

11-4-2002

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

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Descriptive Inventory

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

2 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, 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. Also photocopy of published article about Knisley, 1993.

SHELF LIST

| | | | |
|--------------|---|------------------|------------------|
| Box 1 | KNISLEY, Clyde Vernon, Jr. | 1918-1987 | 246 items |
| Folder 1 | Descriptive Inventory | | |
| Folder 2 | WWI letter from Clyde Vernon Knisley, Sr., to his wife, Nell (typescript only); photographs from Camp Sevier, SC, disability 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 |

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|-----------|---|-----------------------------|----------|
| 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 |

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|--------------|---|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Folder 16 | Letters – From U.S. Army Chaplain, the War Dept., the Army Air Forces, a U.S. senator, Treasury Dept., Veteran’s 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 |

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|--------------|--|------------------|------------------|
| Folder 3 | Paper – “Things Are Tough All Over” written by Sue Lynn McGuire and published in the <i>Tennessee Historical Quarterly</i> | Summer 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 | Photos | 1918-1946; n.d. | 80 items |

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS KNISLEY, Clyde Vernon, Jr., 1918-1945 1918-1981
84

World War II letters of Greeneville, Tennessee native Knisley written to his parents, documenting his fighter pilot training and his war experiences, Oct. 31, 1941-Jan. 15, 1945, and diary kept in New Guinea, Feb. 25-Dec. 13, 1943. Includes family's notification of his death, his awards, photographs, and related materials.

1 box. 25 folders. 246 items. Originals, photographs.
1991.122.1

MSS KNISLEY, Clyde Vernon, Jr. 1990-1993
84
B2

_____ Addition, 1990-1993. 3 items.
Interviews about Knisley, by Sue Lynn McGuire
with Edna Iddins, Bonita Sharp Holt and Jack
Armitage, 1990. Includes transcripts of Iddins and
Holt's interviews. Also photocopy of published
article about Knisley, 1993.
½ box. 3 folders. 3 items, 2 cassette tapes.
1993.86.1

MSS KNISLEY, Clyde Vernon, Jr. 1918-1973
84
B3

_____ Addition, 1918-1973. 160 items.
Chiefly Knisley's letters, military service mementos,
newspapers clippings, photographs, etc. or items
pertaining to Knisley.
½ box. 7 folders. 160 items.
2002.65.1

SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Armitage, Jack B2,2
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Australia – World War II, 1939-1945 B1,F9&10; B3,F3
Belgium – World War II, 1939-1945 B1,F2
Burma – World War II, 1939-1945 B1,F10
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Certificates – The American Legion Gold Star Citation, 1946 B3,F6
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France – Travel and description, 1944 B1,F14
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 Iddins, Edna Lucile (Holt) Luttrell, 1909-2001 B2,F1
 Iddins, Edna Lucile (Holt) Luttrell, 1909-2001 – Photos B1,F17
 Knisley, Clyde Vernon, Jr. – Cheerleading, 1939-1941 – Photos B1,F6
 Knisley, Clyde Vernon, Jr., 1918-1945 – Photos B1,F17; B3,F7
 Knisley, Clyde Vernon, Sr., 1895-1963
 Knisley, Clyde Vernon, Sr., 1895-1963 – Photos B1,F17; B3,F7
 Knisley, Nell (Holt), 1900-1986
 Knisley, Nell (Holt), 1900-1986 – Photos B1,F17; B3,F7
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 Morris Field (Charlotte, NC) B1,F7&8
 Myrtle Beach, SC B1,F8
 New Guinea – World War II, 1939-1945 B1,F9-13,20; B3,F5
 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
 Tennessee – Soldiers from – World War I, 1914-1918 B1,F5
 Tennessee – Soldiers from – World War II, 1939-1945
 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
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World War II, 1939-1945 – Soldiers – Photos B1,F17; B3,F7

11-4-02 (rev.)