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

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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.


**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  
1918; 1931; 1957  
4 items
from Camp Sevier, SC, disability award papers; and doctor's statement concerning disabilities, 1957

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, 1942 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 newspapers 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 510th Fighter Squadron history - Letter, newscellings, and related items | Sept. - Dec., 1987 | 3 items |
| Folder 23 | *Jenkins' Jerry Junkers: The WWII Fighter Squadron* - 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, 1990 | June 19 and Oct. 8, 1990 | 1 item |

Folder 3 Paper - "Things are Tough All Over"...written by Sue Lynn McGuire and published in the Tennessee Historical Society

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

CATALOG CARD

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


1 box. 25 folders. 246 items.
See Descriptive Inventory for details.


K/70
MSS KNISLEY, Clyde Vernon, Jr. 1990-1993
84

1/2 box. 3 folders. 3 items, 2 cassette tapes
See Descriptive Inventory for details.

K/8

MSS KNISLEY, Clyde Vernon, Jr. 1918-1973
84
Chiefly Knisley's letters, military service mementos, newspaper clippings, photographs, etc. or items pertaining to Knisley.

1/2 box. 7 folders. 160 items.
See Descriptive Inventory for details.

K/4

SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Armitage, Jack B2,2
Australia - Travel and description, 1942, 1943 B1,F9&10; B3,F5
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
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 - Photos B1,F6
Diaries, 1943 - World War II, 1939-1945 B1,F10
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
France - World War I, 1914-1918 | B1, F2
France - World War II, 1939-1945 | B1, F14
Gamma Sigma, 1941 | B1, F6; B3, F2
Germany - World War I, 1914-1918 | B1, F2
Germany - World War II, 1939-1945 | B1, F14
Great Britain - Travel and description, 1944 | B1, F14
Great Britain - World War II, 1939-1945 | B1, F14
Greeneville, Tennessee
Greeneville High School, Greeneville, TN | B1, F3 & 17; B3, F1
Hicks Field (Ft. Worth, TX) | B1, F7
Holt, Bonita (Sharp) | B2, F2
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
McGuire, Sue Lynn Stone, b. 1959 | B2, F1 & 2
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 - Military life, 1941-1945 | B1, F7-10, 13-14; B3, F2 & 3
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 - Soldiers from - Tennessee | B1, F2
World War I, 1914-1918 | 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 - Photos | B1, F17; B3, F7
World War II, 1939-1945 - Campaigns, battles, military action - 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
World War II, 1939-1945 - Food supply - New Guinea  B1,F9
World War II, 1939-1945 - France, 1944  B1,F14,22,23
World War II, 1939-1945 - Germany, 1945  B1,F14; B3,F5
World War II, 1939-1945 - Great Britain, 1944  B1,F14,22,23
World War II, 1939-1945 - Health aspects, 1943  B1,F9,10
World War II, 1939-1945 - Medals  B1,F9-11,16; B3,F4&5
World War II, 1939-1945 - New Guinea  B1,F9-13,20; B3,F5
World War II, 1939-1945 - Photos  B1,F17; B3,F7
World War II, 1939-1945 - Psychological aspects  B1,F9,10; B3,F3
World War II, 1939-1945 - Regimental histories  B1,F22,23
World War II, 1939-1945 - Soldiers from - Tennessee
World War II, 1939-1945 - Soldiers - Photos  B1,F17; B3,F7

**CHRONOLOGICAL CARDS**

1918-
1931-
1951-
1976-
1990-

**PHOTOGRAPH CARDS**

Cheerleading, 1939-1941 - Photos  B1,F6
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 - Photos  B1,F17
Knisley, Nell (Holt), 1900-1986 - Photos  B1,F17
World War II, 1939-1945 - Aerial operations, American - Photos  B1,F17; B3,F7
World War II, 1939-1945 - Photos  B1,F17; B3,F7
World War II, 1939-1945 - Soldiers - Photos  B1,F17; B3,F7

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