Title: Women’s Ambulance and Transportation Corps Collection
Identifier/Call Number: MS 66
Contributing Institution: San Diego History Center Document Collection
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 0.25 Linear feet (1 box)
Date (inclusive): 1940-1942
Abstract: This collection contains correspondence, newspaper articles, and other records of the Women’s Ambulance and Transportation Corps, a military-trained civilian organization operating in San Diego during World War II.
creator: Women’s Ambulance and Transportation Corps.
Biographical / Historical Notes
The Women’s Ambulance and Transportation Corps was founded by Colonel Julia Dowell in May of 1940. Dowell was the commander in chief, and records show that the WATC was gathering volunteers to provide aid in conjunction with other organizations such as the American Red Cross. The organization was trained by professional military, including first aid procedures, swimming instruction, infantry drill, ambulance driving, mechanics, rifle and pistol practice, gas mask use, chemical warfare, and aviation and parachute skills. By September of 1940, there were roughly 250 women enlisted, and by March of 1941 there was a Los Angeles branch. The organization became incorporated in January of 1942. The requirements to join were that the women be 18-45 years of age, US citizens, white, of sound health, and able to devote two nights a week to training.
Scope and Content
This collection contains correspondence, newspaper articles, and other records of the Women’s Ambulance and Transportation Corps, a military-trained civilian organization operating in San Diego during World War II. Other documents include receipts, photographs, incorporation papers, and rules and regulations. The majority of the collection is correspondence between Colonel Julia Dowell and various government offices, including a note from the secretary of Eleanor Roosevelt. The collection focuses on the years 1940-1942, when the WATC was founded and soliciting recruits to join the war effort.
Arrangement
This collection is arranged by material type.
Preferred Citation
Women’s Ambulance and Transportation Corps Collection, MS 66, San Diego History Center Document Archives, San Diego, CA.
Conditions Governing Access
This collection is open for research.
Conditions Governing Use
The San Diego History Center (SDHC) holds the copyright to any unpublished materials. SDHC Library regulations do apply.
Processing Information
Collection processed by Lindsay Banuelos on November 17, 2007.
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Dowell, Julia
Izac, Ed V.
Johnson, Hiram
McLees, J.B.
Parachute Circus.
Peck, Paul
Roosevelt, Eleanor, 1884-1962
Women’s Ambulance and Transportation Corps.
Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps.
Ambulances
Emergency transportation
Women and the military
Box-folder 1:1  Correspondence, 1940 August 15 - 1942 June 24
Box-folder 1:1  Letter from Hiram Johnson, U.S. Senate, 1940 August 15
Box-folder 1:1  Letter from J.B. McLees, clerk of San Diego County, 1940 October 17
Box-folder 1:1  Letter from Samuel C. May, State Council of Defense, 1940 November 19
Box-folder 1:1  Letter from the secretary of Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, the White House, 1941 January 11
Box-folder 1:1  Letter from Frank Bane, the Advisory Commission to the Council of National Defense, 1941 January 28
Box-folder 1:1  Letter from Florence Kerr, Federal Works Agency, Work Projects Administration, 1941 January 29
Box-folder 1:1  Letter from H.B. Lewis, Office of the Commanding General, 1941 February 21
Box-folder 1:1  Letter from Glenn E. Hays. U.S. Marine Corps, 1941 March 13
Box-folder 1:1  Confidential letter from George H. Rhodine, U.S. Flag Association, 1941 March 14
Box-folder 1:1  Letter from Ed. V. Izac, House of Representatives, 1941 April 24
Box-folder 1:1  Letter to General Donovan, Adjutant General at the State Capitol, from Ed. V. Izac, House of Representatives, 1941 April 24
Box-folder 1:1  Letter from the executive committee of the Parachute Circus, 1941 November 13
Box-folder 1:1  Telegraph from Ed. V. Izac, House of Representatives, 1941 May 9
Box-folder 1:1  Letter from Carl H. Goodrick, Harbor Defense of San Diego, 1941 May 20
Box-folder 1:1  Letter from H.C. Gearing, U.S. Naval Training, 1941 October 23
Box-folder 1:1  Letter from Jack S. Massey, Ocean Beach Kiwanis Club, 1941 November 18
Box-folder 1:1  Letter from Mrs. John Jacob Rogers, House of Representatives, 1941 December 30
Box-folder 1:1  Letter from Culbert Olson, Governor of California, 1941 December 31
Box-folder 1:1  Letter from Ed. V. Izac, House of Representatives, 1942 June 24
Box-folder 1:2  Incorporation Documents and Rules and Regulations, 1941 January 21 - 1942 January 26 and undated
Box-folder 1:3  Newspaper Articles, 1940 September 17 - 1941 November 6
Box-folder 1:4  Miscellanea, 1941 October 19 - 1941 May 28 and undated

Includes:

Souvenir program from first annual Parachute Circus of San Diego; California State Guard enlistment form; and a bill from the House of Representatives establishing Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps for service with the Army of the United States (HR 4906).