World War II Resources

This guide was created to aid visitors to the MSU Archives in finding resources related to World War II. This listing is not comprehensive, but is a starting point for visitors to begin their research on World War II. Online versions of the finding aids for most collections listed can be accessed by clicking on the collection name.

Family and Individual Collections

1. Paul D. Bagwell Papers, 1938-1960. 00039
   - 1 cubic foot
   - Bagwell was a Professor of Speech at Michigan State College, and served as the chairman of the Victory Speakers Bureau during World War II.
   - Included in this collection are printed materials from World War II published by the Office of War Information and speeches Bagwell gave on topics such as rationing, victory gardening, and citizens’ roles in the war.

2. Frederick C. Belen Papers, 1961-1968 UA 10.3.142
   - 2 cubic feet
   - Papers of Frederick C. Belen, MSC 1937, who served as Deputy Postmaster General under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson (1964-1969). Includes personal and professional correspondence; official bulletins and circulars issued by Belen's office; newspaper clippings; photographs; subject files; and materials from Belen's World War II military service. [Not currently processed; contact archivists for use prior to visit.]

   - 0.25 cubic feet
   - Included in the John F. Brower papers are materials from his military science classes, as well as his military service.

4. Fendley Collins Papers, 1930-1972. UA 17.80
   - 0.1 cubic feet
   - Collins’ collection includes materials on “World War II physical fitness.”

5. Edmund A. Calkins Papers, 1874-1940. 00140
   - 0.25 cubic feet
   - The Calkin's collection consists of several scrapbooks containing newspaper articles of Franklin D. Roosevelt's private and political life from 1934-1940.

   - 1.6 cubic feet
   - The James Denison papers include materials that were accumulated throughout Denison’s life. Denison’s personal papers consist primarily of correspondence,
diaries, and newspaper clippings about himself. Also included are articles, stories, and poems written by Denison.

- The bulk of the papers center around Denison’s professional career and in particular his career with the Michigan Office of Civilian Defense, the United States Army, the Office of the Governor of Michigan, and Michigan State University.
- The materials collected while working for the Michigan Office of Civilian Defense contain correspondence, reports, and publications including the Operational Plan for a Local Control Center.
- The papers relating to Denison’s military service consist of correspondence, materials from the Provost Marshal General’s Officer School, Fort Custer, Michigan and Denison’s order books. Materials on the Army Reserves and Denison’s appointment to the Michigan National Coast Guard Reserves are contained in the papers. Numerous publications dealing with World War II, including French and German newspapers, make up part of these papers. A number of United States Army publications are also present.

   - 0.25 cubic feet
   - The bulk of the collection consists of 22 letters from Sgt. Donald M. Dewar, stationed with the United States Air Force in the Netherlands East Indies, to his mother, Jennie (Mrs. Neil A.) Dewar and sister, Marion, in Flint, Michigan, in 1944 and 1945. These letters reflect the day-to-day life of the military bases fairly remote from the actual fighting, and contain no references to actual warfare.

   - 0.25 cubic feet
   - This collection includes letters from Army Air Corps Major George A. Dibble to his parents in Lansing, Michigan, from various places in and out of the United States, between 1941 and 1959. It also has several letters from his wife, Mary Alice Gillett, to the Dibbles, discussing home life and their daughter, Diane. There are also some letters from Dibble’s brother, Lewis, who was in the Army in Italy during World War II, and who was later in Japan. The collection also holds several letters of commendation for Dibble (1943-1944).

   - 0.8 cubic feet
   - Diaries of Virgil and Hazel Egolf. The diaries for Virgil cover the years 1941-1960 and Hazel’s cover 1941-1967. The entries describe their daily affairs with little personal information or references to world events. Virgil’s diaries do not contain information about his war experience although World War II is mentioned a couple times before he goes off to war.
10. **Henry T. Ewald Papers, 1911-1961.**

- 0.66 cubic feet, 2 volumes on shelf
- This collection includes articles on advertising by Henry Ewald; articles and a biography of Ewald and a transcript of addresses made at a testimonial dinner given in his honor; articles, promotional publications, an organizational chart, a personnel roster, an employee rule book, news clippings, meeting minutes, sample advertisements (primarily General Motors and other automobile companies), and a copy of the company newspaper, INSIDE THE CECO CIRCLE, of Campbell-Ewald Company. It also includes World War II advertising plans, including sales plans for V4 Campaign-War Bonds.

11. **Eva J. Goodyear Ration Book, 1943.**

- 1 folder
- This collection contains one World War II ration coupon book.

12. **Maxwell A. Goodwin Papers, 1926-1929, 2004.**

- 1 folder
- The papers of Maxwell A. Goodwin include a five-page reminiscence titled “Some College Memories,” and ten photographs. Although it does not go into great detail, the reminiscence describes Goodwin’s college days and life after his graduation in 1929. He includes references to his captainship of the fencing team, membership in the Eunomian Society and the ROTC cavalry and social life. He also describes his work experiences immediately following the 1929 stock market crash, and service to the government during World War II.


- 140 cubic feet (118.5 paper materials)
- This collection consists of the papers of John A. Hannah, president of MSC from 1941 to 1969. Records related to World War II in this collection include Memorial Certificates for War Dead (1943-1946), found in Box 51, Folders 44-45; files on the GI Bill, found in Box 56, Folder 25; and various correspondence and speeches regarding World War II. This brief listing of materials related to the war in Hannah’s papers should not be considered comprehensive.

14. **Lemuel Hart Collection, 1875-1944.**

- 3 folders
- This collection includes gas ration stamps issued to L. J. Hart during World War II.

15. **Donald Hayworth Papers, 1943-1958.**
1 cubic foot

Born in Toledo, Iowa in 1898, Donald Hayworth graduated from Grinnell College in 1918 and served in World War I as a private. The Donald Hayworth papers consist of political campaign material, photographs, scrapbooks, and personal certificates of Hayworth’s career. Also, the collection contains a scrapbook of a lecture tour of Louise Morley, “Role of British Youth and Women in World War II”.

16. Frank W. Holder Papers, 1925-1959. 00021

- 2.5 cubic feet
- The Holder collection is divided into three basic series. The first deals with his work for the Taft Highway Association. This series includes correspondence, records of the association and newspaper clippings. The second series contains records of the Association and newspaper clippings, and it relates to Holder’s position with the Michigan State Highway Department during World War II. This material contains records of bus line surveys as well as gasoline and tire rationing programs implemented in World War II. The final series is related to Holder's personal activities. This series includes correspondence from 1946-1957, account books, address books and magazines commemorating Fielding H. Yost's retirement from the University of Michigan in 1942.

17. Edward Hutchings Papers, 1937-1945. c.00626

- 0.1 cubic feet
- Edward Hutchings served in the First Battalion, Fifth Division of the United States Marine Corps during World War II. He served in the Pacific Theater and attained the rank of Pharmacist Mate, 1st class. His papers contain correspondence of Hutchings, primarily letters to his mother that were mostly written in October and November of 1945, although there is also one letter from 1937. The collection also contains photographs of Hutchings, his friends, and Nina Dudley’s relatives, some dated mid-1943, but most undated.


- 1.3 cubic feet
- The papers of John A. King contain correspondence, diaries, and typescripts of his diaries. One diary is from his freshman year at the University of Michigan (1939). The diaries describe his experiences in World War II, his travels abroad, and King’s daily life in Michigan.
- The majority of the diaries contain information about King and his wife Joan’s life in Webberville and Okemos, Michigan. He writes about daily happenings and social activities that the two engage in. He also makes note of the weather, relative humidity and temperature for each day. In addition he notes native
animals such as fox, squirrels, raccoons, deer, mink and muskrat that frequent his backyard and pond. Several of the diaries contain notes about raccoons caught in traps; the sex and date caught are recorded. The diaries also list books and movies that King has viewed or read and his comments on each.

- The correspondence files contain conversations on politics, social functions and discussions about issues of nature and scientific discoveries, as well as talk about families and happenings in each others lives.

19. Frank Knox Collection, 1898-1944.  
   c.00189
   
   - 3 folders
   - This collection consists of various materials relating to Frank Knox's career. These include a clipping from the Alma Record (1898) describing Knox's recruiting activities on the Alma campus; an address by Knox to the War Congress of American Industry (1942), stressing the challenges brought by World War II; an editorial written by Knox of the death of John Muehling (1944); press releases and programs relating to Knox's military funeral in Washington, D.C. (1944); and biographical materials on Knox.

   c.00574
   
   - 2 folders
   - The Harley Krapohl papers consist of letters, photocopies of newspaper clippings, and a partially released Federal Bureau of Investigation file regarding the arrest and trial of George Viereck for violation of the Foreign Agents Registration Act in 1943. Viereck was an author who was a suspected Nazi propagandist in the United States prior to and during World War II. Senator Donald Riegle obtained the F.B.I. file for Mr. Krapohl, a former employee of the state of Michigan, through the Freedom of Information Act.

   UA 17.107
   
   - 12.4 cubic feet, 57 volumes on shelf
   - The Madison Kuhn collection consists of materials accumulated by Kuhn during his tenure as University Historian. This collection, which was drawn from his reference files, constitutes only a small portion of the total documentation which he donated to the Archives. A large number of manuscript materials have been transferred, based on their provenance, to other University record groups. These separations, as well as transfers of printed maps, artifacts, photographs, publications, broadsides, and stamps, are recorded at the end of this inventory. Included in this collection, in Box 2412, Folder 97, are various records related to World War II. In Box 2412, Folder 98, is a list of MSC athletes who served in World War II. Additionally, Scrapbook 107 records the cancellation of all inter-collegiate athletic competition for the year 1944.
   c.00451
   • 1 folder
   • A brief, personal account of life in and around Lansing during World War I, the
     Great Depression, and World War II. Mrs. McDonald recounts her life as a child
     growing up in a rural community. She writes about life in general; the difficulty
     in finding a job, the hardships of the Depression, the relief offered by the New
     Deal, and a trip to the Chicago World's Fair of 1931. Throughout her writing,
     Mrs. McDonald shows how people were able to cope with the problems presented
     by the Depression and two world wars, and how she, herself, profited from the
     experience.

   00120
   • 13 cubic feet
   • These papers deal with Dr. Milton E. Muelder's service with the Office of
     Military Government in Germany, spanning 1939-1958. They include maps,
     plans, reports, policy directives, correspondence on postwar educational programs
     in Germany, de-Nazification, and the military government division of Germany
     by the Allied Forces (United States, Great Britain, France, and Russia) after the
     war.

   00081
   • 0.75 cubic feet
   • This collection consists wholly of personal correspondence from Nelson to his
     wife, Hal Fraley Nelson. Much of it is of a highly personal nature but there is a
     substantial amount of more general interest. The bulk of the correspondence falls
     in the period July 1917 to December 1918. In the later years, the correspondence
     contains discussion of the investigation into the cement industry of Michigan in
     1923 and the civil unrest involving the Ku Klux Klan in Oklahoma that same
     year. Further letters have a limited amount of material on the depression and
     World War II eras.

   00143
   • 2.33 cubic feet
   • The bulk of this collection consists of scrapbooks. The sixteen total scrapbooks
     are filled with newspaper clippings, magazine articles and picture covering such
     diverse topics as World War II, the Middle East, Japanese culture and flower
     gardening. Also included are Ethel Rathke's prose and poetry and her
     correspondence with publishing companies.

   c.00554
1 folder

Published reminiscences of Clayton Smith, titled "Seventy-Five Years with a Country Boy." In the book, Smith tells about his experiences while growing up on a farm in Barnard, Michigan; his experience in the Merchant Marines in World War II; and his work selling fruit in the Upper Peninsula. Also included are various short stories of Smith's adventures in fishing and trapping. The book was published in 1991 by Trapper Cabin Press in Charlevoix, Michigan.

27. Henrik Joakim Stafseth Papers, 1902-1967. 00076
   - 5 cubic feet
   - The correspondence includes letters (1942-1945) from Stafseth's son, Henrik Ekroll, which were written during World War II while he was stationed with the Sixteenth Naval Construction Battalion in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and with the Navy Public Works Division in New York.

28. Perry M. Thomas Collection, 1945-1946 00227
   - 1 cubic foot
   - This collection consists of a photographic scrapbook documenting the nuclear bomb tests at the Bikini Atoll. There are also a small number of images of tests in Alamogordo, New Mexico as well as copies of published documents of eyewitness accounts of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings from the New Yorker Magazine.

29. Towar Family Collection, 1907-1956. 00129
   - 0.66 cubic feet, 12 volumes (in box 2)
   - The collection contains the correspondence of Towar to various family members as well as correspondence from those family members. The bulk of this correspondence prior to the Second World War came from James D. Towar. The letters of the latter half of the collection are from nieces and nephews. In general the letters are chatty and relate little of the social or economic condition of the times. One exception to this is the letters from James during World War II, while he lived in Los Angeles, California. These letters provide some insight into the war economy as well as the war society in Southern California.

   - 0.1 cubic feet
• The Laurence H. White papers contains a story written by the group the Greek Interpreters for entry into the Baker Street Irregulars Club. Also included are personal reminiscences pertaining to Michigan State University events and activities. The manuscript story is called “The Singular Affair of Mr. Phillip Phot,” a Sherlock Holmes story written by White and other club members. The story follows Sherlock Holmes as he attempts to understand a mysterious telegram sent to him by his brother Mycroft. In order to solve the mystery Holmes must come out of his retirement in Sussex and return to Baker Street. When Sherlock attempts to contact his brother Mycroft he instead receives a clue: the name Phillip Phot. After receiving more clues and avoiding many dangerous situations, Sherlock uncovers a group of German spies and Hitler himself. After capturing the spies and Hitler meeting his end, Sherlock and Mycroft finally reveal the meaning of Phillip Phot. In this case it is a lengthening of the word pylpot, meaning swastika.

• The reminiscences include a story about the football game between the Great Lakes and Michigan State during World War II. The MSU coach claimed he would walk on water if the Spartans won the game. After Michigan State won, he was forced to make an attempt at his promise.

31. John L. Whitelaw Papers, 1883-1900, 1945. c.00379
   • 2 folders, 2 scrapbooks
   • This collection includes two folders of correspondence (1945) from Brigadier General John L. Whitelaw to relatives in East Lansing, Michigan, when he was stationed in Germany during World War II. In his letters, Whitelaw describes the Ruhr Valley area and Berlin after the German surrender, and comments on the Russian soldiers, trains and the civilian food situation. Two scrapbooks (1883-1900), compiled by Whitelaw as a child, contain nineteenth-century pictorial advertisements, newspaper clippings, and early "Mutt and Jeff" comic strips.

32. Whiteringer Family Papers, 1932-1979. c.00323
   • 1 folder
   • The Whiteringer Family Papers includes three war rations books from 1942.

33. Easton W. Williams Collection, 1929-1945. 00167
   • 15 scrapbooks (351-365)
   • The Easton Williams scrapbook collection consists of newspaper clippings, magazine articles, and pictures covering World War II. Several pictorial reviews of foreign countries and peoples are also included. Newspapers from around the United States were used, as well as several popular magazines. The bulk of the information is from 1929 to 1945, with greater coverage being given to the years
1941-1943. Williams also included a number of articles from 1918, about World War I.

34. William A. Wiltberger Papers, 1922-1978
   UA 17.283
   - 3.5 cubic feet
   - The William A. Wiltberger Papers make up a large section of Wiltberger’s life, from the 1920s to the 1970s. They include material from his work as an educator, a police officer, an Air Force Colonel, and his memberships in the International Association for Identification, International Association of Police Chiefs, and Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. They are divided into six series by subject; the series are internally organized chronologically.
   - The Air Force series has material from Wiltberger’s time in the Air Corps/Force, such as his deployment orders, and informational material he collected from where he was.

   c.00360
   - 1 folder
   - Three World War II ration books belonging to Bert F. Crapser of Swartz Creek, Michigan.

    000215
    - 4 folders
    - James Wilmer Zee was a fruit farmer in Gloucester County, New Jersey. He had contracts with the U.S. for Prisoner of War labor. German P.O.W.s assisted with the fruit harvests. After returning to Germany, some of the P.O.W.s wrote letters to James Wilmer Zee and his wife, Elsie, thanking them for their kindness and requesting care packages.
    - Also included in this collection are post-World War II letters to Elsie Schober Zee and William Schober from family members in Germany. Many of the letters were translated from German to English by Schober, who was a German immigrant.

MSU Departmental Records

   - 1 folder
   - A “Victory Guide for Officers of 4-H Clubs,” scrap metal collecting booklet, a pamphlet on wartime goals for 4-H clubs, and a leaflet about the 4-H Victory Project are included in this collection.

2. College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Records, 1866-2012.  UA 15.1
   - 1 folder
• This collection includes a brochure about the Women’s Land Army, a program designed to teach women how to be farmers, in order to compensate for the lack of manpower during the war.

3. **Department of Botany and Plant Pathology Records, 1876-1992.** UA 16.21
• 1 folder
• Included in this collection are Victory Gardening bulletins, which were part of a series prepared by Michigan State College and the Victory Garden Section of the Michigan Office of Civilian Defense.

4. **Department of Crop and Soil Sciences Records, 1926-1994.** UA 16.36
• 1.4 cubic feet
• There are records regarding potato agriculture during the World War II and the post-war era (1941-1948). These include recommendations, bulletins, reports, and other records.

5. **Department of Geology Records, 1930-2010** UA 16.53
• 8 cubic feet
• The records consist of correspondence, field trip reports, inventories of the department, financial statements, experiment station notes, material relating to the Works Progress Administration, military college program, science fraternities, annual report materials.
• Ray Harrison, 1940-1941. Letters written from Camp Livingston, Louisiana describing his army training while part of the 121st Field Artillery Regiment (part of the 32nd Division); Return letters describing the happenings at MSC during this time.
• James Dymond, 1941-1942. Letters written from Dymond’s basic training at Corpus Christi, Texas and his pilot training at Lake City, Florida; Return letters describing the happenings at MSC during this time including the growth of photogrammetry (remote sensing).
• Henry Faul, 1941-1942. Faul was from Prague and had escaped German occupation. He had also worked at several on academic projects throughout Europe. He was interested in economic geology and mine development. The head of the Geology Department helped him with his naturalization process.
• William Davies 1941-1942. Davies was an instrumental figure with the U.S. Army Map Research Department. Significant biographical information is included.

6. **Military Science Department/ROTC Records, 1880-1989.** UA 3.17.1
• 1.2 cubic feet
The collection consists of records relating to the MSU Military Science Department/ ROTC. The class materials folder contains a receipt listing the uniform items issued to students, a syllabus for MS 102 chronologically listing the subjects covered in the class and chapters in the ROTC manual, and a list of basic concepts and their definitions. There is also a folder of correspondence relating to the creation of a trophy for the top member on the MSU rifle team to be named after Julian W. Smith. Smith was an education professor and member of the National Rifle Association Board of Directors. There is one issue of the newsletter the “Cadet Bulletin” from 1959 and a folder of memos, press releases, and forms from 1942-1944. Also included is an oversize certificate of cadet appointment. The photographs in the collection consist of images from 1880-1959 and the 1980s of cadets, training, drills, rifle teams, military bands, World War II trainees, trucks, tanks, maneuvers and training exercises, as well as social events and ceremonies. The slides included labeled and unlabeled slides including slides of camps, maneuvers, vehicles, images for slide presentations and slides produced by the U.S. military.


- 3.25 cubic feet
- The Correspondence series, 1941-1946 is a series of letters written by World War II enlisted servicemen (students and staff members) to Miss Bernadette “Mac” (MacCarthy) Henderson, a secretary in the Zoology department. The series also includes greeting cards and postcards. The next Correspondence series 1941-1947 contains additional correspondence between previous Zoology department students and Bernadette McCarthy. Bernadette, also known as “Mac”, served as the department secretary. This group of letters was found later by the department and some correspondents could overlap between the previous series. Some letters to Professor Stack are also included. The letters are from former students in their new jobs and placements in military camps during WWII. Mac sent out news bulletins to Zoology graduates until WWII censorship barred specific aspects of her newsletter in 1944, due to the revealing nature of its contents. Included within these letters are correspondence of new placements, life after MSC, birth announcements, postcards from travels, as well as greeting and holiday cards. Letters from soldiers in WWII discuss memories of college life, conditions at camps and bases, wartime experiences, and opinions on the war, censorship, and wartime propaganda.


- 1 folder
• This collection contains a list, dated 1945, of Michigan State athletic award winners who served in the U.S. military during World War II. The list includes the athletes’ name, class, rank, military branch served in, and sport.


• 2 folders and 1 oversize item
• During World War II, 4-H Victory Clubs were formed and engaged in activities such as scrap metal collecting, gardening, and war stamp sales. This collection includes Victory Club reports, regulations, lists of activities, and a poster advertising the Club.


• 0.25 cubic feet
• Numerous Cooperative Extension bulletins covered war related topics, such as canning, preserving democracy, wartime agricultural production, and food rationing.

Other Resources

1. Alumni Association Records, 1869-2012.  UA 10.2

• 2 cubic feet
• World War II veterans, casualties, service lists, prisoners of war, and awards and honors.

2. Annual Reports of the Michigan Board of Agriculture, 1941-1945.  UA 1.0

• The Michigan Board of Agriculture was the governing body of MSC, and as such, its annual reports provide great detail on how World War II affected curriculum, students, faculty, and other aspects of life at MSC.

3. East Lansing Woman’s Club Historical Manuscript, 1903-1978.  c.00438

• 0.1 cubic feet
• The East Lansing Woman’s Club, established in 1903, was a club devoted to the “mutual improvement, both social and intellectual,” of women in East Lansing, Michigan. It was primarily comprised of female faculty members and the wives of faculty at Michigan State.
• During World War II, the club discussed current topics, such as progress of democracy, price control, and rationing. Members were urged to help the war effort by sending Red Cross kits to soldiers, volunteering for the war rationing board, and working as typists and nurses.

- 5 cubic feet
- Michigan Bean Company, under A. L. Riedel, was instrumental in the formation of the Michigan Bean Council of Growers and Shippers, Michigan Agricultural Export Association, Michigan Bean Growers Mutual Co-op, National Dried Bean Council, Saginaw Grain Elevator Project, and Bean Pool Marketing programs. Correspondence, financial papers, legal papers, ledgers and notes for these organizations are contained within these records.
- During World War II, Riedel was a consultant for the Beans, Peas, and Rice Purchasing Division for the United States Department of Agriculture in connection with the Department of Defense Quartermasters Corps. He was instrumental in the development of a waterproof bag used for shipping grain during the war. Correspondence concerning this work is included.

5. **The MSC Record, 1925-1955.**

- The *MSC Record* was the alumni magazine for MSC. It published news on current students and alumni who had joined military service throughout World War II.
- Digitized copies of the *MSC Record* are available online: http://onthebanks.msu.edu/Object/1-4-420/the-mac-record/.

6. **The MSC Wolverine, 1942-1946.**

- The *Wolverine* yearbooks during the years of World War II provide a unique perspective on how the demands of war affected campus life. Included in the yearbooks are lists of MSC students and alumni who died during the war.

7. **REO Motor Car Company Records, 1904-1976.**

- 8 cubic feet
- REO Motors records contain correspondence with the U.S. War Department and branches of the military regarding orders for parts, contracts with the government, and production levels during the war.

8. **U. S. Military History Collection, 1940, 1954.**

- 0.2 cubic feet
- The collection contains a history of Parris Island, 1526-1952; and account of Blue Army Maneuvers.

9. **Photographs - Military Science, 1940-1959.**

- 24 folders
• Various photos related to the Military Science Department at MSC during World War II.

10. **Photographs - World War II Activities, 1941-1945.**  
    MSU Photo Collection  
    • 2 folders  
    • Various photos of student events and activities on campus during World War II.

11. **S.S. Empress of Britain souvenir issue, 1931.**  
    c.00430  
    • 1 folder  
    • The S.S. Empress of Britain was launched June 11, 1930, and was torpedoed by a German submarine on October 28, 1940 off the coast of Ireland.  
    • Souvenir issue of "The Shipbuilder and Marine Engine-Builder" (May, 1931) describing the Canadian Pacific quadruple-screw ocean liner "Empress of Britain." The magazine describes the liner and includes detailed pictures and diagrams.

12. **Stars and Stripes Publication Collection, 1918-1919, 1944-1946.**  
    00197  
    • 0.8 cubic feet  
    • The collection consists of Stars and Stripes newspapers published during World War I and World War II. The issues 1918-1919, 1944-1946 are arranged in chronological order. When two dates are listed together, it indicates two issues were attached together. The designation of European and Mediterranean after the dates in box two, indicates which theater of war the issue came from. The newspapers contain information on the wars, life as a soldier, as well as some non-war news.