Guide to the William J. Lodge World War II Collection

Language of Material: Multiple languages
Contributing Institution: Special Collections & Archives
Title: William J. Lodge World War II Collection
Creator: Lodge, William J.
Identifier/Call Number: SC.WWPC
Extent: 0.41 linear feet
Date (inclusive): 1944-1945

Abstract: Major William J. Lodge served as a Statistical Officer in the VIII Fighter Command, 417th Night Fighter Squadron, of the U.S. Army Air Forces during World War II. After the war, he settled in the San Fernando Valley area of Los Angeles and worked for many years as an investigator for the California Labor Commissioner's Office, Division of Labor Standards Enforcement. The William J. Lodge World War II Collection consists of aerial propaganda leaflets and newsletters dropped over Germany and occupied Europe during the last months of World War II. The majority of the propaganda documents are in Dutch or German, and are accompanied by an official English translation. There are 33 issues of The Flying Dutchman newsletter (No. 49-61, 63-82), dropped over the Netherlands from 1944 until the end of the war. The collection includes reports on the success of propaganda leaflet campaigns, four issues of Stars and Stripes newspaper for American troops, and material and photographs related to the VIII Fighter Command during WWII.

Language of Material: English, German, Dutch; Flemish, French, Slovak, Italian, Polish

Biographical Information:
Major William J. Lodge served as a Statistical Officer in the VIII Fighter Command of the U.S. Army Air Forces during World War II. After the war, he settled in the San Fernando Valley area of Los Angeles and worked for many years as an investigator for the California Labor Commissioner's Office, Division of Labor Standards Enforcement. After the war he married Helen Chanda who later became a faculty member at CSUN.

Scope and Contents
The William J. Lodge World War II Collection consists of aerial propaganda leaflets and newsletters dropped over Germany and occupied Europe during the last months of World War II. The majority of the propaganda documents are in Dutch or German, and are accompanied by an official English translation. There are thirty-three issues of The Flying Dutchman newsletter (No. 49-61, 63-82), dropped over the Netherlands from 1944 until the end of the war. The collection includes reports on the success of propaganda leaflet campaigns, four issues of Stars and Stripes newspaper for American troops, and material and photographs related to the VIII Fighter Command during WWII. The collection is divided into two series:

Propaganda (1944-1945) and VIII Fighter Command Materials (1944-1945).

Series I, Propaganda, consists of aerial propaganda leaflets and newsletters with translations in English, reports on the effects of propaganda on German morale, and the Stars and Stripes American military newspaper, Nice-Marseilles edition. The Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces/Psychological Warfare Division (SHAEF/PWD) created these propaganda documents, delivering them by airdrop or shelled artillery to Germany and other occupied countries in Europe from late 1944 to the end of the war. Allied forces dropped The Flying Dutchman newsletter over the Netherlands almost daily. It includes news from the front, messages of hope from the Dutch royal family and other Allied leaders, and encouragements to pass the newspaper on to others. Propaganda leaflets contain messages to German soldiers and civilians, urging their peaceful surrender as the Americans were close to victory, and assessment reports distributed by SHAEF/PWD summarize the leaflets’ effectiveness. Stars and Stripes issues feature VE-Day headlines.

Series II, VIII Fighter Command Records, includes a telephone directory for the VIII Fighter Command Headquarters, dated 15 April 1945 and photographs. Photos include a group of aerial surveillance shots, depicting strategic bombings of enemy locations probably taken by the 3rd Combat Camera Unit. Other photos show officers enjoying recreational activities at RAF Bushey Hall outside London, and passing out food and American candy to children at Christmas. There are a few pictures of General William E. Kepner, and a picture of Bob Hope and Frances Langford.

Arrangement of Materials:
Series I: Propaganda, 1944-1945
Series II: VIII Fighter Command Records, 1944-1945

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Related Material

Psychological Warfare Branch Scrapbook
Lee C. Schlegel World War II Collection

Conditions Governing Access:
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Immediate Source of Acquisition

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

Processing Information:
Reilly St. Amand, 2018

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Ephemera
Documents
Photographs

Series I: Propaganda, 1944-1945
Box 1, Folder 1 Leaflet Impact Assessments, 1944
Box 1, Folder 2 Propaganda Leaflets, ca.1944-1945
Box 1, Folder 3 Propaganda Leaflets, WG 11-13, 16-27, 1000, ca. 1944-1945
Box 1, Folder 4 Propaganda Leaflets, ZG 61-91, ca. 1944-1945
Box 1, Folder 5 De Vliegende Hollander, with translations, 1944
Box 1, Folder 6 De Vliegende Hollander, with translations, 1944
Box 1, Folder 7 De Vliegende Hollander, with translations, 1944
Box 2, Folder 1 The Stars and Stripes, 1945
Box 2, Folder 2 The Stars and Stripes, 1945
Box 2, Folder 3 The Stars and Stripes, 1945
Box 2, Folder 4 The Stars and Stripes, 1945

Series II: VIII Fighter Command Materials, 1944-1945
Box 1, Folder 8 Aerial Photographs, 1945
Box 1, Folder 9 General William E. Kepner, ca. 1944-1945
Box 1, Folder 10 Recreational activities, ca. 1944-1945
Box 1, Folder 11 Restricted Telephone Directory, 1945