
Guide to the Lee C. Schlegel World War II Collection, 1936-1954

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Overview of the Collection

Collection Title: Lee C. Schlegel World War II Collection

Dates: 1936-1954

Bulk Dates: 1941-1944

Identification: SC/LCS

Creator: Schlegel, Lee C., 1919-2004

Physical Description: 2.15 linear feet

Language of Materials: English

Repository: Special Collections

Abstract: The Lee C. Schlegel World War II Collection documents the experiences of United States Army soldier, Lee Cyrus Schegel, whose enlistment period spanned the first three years of United States involvement in World War II. The collection consists of approximately two-hundred photographic prints, a scrapbook, two diaries, and a small amount of personal papers.

Biographical Information:

Lee Cyrus Schlegel was born on May 26, 1919 in Reading, Berks County, Pennsylvania to parents, Theodore Machmer and Anna Bertha (née Luckenbill) Schlegel. Following high school, Schlegel was employed as a structural and ornamental metal worker. He married Dorothy E. Moyer on September 10, 1941, and less than two weeks later, enlisted in the United States Army at New Cumberland, Pennsylvania.

Schlegel underwent his initial military training at Camp Croft, South Carolina. In February 1942, he was assigned to Company D, 34th Infantry Division and traveled to Fort Dix, New Jersey in preparation for overseas movement. By the end of April, Schlegel's regiment had set sail for the UK where the division would ready themselves for the British-American invasion of North Africa known as *Operation Torch*, which began in November 1942. Schlegel took part in a number of North African campaigns, including the *Battle of Hill 609*, that ultimately led to surrender by Axis forces in Tunisia in May 1943. The following September, the 34th Infantry Division boarded an English ship bound for Italy to take part in the Allied invasion of the Italian mainland, known as *Operation Avalanche*.

Schlegel would distinguish himself as an exemplary soldier during this campaign, later receiving the Silver Star for gallantry in action. As described, "in the face of this heavy fire and while under full enemy observation, [Schlegel] crawled up a slippery and treacherous rise to the aid of three wounded men, administered first-aid and stayed with them until the barrage ceased. He then made two trips with the litter squads, aiding the evacuation of the men, before returning to resume command of his squad. Sergeant Schlegel's display of courage and initiative was an inspiration to the men of his platoon and a credit to the Armed Forces of the United States."

In January 1944, while moving into position at Mt. Trocchio, Italy, Schlegel suffered a leg injury and was hospitalized at Naples for three months. When he returned to service in June, the 34th Division had moved through Cisterna, Civitavecchia, and on to Rome pushing Axis forces north. Schlegel received a furlough notice on July 22, and finally made it stateside on September 3, 1944.

Lee Cyrus Schlegel passed away on November 16, 2004 at Shillington, Berks County, Pennsylvania and is buried at Forest Hills Memorial Park, Reiffton, Exeter Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania.

Access Terms

This collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Genre/Form of Material:

Paper records

Photographic material

Scrapbooks

Acquisition Information:

Purchased

Processing Information:

Holli Teltoe, 2015

Conditions Governing Use:

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Conditions Governing Access:

The collection is open for research use.

Preferred Citation:

For information about citing items in this collection consult the appropriate style manual, or see the [Citing Archival Materials](#) guide.

Scope and Contents

The *Lee C. Schlegel World War II Collection* documents the experiences of United States Army Sergeant, Lee Cyrus Schlegel, whose enlistment period spanned nearly three years of United States involvement in World War II, beginning in September, 1941 and ending in September, 1944. The collection consists of approximately two-hundred photographic prints, a scrapbook, two diaries, and a small amount of personal papers. Photographs focus on the soldier's daily life overseas and include snapshots of fellow soldiers, barracks and other military dwellings, defensive fighting positions, military vehicles and equipment, village life, and landscapes of North Africa and Italy, with a small number of pictures taken stateside. The scrapbook consists of newspaper clippings, camp menus, newsletters, ticket stubs, and postcards, which document the War from a local, national, and international perspective. Two diaries penned by Schlegel describe the movements of his regiment, Company D, 34th Infantry Division, as well as personal observations and feelings about the day-to-day life of a wartime soldier. The collection is arranged alphabetically.

Box 1, Folder 1	Italy, 17th General Hospital, Naples, 1944
Box 1, Folder 2	Italy, ca. 1943-ca. 1944
Box 1, Folder 3	Italy, Armoured Vehicles, ca. 1943-ca. 1944
Box 1, Folder 4	Italy, City of Tarquania, ca. 1943-ca. 1944
Box 1, Folder 5	Italy, City of Viterbo, ca. 1943-ca. 1944
Box 1, Folder 6	Italy, Defensive Zone, ca. 1943-ca. 1944
Box 1, Folder 7	Italy, Views of the Mediterranean, ca. 1943-ca. 1944
Box 1, Folder 8	Newspaper Clippings, ca. 1941-ca. 1954
Box 1, Folder 9	North Africa, Barracks, ca. 1942-ca. 1943
Box 1, Folder 10	North Africa, Camp Life, ca. 1942-ca. 1943
Box 1, Folder 11	North Africa, Camp Life, ca. 1942-ca. 1943
Box 1, Folder 12	North Africa, Camp Life, ca. 1942-ca. 1943
Box 1, Folder 13	North Africa, City Scenes, ca. 1942-ca. 1943
Box 1, Folder 14	North Africa, Countryside and Mountains, ca. 1942-ca. 1943
Box 1, Folder 15	North Africa, Mediterranean Sea and Shore, ca. 1942-ca. 1943
Box 1, Folder 16	North Africa, Villages, ca. 1942-ca. 1943
Box 1, Folder 17	Personal Papers, ca. 1941-ca. 1944, 1944 May 14
Box 1, Folder 18	Reading, Pennsylvania
Box 1, Folder 19	Schlegel, Lee C., Portraits, ca. 1941-ca. 1944
Box 1, Folder 20	Schlegel, Lee C., Snapshots, ca. 1941-ca. 1944
Box 1, Folder 21	Stateside Snapshots, ca. 1941-ca. 1942
Box 2, Item 1	Scrapbook, 1941-1945
Box 2, Item 2	Schlegel, Lee C., Diary, 1941-1944
Box 2, Item 3	Schlegel, Lee C., Diary, 1944
Flat File Cabinet 1, Folder 1	Schlegel, Lee C., Portrait and Newspaper Clippings, 1936, 1944, ca. 1954