ACCESSION #: 2011-20

ACQUISITION: Mark Holaday donated his father’s collection of World War II era memorabilia on April 2, 2011.

ACCESS: Restricted access; materials fragile; access by request at Akron-Summit County Public Library’s Main Library Special Collections division only.

VOLUME: 1 manuscript box, 1 artifact box, flag display case and mounted awards, 2.5 linear ft.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: Ralph Holaday (1925-1995) was the optician/owner of Summit Optical Co. in Akron, Ohio and served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Mr. Holaday served as a signalman on the USS Bronstein during World War II. The Bronstein sank 3 German U-boats and helped to transfer gold ingots owned by the Polish Government from Africa to the United States.

SCOPE AND CONTENT: This collection is comprised of material relating to Ralph Holaday’s World War II service in the US Navy. He served as a signalman on the USS Bronstein.

ARRANGEMENT: The collection is arranged into 8 series by item type.

INVENTORY:

SERIES 1: Artifacts
Box 1 6 small artifacts:
   1. German life jacket manufacturing insignia
   2. American Theatre Campaign Medal (mounted ribbons)
   3. European-African Middle Eastern Theatre Campaign Medals (mounted ribbons)
   4. Framed US Navy (First Class Petty Officer) Rank Insignia
   5. 3 United Air Lines luggage tags
   6. Strip of the US flag
Unboxed: 22 inches by 25 inches Framed mounting of the Presidential Unit Citation awarded to the USS Bronstein (includes medals, ribbons and photographs of the USS Bronstein).

SERIES 2: Correspondence
Box 1
   Folder 1: Letters from 1943 through 1950
   Folder 2: Postcards and a telegram from 1943 and 1944
   Folder 3: V-mail from 1945

SERIES 3: Military Records
Box 1
   Folder 1: After action reports, discharge papers and other miscellaneous documents
SERIES 4: Newspaper Clippings
Box 1
  Folder 1: Miscellaneous clippings relating to the Navy or Admiral Kinney
  Folder 2: one issue of Destroyer-Escort Sailors Association Newsletter (1979)

SERIES 5: Photographs
Box 1
  Folder 1: 29 Photographs (7 8x10 and 22 snapshots) of sailors on the USS Bronstein,
            Moore Memorial in Barberton and the optics factory.

SERIES 6: Publications
Box 1
  Folder 1: One issue of All Hands: the Bureau of Naval Personnel Information Bulletin
           (May 1954) and The Story of the U-505 (1955 by the Museum of Science and Industry,
           Chicago, IL)
  Unboxed – United States Destroyer Operations in World War II (United States Naval Institute,
           1953 by Theodore Roscoe)
  (Inscription reads: Ralph Holaday, In appreciation for the many hours that you kept me
   awake during the mid-watch. John H Longley USNR. Capt. USS Bronstein)

SERIES 7: Scrapbook Pages
  Unboxed – 1 oversized folder contain pages from a scrapbook. The pages hold additional
          correspondence. Military certificates and awards as well as newspaper clippings.

SERIES 8: Summarized Background Information
Box 1
  Folder 1: Contains background information on the USS Bronstein, the US Naval Rank
            of Signalman and the collection’s presentation to the library.