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**Watkins, Arnold Clayton (1915-1996), Collection, 1942-1945**

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INTRODUCTION

Collection of Arnold Clayton Watkins, Corporal in the Tenth Air Corp of the Army Air Force. The collection consists of scrapbooks, photographs, and miscellaneous materials pertaining to World War II.

DONOR INFORMATION

The Arnold Clayton Watkins Collection was donated to the Leonard H. Axe Library by his wife, Joan F. Watkins, on February 10, 1999.

BIOLOGICAL SKETCH

Arnold Clayton Watkins was born on November 11, 1915, in Pittsburg, Kansas. He graduated from Pittsburg High School in 1934, and attended the Kansas State Teachers College in Pittsburg for two years. On December 27, 1937, he married his wife, Joan F. Ovadon. Watkins was inducted into the United States Army Air Force on November 10, 1941, at Camp Crowder, Missouri. He spent World War II serving in Northern France, the Rhineland, Central Europe, and England. He was discharged from Fort Leavenworth in 1945, having attained the rank of Corporal. Watkins was employed by the Gulf Chemical and Oil Company for thirty-four years. He worked for the company in Kansas City, Kansas from 1955 to 1967, and in Houston, Texas from 1967 to 1980. In 1981, he and his wife returned to Pittsburg. Arnold Watkins died on December 23, 1996, at the age of eighty-one.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Arnold Clayton Watkins Collection consists of scrapbooks, photographs, and miscellaneous materials that primarily document Watkins's service in the Army Air Force during World War II, and the war in general. The collection is arranged into three series: Photographs, Scrapbooks, and Miscellaneous.

The Photographs series is arranged alphabetically by subject. Most of the photographs are undated. The series contains photographs taken in Europe and North Africa during World War II. It includes many photographs of Army Air Force personnel and Army Air Force planes carrying out bombing missions. There are also photographs of Dresden, Cologne, and Hamburg after being bombed a few months before V-E Day. Of particular note are the photographs of Adolf Hitler and Hermann Goering. Taken about 1935, Hitler and Goering are shown talking with other Nazi leaders and officers, and inspecting the German troops. Also included are photographs of Benito Mussolini and his mistress after their deaths.

The Scrapbooks series consists of two volumes kept by Joan Watkins during World War II. The volumes primarily contain newspaper and magazine clippings regarding the war and Crawford County citizens involved in the war effort. Many of the clippings are of Crawford County servicemen killed or injured during the war. The names of these individuals are included in the index at the end of this finding aid. Also included in the series are ration books and souvenirs, such as postcards and ticket stubs sent to Joan from Arnold Watkins while he was stationed in Europe.

The Miscellaneous series is composed of one booklet and one book. The booklet, "The Complete Chronology of World War II: A Digest of Important Historical Events", has been kept

**FOLDER LIST**

**Photographs** Series  
e. 1-5  Army Air Force, undated  
e. 6-7  Army Air Force Personnel, undated  
e. 8  Germany, undated  
e. 9-10  Nazis, undated  
e. 11  Miscellaneous photographs, undated

** Scrapbooks** Series  
f. 1-2  Scrapbooks, 1942-1945

**Miscellaneous** Series  
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