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Edmund Pfannenstiel Collection

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Guide to the Edmund Pfannenstiel Collection

Collection Overview

Description

The Edmund Pfannenstiel Collection contains materials from Mr. Pfannenstiel's time as a prisoner of war at Stalag IX-B, Bad Orb, Germany in 1944-1945. Pfannenstiel, a native of Munjor, Kansas, was named Chief Man of Confidence at Stalag IX-B. This collection contains wartime logs, which contain some pages of pictures he drew in pencil; correspondence; and photographs.

Extent

1 Linear feet

Restrictions

No access restrictions.

Forsyth Library staff may reserve the right to use restrictions due to the physical condition of manuscript materials.

Availability

This collection is open for research.

Collection Details

Overview of the Collection

Collection Title: The Edmund Pfannenstiel Collection

Dates: 1940-2014

Creator: Edmund Pfannenstiel

Physical Description: 1 linear feet

Language of Materials: English; French; German

Repository: Fort Hays State University
Forsyth Library
Special Collections
502 S. Campus Drive
Hays, KS 67601

Biographical / Historical Note: Edmund Pfannenstiel was born on April 14, 1918, and he was one of 12 children raised on a farm near Munjor, Kansas. He joined the 130th Field Artillery, Kansas National Guard on September 25, 1939 in Salina. He completed training in April 1944 at Camp Howze in Texas and was sent overseas. He landed on Omaha Beach in France on July 10, 1944 and was assigned to the 112th Infantry of the 28th Infantry Division. His first engagement in battle was in Northern France where he fought with his infantry against the German S.S. troops for 42 days. By December, he was in the Hurtgen Forest in Germany where he spent from October 1st until November 10th; his infantry lost over half of the outfit and were moved back to Belgium to rest. The Battle of the Bulge started December 16 and he fought for two days in Ouren, Belgium and was captured there on December 18.

Edmund arrived at Stalag IX-B at Bad Orb, Germany, on December 26, 1944 where he got his first meal in nine days; the meal was one ladle of soup. At the prison camp, Edmund was named the American Chief Man of Confidence, a job in which he kept the camp roster and logged the activities and deaths in the camp. Because of his knowledge of the German language, he was also a translator.

On April 2, 1945, a task force comprising of the 2nd Battalion, 114th Regiment, U.S. 44th Infantry Division and reinforced with light tanks and armored cars from the 106th Cavalry Group and 776th Tank Destroyer Battalion liberated the Stalag IX-B camp. Edmund started his way home on April 14, 1945 from Germany, flew to France and then left Paris on April 19. He arrived in New York on April 20 and was flown to the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. to deliver vital data.

Edmund was mustered out at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas on June 28, 1945. He was later awarded a Bronze Star, a Purple Heart, the E.T.O. medal with five battle stars, the American Defense Service medal, the Good Conduct medal, and the Combat Infantryman badge.

Edmund married Loretta Kuhn on January 8, 1940 in Antonino, Kansas. They had six children – Shirley, Linda, Pat, Terry, Larry and Gary. Edmund passed away in Hays, Kansas on March 4, 1990 and is buried in St. Joseph Cemetery in Hays.

Access Terms

The collection is indexed using the following subject terms.

Personal Names:

Pfannenstiel, Edmund

Place Names:

Bad Orb (Germany)

Stalag IX B -- History.

Subjects:

Ardennes, Battle of the, 1944-1945

World War, 1939-1945 -- Personal narratives, American.

World War, 1939-1945 -- Prisoners and prisons, German.

Administrative Information**Conditions Governing Use:**

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Conditions Governing Access:

The collection is open to researchers.

Preferred Citation:

The Edmund Pfannenstiel Collection, Special Collections, Forsyth Library, Fort Hays State University

Scope and Contents

The collection contains 14 files that include 3 wartime logs, a list of deaths and offenses at Stalag IX-B, and various correspondence from the camp to the Red Cross and others. It also includes Mr. Pfannenstiel's service records.

Related Materials

Pfannenstiel, Edmund File, The William D. Paschal Collection, The Cecil B. and Laura G. Currey Archive of Military History, Forsyth Library, Fort Hays State University

Collection Contents

Box 1	Folder 1	Service Record, Registration Certificate, French Francs, Discharge/Service Record Wallet, ca. 1940-1945
Box 1	Folder 2	Certificate Discharge CCC; Fed. Service orders; Honorable Discharge papers: 1936, 1945-1946
Box 1	Folder 3	Cannon Company 140 Infantry, ca. 1941 - Photos
Box 1	Folder 4	Deaths and Offenses, WWII Stalag 9B, Dec. 1944-April 1945 [- Nov.1945]
Box 1	Folder 5	A Wartime Log, Dec. 16, 1944-April 2, 1945: [pencil sketches, lists of names and addresses]
Box 1	Folder 6	A Wartime Log, 1945: [pencil sketches of home life; insert inside back cover with two cards containing prayers]
Box 1	Folder 7	A Wartime Log, 1945: [photos and pencil sketches of daily life, Stalag 9B]
Box 1	Folder 8	Prisoners of War Lists of Camp Stalag 9B, 1945; Letter, Dept. of the Army, 1950
Box 1	Folder 9	Camp Letters, Feb. 23-March 23, 1945
Box 1	Folder 10	War Dept. letter; Red Cross letters; "List of Men Who Shipped...", 1943-1945, 2014
Box 1	Folder 11	Correspondence from former prisoners and German guard, 1946-1947
Box 1	Folder 12	Médaille de la France Libérée criteria for eligibility, 1982
Box 1	Folder 13	"The New Yorker", May 19 and May 26, 1986: A Reporter at Large: A Missing Plane - II - Identification; III-Pilot
Box 1	Folder 14	Donor Agreement Form, Newspaper article, Articles from Websites, Paschal Collection-folder list; ca. 1973, 2013-2015