

World War II Correspondence CollectionMS-32

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1857-1966

Title Statement

World War II Correspondence CollectionMS-32

Publication Statement

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Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2025-10-16 07:02:59 -0400.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MS-32

Unit ID

/repositories/4/resources/38

Unit Date

1857-1966

Unit Date

1940-1945

Language

English Latin

Abstract

This collection contains more than 700 letters, the vast majority dating to World War II between 1940 and 1945. Each of the first five series deal with numerous letters to/from a primary correspondent, whether husband and wife, family members, or varying levels of acquaintance that date between 1940 and 1945. The final two series contain correspondence and ephemera unrelated to World War II that was included in the collection when purchased.

Extent

1.5 Linear Feet

Repository

University of Richmond

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright restrictions may apply. Unpublished manuscripts are protected by copyright. Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

This collection was purchased at auction.

Processing Information

The collection arrived as a single unit of materials mixed together. The processor decided to separate into individual correspondents and organize the collection by correspondent and then chronologically.

Processed by Lynda Kachurek.

Preferred Citation

[Box Number, Folder Number], MS-32, WWII Correspondence Collection, Book Arts, Archives, & Rare Books, Boatwright Memorial Library, University of Richmond, Richmond, Virginia.

Biographical / Historical

The bulk of these letters were written between 1940 and 1945 by servicemen from various branches of the armed forces during World War II. Because of the number of correspondents and the lack of additional biographical materials, any information located during processing is described in the individual series in the scope and content note. Additionally, the collection arrived containing letters predating and unrelated to World War II, many lacking names, dates, or other identifying information, as well as a few items of unrelated ephemera. Taken individually or as a whole, the World War II letters in this collection provide intimate access to the lives and experiences of several individuals throughout the course of the war.

Scope and Contents

Series I, George & Mary (Zyla) Orlikowski Letters, contains over 230 letters written by George Orlikowski to his girlfriend, and later wife, Mary Zyla Orlikowski. Dating between July 1942 and March 1945, the series traces Orlikowski's wartime activities as well as what was happening on the home front. Family concerns and military life dominate the writings, but they also offer views into larger wartime concerns of both military and life on the home front. Additionally, there are many examples of humorous envelopes and letterhead. In one letter from December 1944, as George's unit is preparing to ship out to the Pacific, he creates a code based on his salutations so that Mary can track his location without the censor's knowledge. Overall, these letters create a nearly complete and compelling story of a Midwestern couple during World War II.

Series II, Dorothy "Dot" Raynham Letters, contains 152 letters written to Dorothy "Dot" Raynham between 1941 and 1944 from a variety of correspondents. A student at Millsaps College at the time, Dorothy lived in Jackson, Mississippi. Between 1943 and 1945, Millsaps was home to the V-12 Navy College Training Program, which may help explain how she connected with many of her letter writers. One notable correspondent is Jack Devore Dunn, whose 52 letters include information about his service with the Army Air Corps South Pacific campaign, including his participation with his B-26 crew in the Battle of Midway. Dunn received both the Distinguished Service Cross and the Distinguished Flying Cross. There are also 9 letters from Jack's mother, Mrs. Betty Uhlorn. Other correspondents included men serving in the Naval Reserve, the Marine Corps, and the Army. Overall, the letters in this series offer a wide-ranging and diverse perspective on military service throughout World War II as well as a sense of what life on the home-front was like for a female college student. Raynham married William C. Fullilove on June 6, 1944, and died in October 1967.

Series III, Parrish Family Letters, contains 88 letters from and about the W.R. Parrish family of North Carolina. Beginning in 1914, the correspondence runs through the end of 1943, with some gaps in the timeline. Many of the letters are written from W.R. Parrish or his daughter, "Lib" to Lillian [Mrs. W.R.] Parrish, and cover business concerns, family life, and some coverage of the war in letters from the wartime years.

Series IV, Walter "Wally" and Ann Wrobel Letters, contains 109 letters primarily from Wally Wrobel, with some from his wife, Ann, to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Wrobel, of Chicago, Illinois. Beginning in August 1943, when Wrobel was a private in the U.S. Army stationed at Camp Wheeler, Georgia, the letters follow his career across several different locations where, occasionally, Ann was able to join him. Many of the letters focus on the home front, discussing his parents' lives as well as things going on with his wife and, eventually, his young daughter. Early in 1944, his correspondence switches as his military activities increase and by Fall 1944, he makes brief mentions of being near New Guinea and later the Philippines. He occasionally mentions battles or other military activities, but usually his correspondence is more about the weather or activities at home. The last letter in the series was written on May 13, 1945, just one day before, according to military records, he died in action on May 14.

Series V, Other World War II Letters, contains three smaller sets of unrelated correspondence concerning World War II. The first set contains 92 letters written by Paul Dobin to Charlotte Gibbs. Between March 1 and July 23, 1944, he wrote nearly every day, talking of his life in the Navy as well as encouraging her in schoolwork, family matters, and eventually planning their wedding. Further research showed that Gibbs and her family were German Jewish immigrants having arrived in the United States in 1934. The second set of letters were written by Davis Lee, serving in the Navy, to his wife, Georgia, of Martinsville, Virginia, between mid-November 1944 and January 1945. Most of the 11 letters are trying to arrange plans for a furlough visit and telling how much he misses her. The third set contains 7 letters from Private Ray Trapp to his parents,

Mr. & Mrs. Ray Trapp of Berea, Ohio, in April and May 1945, describing his activities during the end of the war in Germany.

Series VI, Other Letters, contains 26 folders of letters unrelated to World War II. Dating between 1857 and 1947, these often single letters contain a wide variety of information, including business advertisements, wedding announcements, and general correspondence from many areas. One of the more intriguing sets can be found in Box 2, File 16, which contains 3 letters from a Dutch Navy officer, known only as John/Jake, to Frances Pogue of Cincinnati, Ohio. Written while at sea in 1916 and later from his hospital bed in 1918, the author talks of books read and his experiences during the Great War. Box 2, File 29, may also be of interest as it contains a handwritten advertisement for a wife by an unknown male.

Series VII, Ephemera, contains 3 folders of items that are not correspondence. The first is a Latin notebook, which also contains newspaper clippings about London society. The second and third contain photographic materials.

Related Materials

MS-8 World War I & II Pamphlets Collection.

Keywords

World War, 1939-1945
Personal correspondence
Photographs
Tintype

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into 7 series:

Series I: George & Mary (Zyla) Orlikowski Letters Series II: Dorothy "Dot" Raynham Letters Series III: Parrish Family Letters Series IV: Wally and Ann Wrobel Letters Series V: Other World War II Letters Series VI: Other Letters Series VII: Ephemera

Description of Subordinate Components

Series I: George & Mary (Zyla) Orlikowski Letters

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/3085

Unit Date 1942-1945

George Orlikowski to Mary Zyla

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5496

Unit Date July - December, 1942

Unit Date January, 1943

Text 1 MS-32 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

George Orlikowski to Mary Zyla

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5497

Unit Date February, 1943

Text 1 MS-32 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

George Orlikowski to Mary Zyla

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5498

Unit Date February - March, 1943

Text 1 MS-32 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

George Orlikowski to Mary Zyla

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5499

Unit Date March - May, 1943

Text 1 MS-32 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

George Orlikowski to Mary Zyla

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5500

Unit Date May - June, 1943

Text 1 MS-32 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

George Orlikowski to Mary Zyla

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5501

Unit Date June - August, 1943

Text 1 MS-32 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

George Orlikowski to Mary Zyla

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5502

Unit Date August - November, 1943

Text 1 MS-32 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

George Orlikowski to Mary Zyla

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5503

Unit Date November, 1943 - January, 1944

Text 1 MS-32 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

George Orlikowski to Mary Zyla

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5504

Unit Date January - May, 1944

Text 1 MS-32 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

George Orlikowski to Mary Zyla

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5505

Unit Date May - July, 1944

Text 1 MS-32 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

George Orlikowski to Mary Zyla

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5506

Unit Date July - October, 1944

Text 1 MS-32 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

George Orlikowski to Mary Zyla Orlikowski

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5507

Unit Date November, 1944 - January, 1945

Text 1 MS-32 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

George Orlikowski to Mary Zyla Orlikowski

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5508

Unit Date January - March, 1945

Text 1 MS-32 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Series II: Dorothy "Dot" Raynham Letters

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/3086

Unit Date 1941-1944

Jack B. Dunn to Dorothy Raynham

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5509

Unit Date December 28, 1941 - March 29, 1942

Text 1 MS-32 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Jack B. Dunn to Dorothy Raynham

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5510

Unit Date April 8 - December 16, 1942

Text 1 MS-32 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Jack B. Dunn to Dorothy Raynham

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5511

Unit Date January 13 - April 30, 1943

Text 1 MS-32 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Jack B. Dunn to Dorothy Raynham

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5512

Unit Date May 24 - October 20, 1943

Text 1 MS-32 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

Mrs. William (Betty) Uhlhorn to Dorothy Raynham

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5513

Unit Date 1942-1943

Text 1 MS-32 (box)

Container 18 (folder)

Max Dyal to Dorothy Raynham

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5514

Unit Date May 5, 1943

Text 1 MS-32 (box)

Container 19 (folder)

James D. Bogan to Dorothy Raynham

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5515

Unit Date October, 1941 - May, 1943

Text 1 MS-32 (box)

Container 20 (folder)

Charles W. Reis, Jr. to Dorothy Raynham

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5516

Unit Date August, 1942 - October, 1943

Text 1 MS-32 (box)

Container 21 (folder)

Buford C. Blount to Dorothy Raynham

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5517

Unit Date November, 1942 - February, 1944

Text 1 MS-32 (box)

Container 22 (folder)

Robert Earl Bridges to Dorothy Raynham

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5518

Unit Date March 1, 1943

Text 1 MS-32 (box)

Container 23 (folder)

Neil Yelverston to Dorothy Raynham

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5519

Unit Date May 23, 1943

Text 1 MS-32 (box)

Container 24 (folder)

Jesse L. Wofford to Dorothy Raynham

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5520

Unit Date May, 1943 - February, 1944

Text 1 MS-32 (box)

Container 25 (folder)

Jack Madison to Dorothy Raynham

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5521

Unit Date July, 1943

Text 1 MS-32 (box)

Container 26 (folder)

"Bob" to Dorothy Raynham

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5522

Unit Date July, 1943

Text 1 MS-32 (box)

Container 27 (folder)

Archie McKee to Dorothy Raynham

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5523

Unit Date September, 1943 - January, 1944

Text 1 MS-32 (box)

Container 28 (folder)

Jacob Stocker to Dorothy Raynham

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5524

Unit Date October, 1943 - May, 1944

Text 1 MS-32 (box)

Container 29 (folder)

F. B. Williams to Dorothy Raynham

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5525

Unit Date December, 1943 - February, 1944

Text 1 MS-32 (box)

Container 30 (folder)

H. H. "Mac" Taylor to Dorothy Raynham

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5526

Unit Date March, 1944

Text 1 MS-32 (box)

Container 31 (folder)

Series III: Parrish Family Letters

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/3087

Unit Date 1914-1966

Parrish Family

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5527

Unit Date 1914-1919

Text 1 MS-32 (box)

Container 32 (folder)

Parrish Family

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5528

Unit Date 1926-1939

Text 1 MS-32 (box)

Container 33 (folder)

Parrish Family

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5529

Unit Date 1940

Text 1 MS-32 (box)

Container 34 (folder)

Parrish Family

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5530

Unit Date 1941

Text 1 MS-32 (box)

Container 35 (folder)

Parrish Family**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival_objects/5531**Unit Date** February - May, 1942**Text** 1 MS-32 (box)**Container** 36 (folder)**Parrish Family****Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival_objects/5532**Unit Date** July - October, 1942**Text** 1 MS-32 (box)**Container** 37 (folder)**Parrish Family****Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival_objects/5533**Unit Date** 1943**Text** 1 MS-32 (box)**Container** 38 (folder)**Parrish Family****Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival_objects/5534**Unit Date** 1945**Text** 1 MS-32 (box)**Container** 39 (folder)**Parrish Family****Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival_objects/5535**Unit Date** Undated**Text** 1 MS-32 (box)**Container** 40 (folder)**Parrish Family photos and ephemera****Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival_objects/5536**Unit Date** 1915-1966**Graphic Materials** 1 MS-32 (box)**Container** 41 (folder)**Series IV: Wally and Ann Wrobel Letters****Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival_objects/3088**Unit Date** 1942-1945**[Ann Wrobel?] negatives, with letter****Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival_objects/5537**Unit Date** 1942**Text** 1 MS-32 (box)**Container** 42 (folder)**Wally and Ann Wrobel to Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Wrobel, Leona Wrobel****Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival_objects/5538**Unit Date** August - December, 1942**Text** 1 MS-32 (box)**Container** 43 (folder)

Wally and Ann Wrobel to Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Wrobel, Leona Wrobel

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5539

Unit Date 1943

Text 1 MS-32 (box)

Container 44 (folder)

Wally Wrobel to Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Wrobel

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5540

Unit Date 1944

Text 1 MS-32 (box)

Container 45 (folder)

Wally Wrobel to Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Wrobel

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5541

Unit Date 1945

Text 1 MS-32 (box)

Container 46 (folder)

Series V: Other World War II Letters

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/3089

Unit Date 1944-1945

Paul Dobin to Charlotte Gibbs

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5542

Unit Date March, 1 – July 23, 1944

Text 2 MS-32 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Davis E. Lee to Mrs. Davis E. Lee

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5543

Unit Date November 29, 1944 – January 15, 1945

Text 2 MS-32 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Ray E. Trapp, Jr. to Mr. Ray and Mrs. Kay Trapp

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5544

Unit Date April – May, 1945

Text 2 MS-32 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Series VI: Other Letters

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/3090

Unit Date 1857-1965

Letter from Sarah Haskell to Olive

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5545

Unit Date January 24, 1857

Text 2 MS-32 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Letter from Gertrude B. Watson to "cousin"

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5546

Unit Date September 13, 1863

Text 2 MS-32 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Letter from John in New Orleans, LA, to unknown male

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5547

Unit Date February 21, 1865

Text 2 MS-32 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Letters from Joseph Allison (father) in Chandler & Kirksmanville, KY to Charlie & Lillie (Allison) Ingle in Inglefield, IN

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5548

Unit Date April 1, 1877

Unit Date April 15, 1889

Text 2 MS-32 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Postcards to Bishop Family in Batavia, OH

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5549

Unit Date 1880

Unit Date 1884

Unit Date 1900

Text 2 MS-32 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Letter from William P. Hoval, Secretary, Port Richmond Iron Works, I.P. Morris Co., to Davis Keeley, Conshohocken, PA

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5550

Unit Date August 16, 1883

Text 2 MS-32 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Letter from Edward Russell, The Mercantile Agency, Portland, ME, to J.K. Ames, Machias, ME

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5551

Unit Date May 5, 1887

Text 2 MS-32 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Various letters to James A. Emerson, New York & Chicago

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5552

Unit Date 1887-1899

Unit Date Undated

Text 2 MS-32 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Letters, poem, and newspaper clipping from Luverne, IA, to "Higson Brothers" in Newton, IA

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5553

Unit Date 1889

Unit Date Undated

Text 2 MS-32 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Letter from Miss Carrie B. Marston, Cornish, ME, to Mrs. P.R. Colbath, Passaconaway, NH

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5554

Unit Date December 10, 1894

Text 2 MS-32 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Letter from W.E. Huggard to Earl Cutting, Northfield, VT

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5555

Unit Date September 9, 1910

Text 2 MS-32 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Letter from Jessie [Davis] to Mrs. Lana Zells, Chicago, IL

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5556

Unit Date March 10, 1916

Text 2 MS-32 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Letters from Jack/John, a Dutch navy officer, to Frances L. Pogue, Cincinnati, OH

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5557

Unit Date August 9, 1916

Unit Date February 9, 1918

Unit Date May 16, 1918

Text 2 MS-32 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Letter from Ruthe [?], Kearney, NE, to Mrs. Ray Emry, Ericson, NE

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5558

Unit Date June 7, 1927

Text 2 MS-32 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

Letters from Ralph Wilkins, St. Louis, MO, to Elizabeth Catherine Johannes, Cincinnati, OH

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5559

Unit Date May, 1930

Unit Date October, 1930

Text 2 MS-32 (box)

Container 18 (folder)

Christmas card from Margaret, New York, NY to Mr. & Mrs. Zheller, Ralston, WA

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5560

Unit Date December, 1930

Text 2 MS-32 (box)

Container 19 (folder)

Letters from various people to Mr. & Mrs. L.B. Clegg, Miss Emmi Clegg Prokup, San Antonio, TX

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5561

Unit Date 1933-1936

Unit Date Undated

Text 2 MS-32 (box)

Container 20 (folder)

Letters from Wolfgang Zöllner, Weimar, Germany, to Leo Roberts, Houston, TX

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5562

Unit Date May 19, 1936

Unit Date December, 1965

Text 2 MS-32 (box)

Container 21 (folder)

Letter from Salvadore Marisol, General Manager, Hotel Genere, Mexico City, Mexico, to Odile Lawler, Houston, TX

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5563

Unit Date July 15, 1947

Text 2 MS-32 (box)

Container 22 (folder)

Wedding announcement of Adelaide Hawkins to Martin Roberts, Jr., to Dr. J.B. Cox and family, Huntington, TN

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5564

Unit Date Jan 16, [?]

Text 2 MS-32 (box)

Container 23 (folder)

Letter from "Jake" to Mr. & Mrs. A. Jacobson, Topeka, KS

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5565

Unit Date Mar 18, [?]

Text 2 MS-32 (box)

Container 24 (folder)

Letter to unknown recipient from Sarah Buckingham

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5566

Unit Date Sep 16, [?]

Text 2 MS-32 (box)

Container 25 (folder)

Unknown correspondents

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5567

Unit Date Dec 17, [?]

Text 2 MS-32 (box)

Container 26 (folder)

Partial letter to Mr. J.C. Calhoun, Ft. Wayne, IN

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5568

Unit Date Undated

Text 2 MS-32 (box)

Container 27 (folder)

Advertisement for "La Perla" Manufacturing Company, NY, to Mrs. M.J. Burdine, Tazewell, TN

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5569

Unit Date Undated

Text 2 MS-32 (box)

Container 28 (folder)

Handwritten advertisement "Wanted: A Wife," author unknown

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5570

Unit Date Undated

Text 2 MS-32 (box)

Container 29 (folder)

"Clippings from Mother's Bible, dates of the Daniel Wood children"

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5571

Unit Date Undated

Text 2 MS-32 (box)

Container 30 (folder)

Ephemera

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/3091

Unit Date 1897-1898

Latin schoolwork by Daniel Kittridge, with clippings and writings on London society

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5572

Unit Date 1897-1898

Text 2 MS-32 (box)

Container 31 (folder)

Photographic reprint of Chattanooga, TN ca. 1863

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5573

Unit Date Undated

Graphic Materials 2 MS-32 (box)

Container 32 (folder)

Two tintypes, unidentified woman and man

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5574

Unit Date Undated

Graphic Materials 2 MS-32 (box)

Container 33 (folder)