

Ralph Holaday Collection

Special Collections – Akron-Summit County Public Library

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).

Unboxed: US Flag in display case (and Presidential Certificate) honoring the memory of Ralph W. Holaday presented in 1996 and signed by William J Clinton.

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

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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 Signalmann and the collection's presentation to the library.