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## Knisley, Clyde Vernon, Jr., 1918-1945 (MSS 84)

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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives  
 Department of Library Special Collections  
 Western Kentucky University  
 Bowling Green, KY 42101-1092

*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 84      KNISLEY, Clyde Vernon, Jr., 1918-1945**

3 boxes. 35 folders. 410 items. 1918-1993. Originals, photographs, audiotapes.

1991.122.1; 1993.86.1; 2002.65.1

***BIOGRAPHY***

Clyde Vernon Knisley, Jr., only child of Clyde Vernon Knisley, Sr. (1895-1963) and Nell Holt Knisley (1900-1986), was born in Newport, Tennessee, on August 28, 1918. After graduating from Greeneville High School in Greeneville, Tennessee, in 1936, Knisley attended the University of Tennessee where he earned a business administration degree, was treasurer and house manager of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity, and a cheerleader. On October 31, 1941, Knisley was sworn into the United States Army at Charlotte, North Carolina, and assigned to Hicks Field. He then received eight weeks of basic training at Randolph Field, Texas, and his advanced pursuit school instruction at Foster Field in Victoria, Texas. In September 1942, his combat duty orders were issued, assigning him to the 49<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group which joined the Seventh Tactical Fighter Squadron in New Guinea. Knisley was promoted to First Lieutenant in April 1943 and completed his one-hundredth mission on June 8, 1943. While in the South Pacific, Knisley earned the Air Medal, the Distinguished Flying Cross and had Oak Leaf Clusters attached to both medals twice. Re-enlisting when his tour of duty in New Guinea was completed, Knisley was assigned to the 405<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group of the 510<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron. Major Clyde V. Knisley, Jr., was shot down on January 19, 1945, and the Silver Star was posthumously awarded for his gallantry in the dangerously low flying mission which claimed his life. His body was interred in the U.S. Military Cemetery at St. Avold, France.

**BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTES**

The Collection.  
 Clippings in Knisley's scrapbook (in  
 Edna Holt Iddins' possession in  
 Jefferson City, Tennessee)  
 Andrew Johnson National Cemetery  
 monument, Greeneville, Tennessee

## **THE COLLECTION**

The collection consists of Clyde V. Knisley, Jr.'s letters to his parents from October 31, 1941 to January 15, 1945, while training and serving as a fighter pilot in the United States Army. His diary, February 25 to December 13, 1943, details military life in New Guinea. A telegram, a letter and postcards document Knisley's trip to the Rose Bowl as a University of Tennessee cheerleader, December 27, 1939 to January 4, 1940. His parents' correspondence, 1918, 1939, 1941-1945, documents Clyde Knisley Sr.'s service in World War I and Clyde, Jr.'s death. Photographs, awards, newspaper clippings and memorial programs related to Knisley's World War II service are included.

Cassette interviews about Knisley, by Sue Lynn Stone McGuire with Edna Iddins, Bonita Sharp Holt, Jack Holt and Jack Armitage, 1990, contain additional data. Includes transcripts of Iddins and Bonita Holt's interviews, and a photocopy of published article about Knisley, 1993.

## **SHELF LIST**

| <b>BOX 1</b> | <b>KNISLEY, Clyde Vernon, Jr.</b>   | <b>1918-1987</b>           | <b>246 items</b> |
|--------------|---|----------------------------|------------------|
| Folder 1     | Inventory   |                            |                  |
| Folder 2     | WWI letter from Clyde Vernon Knisely, Sr. to his wife, Nell (typescript); photographs from Camp Sevier, SC, disability award award papers; and doctor's statement concerning disabilities, 1957 | 1918; 1931; 1957           | 4 items          |
| Folder 3     | Clyde Knisley, Jr. – Greeneville, Tennessee High School newspaper clipping, school illustration, and certificate  | 1936; n.d.                 | 3 items          |
| Folder 4     | Telegrams to mother   | Feb. 14-May 14, 1939       | 2 items          |
| Folder 5     | University of Tennessee's Rose Bowl trip – Letter, telegram and postcards   | Dec. 27, 1939-Jan. 4, 1940 | 6 items          |
| Folder 6     | UT – Newspaper clippings, telegrams and photographs   | 1939-1941                  | 8 items          |
| Folder 7     | Letters – To family while Knisley is stationed at Morris Field (Charlotte, NC); Hicks Field (Ft. Worth, TX); Randolph Field (TX), and Foster Field (Victoria, TX)                               | Oct. 31, 1941-May 15, 1942 | 38 items         |

|           |  |                                      |          |
|-----------|--|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Folder 8  | Letters – To family from Orlando Air Base (FL), Morris Field (Charlotte, NC), Myrtle Beach, SC, and San Francisco, CA  | May 27-Sept. 20,                     | 16 items |
| Folder 9  | Letters – To family from Australia, New Guinea, and en route home  | Oct. 8, 1942-<br>Mar. 31, 1944       | 41 items |
| Folder 10 | Diary – From New Guinea (typescript, 34p. and photocopy, 148p.)  | Feb. 25-Dec. 13,<br>1943             | 1 item   |
| Folder 11 | Awards, etc.   | Nov. 13, 1941-<br>Feb. 13, 1943      | 4 items  |
| Folder 12 | Christmas card from grandfather  | Dec. 1943                            | 1 item   |
| Folder 13 | Letter to Knisley from Captain Arland Stanton, New Guinea tentmate, and related clipping   | Feb. 24, 1944;<br>Apr. 2, 1977       | 2 items  |
| Folder 14 | Letters to parents from Greensboro, NC, en route, England and France   | July 11, 1944-<br>Jan. 15, 1945      | 15 items |
| Folder 15 | Letter from father to mother while Clyde is missing in action  | Mar. 4, 1945                         | 1 item   |
| Folder 16 | Letters from U.S. Army Chaplain, the War Dept., the Army Air Forces, a U.S. senator, Treasury Dept., Veterans Administration, and American Battle Monuments Commission | Mar. 29, 1945-<br>Sept. 15, 1958     | 25 items |
| Folder 17 | Photographs (36 originals, 2 photocopies)  | 1918?-1981;<br>n.d.                  | 38 items |
| Folder 18 | Letters to Clyde's parents from friends and relatives  | 1941-1945                            | 10 items |
| Folder 19 | Mother's correspondence and newspaper clippings  | 1968; 1976;<br>1981; n.d.            | 4 items  |
| Folder 20 | World War II – Newspaper clippings   | 1941-June 7,<br>1947                 | 15 items |
| Folder 21 | Memorial programs and certificates   | Aug. 15, 1946-<br>May 27, 1966; n.d. | 8 items  |

|              |   |                          |                  |
|--------------|---|--------------------------|------------------|
| Folder 22    | Memorial presentation of 510 <sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron history – Letter, news clippings, and related items   | Sep.-Dec., 1987          | 3 items          |
| Folder 23    | <i>Jenkins' Jerry Junkers: The WWII Fighter Squadron</i> – Publication written by members of Knisley's last squadron  | 1987                     | 1 item, 117p.    |
| Folder 24    | V-Mail originals (photocopies in Folder 9 and counted there)  | 1942-1944                |                  |
| <b>BOX 2</b> | <b>Cassette tapes and paper</b>   | <b>1990-1993</b>         | <b>4 items</b>   |
| Folder 1     | Interview (cassette tape) and transcript, 8p., with Edna Iddins by Sue Lynn McGuire   | June 20, 1990            | 1 item           |
| Folder 2     | Interview (cassette tape) and transcript, 3p., with Bonita Sharp Holt, June 19, 1990; side 2 interview with Jack Armitage, Oct. 8, 1990 by Sue Lynn McGuire | June 19 and Oct. 8, 1990 | 1 item           |
| Folder 3     | Interview (cassette tape) with Jack Holt, Aug. 9 [1990], by Sue Lynn McGuire  | Aug. 9, [1990]           | 1 item           |
| Folder 4     | Paper – "Things Are Tough All Over," by Sue Lynn McGuire, <i>Tennessee Historical Quarterly</i> , Summer 1993   | 1993                     | 1 item           |
| <b>BOX 3</b> | <b>Knisley, Clyde Vernon, Jr., etc.</b>   | <b>1918-1973</b>         | <b>160 items</b> |
| Folder 1     | School papers   | 1933; n.d.               | 3 items          |
| Folder 2     | Letters and telegrams – Chiefly incoming  | 1940-1944; n.d.          | 13 items         |
| Folder 3     | Military service mementos   | 1941-1946                | 18 items         |
| Folder 4     | Vernon, Sr. and Nell – Incoming letters   | 1943-1950                | 3 items          |
| Folder 5     | Newspaper clippings   | 1942?-1946; n.d.         | 40 items         |
| Folder 6     | Certificates – Clyde, Jr. and Nell  | 1946; 1973; n.d.         | 3 items          |

Folder 7      Photographs      1918-1946; n.d.      80 items

### ***BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD***

MSS KNISLEY, Clyde Vernon, Jr.,      1918-1993  
84      1918-1945

World War II letters of Greeneville, Tennessee native Knisley written to his parents, documenting his fighter pilot training and his war experiences, 1941-1945, and diary kept in New Guinea, 1943. Includes family's notification of his death, his awards, clippings, and related materials. Also includes interviews about Knisley and published article about Knisley, 1993.

3 boxes. 35 folders. 410 items. Originals, photographs, cassette tapes.

1991.122.1; 1993.86.1; 2002.65.1

### ***SUBJECT ANALYTICS***

Armitage, Jack      B2,F2  
Australia – Travel and description, 1942, 1943      B1,F9,10; B3,F5  
Camp Sevier (SC), 1918      B1,F2  
Certificates – The American Legion Gold Star Citation, 1946      B3,F6  
Cheerleading, 1939-1941      B1,F6; B3,F2,5  
Cheerleading, 1939-1941 – Photographs      B1,F6  
Football – Colleges and universities, 1939-1940      B1,F5  
Foster Field (Victoria, TX)      B1,F7  
France – Travel and description, 1918      B1,F2  
France – Travel and description, 1944      B1,F14  
Gamma Sigma, 1941      B1,F6; B3,F2  
Great Britain – Travel and description, 1944      B1,F14  
Greeneville High School (Greeneville, TN)      B1,F3,17; B3,F1  
Hicks Field (Ft. Worth, TX)      B1,F7  
Holt, Bonita (Sharp), 1905-1998      B2,F2  
Holt, Jack, b. 1933      B2,F3  
Iddins, Edna Lucile (Holt) Luttrell, 1909-2001      B2,F1  
Iddins, Edna Lucile (Holt) Luttrell, 1909-2001 – Photographs      B1,F17  
Knisley, Clyde Vernon, Jr. – Cheerleading, 1939-1941 – Photographs      B1,F6  
Knisley, Clyde Vernon, Jr., 1918-1945 – Photographs      B1,F17; B3,F7  
Knisley, Clyde Vernon, Sr., 1895-1963  
Knisley, Clyde Vernon, Sr., 1895-1963 – Photographs      B1,F17; B3,F7  
Knisley, Nell (Holt), 1900-1986

Knisley, Nell (Holt), 1900-1986 – Photographs B1,F17; B3,F7  
 McGuire, Sue Lynn (Stone), b. 1959 B2  
 Morris Field (Charlotte, NC) B1,F7,8  
 Myrtle Beach, SC B1,F8  
 Orlando Air Base (FL) B1,F8; B3,F3  
 Randolph Field (TX) B1,F7; B3,F3  
 Rose Bowl Football Game (Pasadena, CA) B1,F5  
 San Francisco, CA B1,F8  
 Stanton, Arland B1,F13  
 Tennessee – Greeneville  
 Travel and description, 1942, 1943 – Australia B1,F2; B3,F5  
 U.S. – Army Air Forces – Military life, 1918 B1,F2  
 U.S. – Army Air Forces – Officers' and military and personal papers  
 University of Tennessee (Knoxville) B1,F4-6,11; B3,F2,3  
 Veterans, Disabled B1,F2  
 World War I, 1914-1918 – Belgium B1,F2  
 World War I, 1914-1918 – France B1,F2  
 World War I, 1914-1918 – Germany B1,F2  
 World War I, 1914-1918 – Soldiers from – Tennessee B1,F2  
 World War II, 1939-1945 – Aerial operations, American B1,F9,10,13,14; B3,F5  
 World War II, 1939-1945 – Aerial operations, American – Photographs B1,F17; B3,F7  
 World War II, 1939-1945 – Australia B1,F9,10; B3,F3  
 World War II, 1939-1945 – Campaigns, battles, military actions – Burma – Comments  
 about, 1943 B1,F10  
 World War II, 1939-1945 – Campaigns, battles, military actions – New Guinea B1,F9-13,20;  
 B3,F3  
 World War II, 1939-1945 – Chaplains B1,F16; B3,F4,5  
 World War II, 1939-1945 – Diaries, 1943 B1,F10  
 World War II, 1939-1945 – Equipment and supplies B1,F7-10  
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 World War II, 1939-1945 – Health aspects, 1943 B1,F9,10  
 World War II, 1939-1945 – Medals B1,F9-11,16; B3,F4,5  
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 World War II, 1939-1945 – Regimental histories B1,F22,23  
 World War II, 1939-1945 – Soldiers – Photographs B1,F17; B3,F7  
 World War II, 1939-1945 – Soldiers from – Tennessee