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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
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

1918; 1931; 1957
1936; n.d.
4 items
3 items
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Telegrams – to mother</td>
<td>Feb. 14-May 14, 1939</td>
<td>2 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>University of Tennessee’s Rose Bowl trip – Letter, telegram and postcards</td>
<td>Dec. 27, 1939-Jan. 4, 1940</td>
<td>6 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>UT – Newspaper clippings, telegrams and photographs</td>
<td>1939-1941</td>
<td>8 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>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)</td>
<td>Oct. 31, 1941-May 15, 1942</td>
<td>38 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Letters – To family from Orlando Air Base (FL), Morris Field (Charlotte, NC), Myrtle Beach, SC, and San Francisco, CA</td>
<td>May 27-Sept. 20, 1943</td>
<td>16 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Letters – To family from Australia, New Guinea, and en route home</td>
<td>Oct. 8, 1942-Mar. 31, 1944</td>
<td>41 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Awards, etc.</td>
<td>Nov. 13, 1941-Feb. 13, 1943</td>
<td>4 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Christmas card – From grandfather</td>
<td>Dec. 1943</td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Letters – To parents from Greensboro, NC, en route, England and France</td>
<td>July 11, 1944-Jan. 15, 1945</td>
<td>15 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Letter – From father to mother while Clyde is missing in action</td>
<td>Mar. 4, 1945</td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 16</td>
<td>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</td>
<td>Mar. 29, 1945-Sept. 15, 1958</td>
<td>25 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 17</td>
<td>Photographs (36 originals, 2 photocopies)</td>
<td>1918?-1981; n.d.</td>
<td>38 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 18</td>
<td>Letters – To Clyde’s parents from friends and relatives</td>
<td>1941-1945</td>
<td>10 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 19</td>
<td>Mother’s correspondence and newspaper clippings</td>
<td>1968; 1976; 1981; n.d.</td>
<td>4 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 20</td>
<td>World War II – Newspaper clippings</td>
<td>1941-June 7, 1947</td>
<td>15 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 21</td>
<td>Memorial programs and certificates</td>
<td>Aug. 15, 1946-May 27, 1966; n.d.</td>
<td>8 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 22</td>
<td>Memorial presentation of 510th Fighter Squadron history – Letter, news clippings, and related items</td>
<td>Sep.-Dec., 1987</td>
<td>3 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 23</td>
<td>Jenkins’ Jerry Junkers: The WWII Fighter Squadron – Publication written by members of Knisley’s last squadron</td>
<td>1987</td>
<td>1 item, 117p.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 24</td>
<td>V-Mail originals (photocopies in Folder 9 and counted there)</td>
<td>1942-1944</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 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” written by Sue Lynn McGuire and published in the *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*

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


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.
½ box. 3 folders. 3 items, 2 cassette tapes.
1993.86.1

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

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

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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
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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
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Germany – World War I, 1914-1918 B1,F2
Germany – World War II, 1939-1945 B1,F14
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Great Britain – World War II, 1939-1945  B1,F14
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Greeneville High School, Greeneville, TN    B1,F3&17; B3,F1
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Iddins, Edna Lucile (Holt) Luttrell, 1909-2001  B2,F1
Iddins, Edna Lucile (Holt) Luttrell, 1909-2001 – Photos  B1,F17
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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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Myrtle Beach, SC  B1,F8
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Orlando Air Base (FL)  B1,F8; B3,F3
Randolph Field (TX)  B1,F7; B3,F3
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San Francisco CA  B1,F8
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Tennessee – Soldiers from – World War I, 1914-1918  B1,F5
Tennessee – Soldiers from – World War II, 1939-1945
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U.S. – Army Air Forces – Officers’ and military and personal papers
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World War II, 1939-1945 – Aerial operations, American – Photos  B1,F17; B3,F7
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