Finding Aid for Frances Stephanie Szalay Second World War collection 2016.012.w.r

John Encarnacion
Center for American War Letters Archives
9/17/2016
Leatherby Libraries
Chapman University
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Finding Aid for Frances Stephanie Szalay Second World War collection 2016.012.w.r

Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: Center for American War Letters Archives
Title: Frances Stephanie Szalay Second World War collection
source: Holznecht, April
Identifier/Call Number: 2016.012.w.r
Physical Description: 2 Linear Feet(2 cartons)
Date (inclusive): 1943-1948
Abstract: This collection contains material donated by Frances Stephanie Szalay from her time in service in the Women's Army Corps during and after the Second World War. Leatherby Libraries, Center for American War Letters.

Language of Material: The bulk of the collection is in English but some of the letters are in Hungarian.

Storage Unit: Szalay 1
Storage Unit: 1-20
Storage Unit: Szalay 2
Storage Unit: 21-36

Biographical / Historical
Frances S. Szalay was born in Budapest, Hungary on December 26, 1905. She died at Fountain Care Center in Orange, California on May 27, 2003. As a civilian, Szalay worked as a photographer. She first enlisted into the Women's Army Corps as a clerk typist on December 22, 1943 and was honorably discharged August 4, 1948. She reenlisted as a photographer on April 25, 1946 and was honorably discharged a second time on November 13, 1950.

Content Description
This collection contains correspondence, service records, periodicals, and photographs from Frances Stephanie Szalay who served in the Women's Army Corps (WAC) during the Second World War (1943 to 1948). The collection also includes correspondence and photographs after the Second World War. Some photographs depict WAC events and exhibits that Szalay attended.

Inventory: 138 personal correspondence, 1937-1985 -- 728 photographs -- 351 negatives -- 1 30x20 inch poster -- 1 glass negative -- 1 Super 8 film reel - 38 pieces of ephemera -- 4 maps -- 3 certificates -- 33 military newspapers, documents, and narratives -- 7 miscellaneous booklets -- 9 military history booklets -- 37 WAC related periodicals -- 3 textiles -- 10 realia - 3 pages of supplemental information

Arrangement
This collection is arranged by material type and date.

Immediate Source of Acquisition
Gift of April Mae Holznecht

Conditions Governing Access
This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use
There are no restrictions on the use of this material except where previously copyrighted material is concerned. It is the responsibility of the researcher to obtain all permissions. For further copyright information, please contact the archivist.

Preferred Citation
[Item title, Box number, Folder number], Frances Stephanie Szalay Second World War collection (2016.012.w.r), Center for American War Letters Archives, Chapman University, CA.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
World War, 1939-1945
World War, 1939-1945 -- Germany
World War, 1939-1945 -- Italy
World War, 1939-1945 -- Homefront
Photographs
Series 1. Correspondence with Frances Stephanie Szalay 1937-1985

Physical Description: .5 Linear feet(9 folders)
Language of Material: The bulk of the correspondence was written in English but some correspondence written by Szalay's family members were written in Hungarian.
Scope and Contents
This series contains correspondence to and from Frances S. Szalay with various authors writing to her. The people Szalay corresponds with consist of family, friends, and other service members in the military.
In the letters written by Szalay, a majority of her letters were written to her aunt, Mariska Pugh. Szalay refers to Mariska as Mariska Neni (aunt).
The letters from Szalay's family were mostly written by her father, Laszlo Szalay. Other letters were written by her brother, Ray Szalay, her niece, Crissy, and her uncle, Arpad Szalay. A few of letters are written in Hungarian.
A portion of the series are single letters written by various people, but there are multiple letters written by the same people: Laszlo Szalay, Mary Csegezy, Pamela Deming, Mariska Pugh, Betty Switzer, and Betty Turner.
The subjects of the letters range from homefront events, citizen life, WAC related topics, Szalay's daily activities, Szalay's travels, and the activities of her family and friends.
Series 2. Photographs, negatives, 8mm film reel, and stereo book 1944-1984

**Physical Description:** .5 Linear feet (10 folders)

**Scope and Contents**

This series contains photographs, negatives, 8mm film reel, a stereo book, and a large poster of Frances S. Szalay signed by friends and family. The photographs were taken and developed by Szalay.

There are 725 photographs in this series depicting different events, people, and locations during and after the Second World War. The bulk of the photographs feature Frances S. Szalay, Fort Oglethorpe, Women's Army Corps events, other WAC service members, and different locations that Szalay traveled to. One of the photographs is of actress Norma Shearer with an autograph signed to Szalay. After the Second World War, a number of photographs depicted WAC Veterans Association conventions and WAC exhibit displays.

227 of the photographs were found in a box labeled with "Italy riots 1945," "Stateside 1945," "Overseas training," and "Gang Ft. Oglethorpe." These photographs depict various subjects: Szalay's visits to Italy, Germany, Egypt; the architecture and art from her travels; the citizens of the cities she visited; and WAC service members from Fort Oglethorpe.

351 negatives were found in a wooden box. Most of the negatives have started decaying. The negatives have been digitized, linked to this resource, and deaccessioned. These negatives depict WAC service members, Fort Oglethorpe, Italy, and other subjects that were not described by the photograph sleeves.

There are also glass negatives depicting subsequent events of the execution of Benito Mussolini. Two of the negatives depict Mussolini's body, along with other fascists, hanging from a gas station in Piazzelle Loreta, Milan. The third negative depicts a crowd of people standing around a pile of bodies on the ground. Two of the negatives are of stock photographs that can be found on the internet.

The 8mm film reel, according to descriptions on the container, is footage of Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia in 1944.

The stereo book features cities in the U.S. occupied zone of Germany. Included are the stereoscope and pictures of German cities.

The poster is a 30x20 inch photograph of Szalay in her WAC uniform. The poster is signed by her friends and family for her 90th birthday.

Series 3. Military discharge papers, service record, and certificates 1943-2003

**Physical Description:** .1 Linear Feet (2 folders)

**Scope and Contents**

This series contains Frances S. Szalay's honorable discharge papers, service record, and certificates. According to her discharge certificates, Frances S. Szalay was officially honorably discharged on August 4, 1948. She reenlisted again in 1946 and was officially honorably discharged a second time on November 13, 1950.

Her certificates include her certificate of citizenship for the United States of America, certificate for being a lifetime member of the Women's Army Corps Museum Society, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate in memory of Frances S. Szalay given to the donor, April Mae Holznecht.
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<tr>
<th>Series 4. Booklets and Periodicals 1943-1990</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Physical Description:</strong> .6 Linear Feet(11 folders)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Contents</strong></td>
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<td>This series contains an assortment of booklets and periodicals that Szalay owned during and after the Second World War. Also included are photocopies of various WAC newsletters. The miscellaneous booklets in the series contain three WAC related booklets; an armed services of edition of &quot;My Three Years with Eisenhower&quot; by Captain Harry C. Butcher; a booklet about Fort Oglethorpe; a postcard booklet &quot;Souvenir of the Berchtesgaden&quot;; and a booklet about Berchtesgaden, Germany. The military history related booklets include four booklets about American occupational forces in the European Theatre and the Mediterranean, African and Middle East Theatre; one &quot;In Memoriam&quot; about George S. Patton, Jr.; one about the 65th Infantry Division; two copies of booklets about the Third U.S. Army Headquarters in Bad Tölz, Bavaria, Germany; &quot;As You Were&quot; by the 2629 WAC Battalion; and &quot;Our Leave in Switzerland,&quot; a booklet of 200 photos about American servicemen's visit to Switzerland. The periodicals are all WAC related, published during and after the Second World War. There are four issues of &quot;WAC News Letter,&quot; four issues of &quot;Women's Army Corps Journal,&quot; 10 issues of &quot;WAC Weekly,&quot; five issues of &quot;WAC High Lights,&quot; four issues of &quot;The WAC Journal,&quot; five issues of &quot;The Guidon,&quot; one issue of &quot;Overseas Woman,&quot; one issue of &quot;Troop IE Bulletin,&quot; one issue of &quot;Information Bulletin,&quot; one issue of &quot;The Arlingazette,&quot; and one issue of &quot;The Channel.&quot;</td>
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<th>Series 5. Military newsletters, documents, and narratives 1943-1972</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Physical Description:</strong> .08 Linear Feet(1 folder)</td>
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<td><strong>Scope and Contents</strong></td>
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<td>This series contains an assortment of military related documents such as orders, memorandums, schedules, newsletters, and narratives. Some of the documents deal with the United States Constabulary's WAC Detachment, which Frances S. Szalay was assigned to. Also included in the series is a WAC Mobilization Training Program Outline, which lists the instruction courses for various training programs in the Women's Army Corps.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Physical Description:</strong> .08 Linear Feet(1 folder)</td>
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<td><strong>Scope and Contents</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>This series contains four maps collected by Frances S. Szalay. There is an American Red Cross map and guide to Vienna, a map of the Rhine Valley that describes the Rhine's geography and history, a map of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, and a U.S Constabulary Troopers Road Map of the U.S. Zone of Germany.</td>
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<th>Series 7. Realia and textiles 1970</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Contents</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>This series consists of 10 pieces of realia and three pieces of textiles collected by Frances S. Szalay: an American Legion pin &quot;Past Historian&quot; medal and ribbon, a European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, a Republican Presidential Task Force pin 1981-1986, a Women's Army Corps pin, a &quot;W.A.C. Veterans&quot; matchbook, 3 American flag toothpick flags, 2 Women's Army Corps toothpick flags, a Women's Army Corps Veterans Association National Convention ribbon, an American Legion cap, and an American Legion tie.</td>
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Series 8. Ephemera 1946-1973

Physical Description: .08 Linear feet (1 folder)

Scope and Contents

This series contains an assortment of ephemera and other materials collected during and after the Second World War. This series includes an army exchange ration card, an American Legion membership card, two bank notes, two military payment certificates, a hotel visitor card, a Heidelberg GYA Girls Center information card, a piece of paper describing the view from the town of Caserta, six stamps of Zurich, Switzerland, three pieces of scratch paper with notes, an Enlisted Man's Temporary Pass, a bus ticket, four greeting cards, a bookmark, a pamphlet about protection from venereal diseases, and a music sheet.

Series 9. Supplemental and biographical information 2003

Scope and Contents

This series contains three pages of supplemental and biographical information about the collection: a brief note from the donor, April Mae Holznecht, about Szalay; Szalay's life history depicted in a list of events; a letter from Holznecht to Szalay's WAC friends about her passing; and an inquiry from Holznecht to the National D-Day Museum about donating Szalay's photographs, film reels, and slides.