Inventory of the William P. Miller papers

Finding aid prepared by Hoover Institution Archives Staff and Beaudry Allen
Hoover Institution Archives
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Title: William P. Miller papers
Date (inclusive): 1939-1973
Collection Number: 77074
Contributing Institution: Hoover Institution Archives
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 4 manuscript boxes, 2 oversize boxes, 15 envelopes, 5 motion picture film reels, memorabilia (3.3 linear feet)
Abstract: Letter, biographical information, motion picture film, and photographs relating to United States Army Signal Corps operations in North Africa, Germany, Italy and France during World War II. Includes a Nazi flag. Digital copies of select records also available at https://digitalcollections.hoover.org.
Physical Location: Hoover Institution Archives
Access
Collection is open for research.
Use copies of all motion picture film in this collection are available for immediate access; digital copies also available at https://digitalcollections.hoover.org.
Publication Rights
For copyright status, please contact the Hoover Institution Archives.
Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], William P. Miller papers, [Box no.], Hoover Institution Archives.
Acquisition Information
Acquired by the Hoover Institution Archives in 1977.
Accruals
Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. To determine if this has occurred, find the collection in Stanford University's online catalog at http://searchworks.stanford.edu/. Materials have been added to the collection if the number of boxes listed in the online catalog is larger than the number of boxes listed in this finding aid.
Alternate Forms Available
Digital copies of select records also available at https://digitalcollections.hoover.org.
Related Collection(s)
Dachau (Concentration camp) miscellaneous records, Hoover Institution Archives
Biographical Note
William P. Miller served as a lieutenant colonel in command of the United States Army Signal Corps personnel division in the Sixth Army Group during World War II. He was deployed to North Africa, Italy, Corsica, France, and Germany and was awarded six Battle Stars, two Bronze Stars, the Legion of Merit, and Croix de Guerre with Palm.
Scope and Content of Collection
The William P. Miller papers consist of news clippings, a military order, printed matter, photographs, motion picture film, and a Nazi flag relating to Miller’s career with the Sixth Army Group of the United States Army Signal Corps. The collection mainly consists of the photographs and film reels, which depict United States operations in North Africa, Italy, France, and Germany during World War II. The collection also includes personal papers and printed matter from his civilian position in the insurance business.
Subjects and Indexing Terms
World War, 1939-1945--Pictorial works.
Motion pictures.

Biographical File, 1944-1973
Scope and Contents note
Consists of news clippings, military orders, telegrams, printed matter, an eulogy, and a Nazi flag relating to Miller’s military career and personal life.
Box/Folder 1 : 1  Retirement book, 1970
Box/Folder 1 : 2  General material, 1944-1973
Box/Folder 1 : 3  Item list of North African photographs [See Envelope G in Photographs], 1945 June
Box 2  Nazi flag, undated

Motion Picture Film, circa 1943-1945

Scope and Contents note
Five unique amateur films, made from approximately 1943 to 1945, featuring footage of the North African and European theaters during World War II. Included are remote landscapes in Morocco seemingly untouched by war intercut with battle-scarred cities at the center of conflict. Shot on silent 16mm Kodachrome film.

Reel 1

Moulay Idriss, Khenifra, circa 1943

Access
Use copy available on-site for immediate use. Use copy reference number: 77074_f_0010696.

Scope and Contents note
16mm reversal original, silent, edited, color.

Scenes of the Moroccan cities Moulay Idriss and Khenifra. Footage includes shots of local inhabitants; cityscapes; a remote village with thatched huts; and ancient ruins. The ruins are likely the remains of the Roman city Volubilis in Morocco. The ruins are also pictured among the unstamped photographs in the collection and identified as Volubilis in Miller’s list. Reel 1 also includes shots of US servicemen riding in jeeps in the Moroccan countryside and sharing tea with their hosts in what appears to be the home of a local Khenifra townsman.

Reel 2

Casablanca, Marrakech, Meknes, 1943

Access
Use copy available on-site for immediate use. Use copy reference number: 77074_f_0010692.

Scope and Contents note
16mm reversal original, silent, edited, color.

Scenes of Casablanca, Marrakech, and Meknes. Footage includes shots of local villagers and townspeople both inside and outside of the city walls; flower gardens, homes, mosques, and other buildings; Moroccan soldiers marching in formation and riding on horseback; a group of children in tattered clothing huddled in a doorway in a city; a man in a fez hat posing for the camera just outside the city; a US serviceman walking on a busy city street alongside local townspeople; women in traditional attire with baskets on their heads on a village road; a Moroccan officer patrolling a city street; and a child among livestock at a watering hole.

Reel 3

Africa, Algeria, Corsica, St. Tropez, Toulon, 1944

Access
Use copy available on-site for immediate use. Use copy reference number: 77074_f_0010694.

Scope and Contents note
16mm reversal original, silent, edited, color.

Scenes of Algiers, Corsica, and the port cities of Saint Tropez and Toulon in southern France. Footage includes battle ships in the Bay of Algiers and in the port of Saint Tropez; the Notre Dame d’Afrique (Our Lady of Africa), a Roman Catholic church built by French colonists in Algiers in 1872; a child and two adults on a cliff watching what appears to be a damaged warship in the Bay of Algiers; US servicemen in front of the Hotel Napoleon Bonaparte; a German minefield, most likely in France; a sign with skull and cross bones and the words “Achtung Minen” (Warning Mines) next to a field barricaded by barbed wire; and a downed aircraft in a field.
Reel 4

Germany, circa 1945

Access
Use copy available on-site for immediate use. Use copy reference number: 77074_f_0010687.

Scope and Contents note
16mm reversal original, silent, edited, color.
Scenes of bombed cities in Germany. The cities featured are Ludwigshafen and Mannheim. Footage includes shots of military trucks driving through rubble-lined streets with rows of heavily damaged buildings; a collapsed railway bridge over the River Rhine between Mannheim and Ludwigshafen; a pontoon bridge with soldiers in the foreground and military trucks on the bridge heading into the city; and the damaged Rosengarten concert hall in Mannheim. The U.S. Corps of Engineers likely constructed the pontoon bridge to allow access to the city after the main bridge was compromised. Miller’s film features the damaged bridge before the Ernie Pyle Memorial Bridge was constructed in 1945.

Reel 5

Germany, Austria, 1945

Access
Use copy available on-site for immediate use. Use copy reference number: 77074_f_0010684.

Scope and Contents note
16mm reversal original, silent, edited, color.
Scenes of Germany and Austria. Footage includes Adolf Hitler’s mountain home Berghof, in the Bavarian Alps near Berchtesgaden, Germany, with armed soldiers patrolling the grounds; U.S. servicemen gathered in a German town and walking along an overpass in the Alps; two destroyed bridges; and a sign for Brenner Pass.

Photographs, 1939-1970

Scope and Contents note
Consists of images from North Africa, Italy, France, and Germany. The photographs mainly follow the final months of the war with the United States Army pushing through Eastern France and into Germany. There are prints and negatives of frontline battles, wreckage, and civilian life. Of particular note are prints of “Colmar Pocket,” or Brückenkopf Elsaß, Allied liberation, and Dachau concentration camp.

Box 3

2 colleague portraits, undated

Box 3

California Insurance Holding Company System Regulatory Act signing, including cartoon, 1969-1970

Envelopes A-F

Germany, Austria, France, primarily U.S. Signal Corps photos of German surrender, 1945 April-May

Envelope G

North Africa, 1943

Note
For item list, see Box 1, Folder 3.

Envelope H

North Africa and Germany, 1943, 1945, undated

Scope and Contents note
Includes postcards of Germany (five of Berchtesgaden).

Envelope I

Austria, Germany, Italy, primarily U.S. Signal Corps photos, 1945 April-May

Envelope J

North Africa, circa 1943

Scope and Contents note
Includes 97 prints of North Africa, circa 1943; 5 prints of William P. Miller; 2 prints of William Miller with others; 3 prints of unidentified people; 4 prints of General Mark W. Clark with others, undated.
U.S. Signal Corps medal ceremonies and dinner, undated
Scope and Contents note
Includes 10 prints of William P. Miller; 12 prints of William Miller and others; 10 prints of scenes in Germany (?); 2 prints of Brigadier General G. F. Wooley; 2 miscellaneous prints, undated.

Germany, 1943
Scope and Contents note
Includes 5 prints of Heinrich Himmler's summer home on the Tegern Sea, Germany; 1 print of Wernher von Braun and Magnus von Braun surrendering to American troops, Reutte, Austria, 1945; 3 prints of Brigadier General Carl A. Baehr receiving the Croix de Guerre from General Lattre de Tassigny; 1 print of Edouard Daladier and Jean Daladier; 1 print of General Maxime Weygand, Lt. General Alexander M. Patch, Jr., and General Maurice Gamelin; 1 print of Edouard Daladier, Lt. General Alexander M. Patch, Jr., and Paul Reynaud; 1 print of Lt. General Alexander M. Patch, Jr. and Paul Reynaud; 1 print of Maurice Gamelin, Edouard Daladier, and Payl Reynaud; 1 print of Jefferson Coffrey and Lt. General Alexander M. Patch, Jr.; 1 print of Lt. General Alexander M. Patch, Jr. with others; 1 print of Lt. General Alexander M. Patch, Jr. and Maurice Gamelin; 65 prints of Germany, Austria, France.

Italy, Germany, Austria, 1945
Scope and Contents note

Germany and Austria, 1945
Scope and Contents note

Negatives, undated

Soldiers and refugees in Eastern France, 1945 January-February
Active combat and shots of German strongholds, 1945 January
Eastern French civilians employed by U.S. Army, German occupied paper factory, and German prisoners, 1945
German prisoners, French infantry, Battle for Colmar, and liberation celebrations, 1945 February
| Box 4, Envelope 5 | Colmar Pocket, including German roadblocks, booby trapped roads, flooded streets of Sarralbe, France, 1945 February |
| Box 4, Envelope 6 | Colmar Pocket, 1945 February |
| Box 4, Envelope 7 | Frontline investigations, Colmar liberation celebrations, and aerial views, 1945 February |
| Box 4, Envelope 8 | Front lines fighting and civilian evacuation, 1945 February |
| Box 4, Envelope 9 | Soultz, France ruins from Nazi bombing, 1945 |
| Box 4, Envelope 10 | Alsatian refugees, bridge bombing, and aerial shots of Eastern France, 1945 January |
| Box 4, Envelope 11 | Frontline activities, 1945 January-February |
| Box 4, Envelope 12 | Scope and Contents note |
| Box 4, Envelope 13 | Includes 8 prints of Charles de Gaulle. |
| Box 4, Envelope 14 | Military movement East, 1945 February |
| Box 4, Envelope 15 | Eastern France and Germany, including aerial shots of bombing, 1945 |
| Box 4, Envelope 16 | Panorama views of enemy-held Saar river, 1945 February 15-17 |
| Box 5, Envelope 17 | Battle of Colmar, including images of the original 1869 model statues of Statue of Liberty, 1945 February |
| Box 5, Envelope 18 | Colmar mass decoration ceremony, 1945 February |
| Box 5, Envelope 19a | German border, 1945 February |
| Box 5, Envelope 19b | Allied forces building roads, 1945 March |
| Box 5, Envelope 20 | Enemy positions, 1945 March |
| Box 5, Envelope 21a | Forbach, France, 1945 January- March |
| Box 5, Envelope 21b | Scope and Contents note |
| Box 5, Envelope 22 | Includes prints of amphibious training, Yugoslav military, German surrender, and POW hospital escape. |
| Box 5, Envelope 23a | Assault training and new construction for tank passes |
| Box 5, Envelope 23b | Battle for Uttweiler, 1945 |
| Box 5, Envelope 24a | Scope and Contents note |
| Box 5, Envelope 24b | Includes prints of Bitche, France and Eschringen, Germany. |
| Box 5, Envelope 25 | Saarbrücken area, Germany, 1945 March |
| Box 5, Envelope 21b | Infantrymen to the front, 1945 March |
| Box 5, Envelope 22 | 7th Army troops pushing through German held territory, 1945 |
| Box 5, Envelope 23a | 7th Army reconnaissance troops and retaking German line, 1945 March |
| Box 5, Envelope 23b | Saarbrücken, Germany, cavalry reconnaissance, 1945 March |
| Box 5, Envelope 24a | Enemy fire and post air-raid, France and Germany, 1945 March |
| Box 5, Envelope 24b | Infantry movements, 1945 March |
| Box 5, Envelope 25 | Scope and Contents note |
| | Includes prints of freed Russian women, civil affairs authority being established, and General Alexander Patch being awarded honorary citizenship of Luneville, France. |
Trenches, German prisoners, Rechtenbach, Germany, 1945 March

Rhine river crossing, 1945 March 29-30

Rhine river crossing and no man’s land, 1945 March

Bombings into Aschaffenburg and German slave labor freed

Erbach, Germany, 1945 April

Scope and Contents note
Includes prints of wounded German, French, and Polish soldiers.

The Landsberg atrocity and prison, 1945 May 4-5

Dachau concentration camp liberation and conditions, 1945 April-May

German surrender

Scope and Contents note