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Descriptive Inventory

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

3 boxes. 34 folders. 409 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 49th 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 405th Fighter Group of the 510th 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 and Jack Armitage, 1990, contain additional data. Includes transcripts of Iddins and Holt's interviews, and a photocopy of published article about Knisley, 1993.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	KNISLEY, Clyde Vernon, Jr.	1918-1987	246 items
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- Mar. 31, 1944	41 items
Folder 10	Diary – From New Guinea (typescript, 34p. and photocopy, 148p.)	Feb. 25-Dec. 13, 1943	1 item
Folder 11	Awards, etc.	Nov. 13, 1941- 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; Apr. 2, 1977	2 items
Folder 14	Letters to parents from Greensboro, NC, en route, England and France	July 11, 1944- 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- Sept. 15, 1958	25 items
Folder 17	Photographs (36 originals, 2 photocopies)	1918?-1981; 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; 1981; n.d.	4 items
Folder 20	World War II – Newspaper clippings	1941-June 7, 1947	15 items
Folder 21	Memorial programs and certificates	Aug. 15, 1946- May 27, 1966; n.d.	8 items

Folder 22	Memorial presentation of 510 th 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	
BOX 2	Cassette tapes and paper	1990-1993	3 items
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	Paper – "Things Are Tough All Over," by Sue Lynn McGuire, <i>Tennessee Historical Quarterly</i> , Summer 1993	1993	1 item
BOX 3	Knisley, Clyde Vernon, Jr., etc.	1918-1973	160 items
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. 34 folders. 409 items. Originals, photographs, cassette tapes.
1991.122.1; 1993.86.1; 2002.65.1

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11-04-2002 (rev.)