Travis entitled “How the End Came.” Travis was a combat correspondent with the 15th Marine, and describes how he found out that the war was over, the surrender upon the Battleship *Missouri*, releasing POWs, and occupying Japan. Also included in the project were six interviews with Jewish refugees who related their war experiences. There is also a 1990s list of members belonging to the Jewish Federation of Nashville & Middle Tennessee and “A Guide for Teaching the History of the Jews of Nashville, Tennessee,” which was also published by the Archives of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee in 1985. The collection also includes several items on the United States Navy during World War II.

There is as photocopy of an article titled "A Naval Maneuver That Made History," and *Veterans of Foreign Wars* magazine for November 1984, along with several photocopies of newspaper clippings and magazine articles on the U.S. Navy during World War II.

Additionally, the collection contains the "Memorial to World War II 50th Anniversary," written by Bill A. Dalton of Chattanooga, Tennessee. The memorial booklet contains extensive information on World War II, as well as pictures of the bunkers around Adolf Hitler's home and the U.S. cemetery at Normandy Beach. The collection also has several newspaper clippings of Kennedy General Hospital from 1942 to 1945, which was a major military hospital during World War II. There are also newspaper clippings from the *Nashville Banner* and the *Commercial Appeal* in Memphis detailing war news from 1942 and 1945. There are also three other newspaper clippings from the *Greenville Sun* that are entitled "SS Troops Learn Lesson in Democracy," dated 1990; "Artwork From Hitler's Troops Opens Today," 1990; and "Old Soldier Brings the War Home For Neighborhood," dated 1989.

The "Home Front Tennessee" World War II Project also contains two pamphlets in its collection. The first one is from the Tennessee Society for Crippled Children and details what county funds may be used for, the seal sale returns for 1942 and 1943 from the 95 counties in Tennessee, and information on Easter Seals. The other pamphlet regards the 300th General Hospital Reunion #6, 1990. This pamphlet gives information on the hospital's personnel, as well as a list of memoriams and several lists of people about whom information is unknown.

The collection also includes numerous papers from the Nashville Chamber of Commerce, dated 1942 to 1970. These papers include newspaper clippings relating to the Chamber of Commerce, as well as letters from their president, George Thackston, salvage parade procedures, the handbook for the United States Citizens Service Corps, the Citizens Handbook for War, information on the Car Sharing Club Exchange, post-war planning for Nashville, Nashville Chamber of Commerce News Bulletin, photographs, and several issues of *The Reporter*. Also included are Charles E. Cope's personal papers. They consist of his military discharge papers, as well as accounts of his experiences during the war, including information on several of the missions and raids in which he was involved. Thurman Murphy's personal papers are also included in the collection, and they primarily include recommendations for Murphy from his superior officers, along with a few newspaper articles about him.

Additionally, the collection also contains a poem titled "A Prisoner of War" written by Lieut. R. Hastings in Zentsuji, Japan on September 15, 1943. There is also a booklet entitled, "Recollections of World War II" which was prepared by the American Red Cross, Nashville Chapter, dated 1993. This booklet is a compilation of personal experiences of volunteers who served during World War II. Included in the collection is the program that the Tennessee Historical Society presented in collaboration with the "Home Front Tennessee" World War II Project; "The Training of B-17 Bomber Crews at Dyersburg Army Air Field in World War II" written by Dr. H. Blair Bentley of Dyersburg, Tennessee; and twelve interviews done by Gallatin High School students. These students asked war veterans and civilians a series of questions pertaining to their experiences during the war.

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

1. "A Tennessee Country Welcome" by Cornelius Doyle, Mary, Ellen, and Christopher, n.d.
2. Army newspapers, 1943
3. Diary---Barclay, Robert E., 1943-1945
4. Diary---Gates, Julian J., 1942-1945
5. Diary---Lewis, Mattie, 1941-1944
6. Correspondence---Baum, Ken, 1943
7. Family histories---Barr, Ann Marby, n.d.
8. "Historical and Pictorial Review: Barrage Balloon Training Center, U.S. Army," 1942
9. "How the End Came" by Travis, Fred, n.d.
10. Interviews---Jewish Refugees, 1990, n.d.
11. Magazine articles---World War II Navy---1945, 1984, n.d.
12. "Memorial to World War II: 50th Anniversary," 1989-1995
13. Newspaper clippings---Kennedy General Hospital, 1942-1945, n.d.
14. Newspaper clippings---*Greenville Sun* newspaper, 1989-1991
15. Newspaper clippings---World War II news, 1942-1945
16. Pamphlet---Tennessee Society for Crippled Children, 1943
17. Pamphlet---300th General Hospital Reunion #6, 1990
18. Organizational records---Chamber of Commerce, 1942-1970, n.d.
19. Personal papers---Cope, Charles E., n.d.
20. Personal papers---Murphy, Thurman, 1939-1977, n.d.

Box 2

1. Poem---"Prisoner of War" by Hastings, R., 1943
2. "Recollections of World War II," 1993
3. Symposium program---"Home Front Tennessee: The World War II Experience," 1991-1992, n.d.
4. "The Training of B-17 Bomber Crews at Dyersburg Army Air Field in World War II" by Bentley, Dr. H. Blair, n.d.
5. World War II Interviews---Gallatin High School students, 1992