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## MS-220: Homer W. Schweppe Papers

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## MS-220: Homer W. Schweppe Papers

### **Description**

This collection is made up of a vast variety of materials pertaining to Homer William Schweppe's experiences during World War II. Schweppe compiled various items during his initial military service in the United States, such as his Seattle Port Officer I.D. badge and his uniform patches. There are also items from his time at Camp Ritchie, including his glossary of "Nazi Deutsch" terms and a book on the Order of Battle of the German Army, to which he contributed. Schweppe also included items he collected while overseas, such as a German Map of the D-Day Invasion area, a welcome pamphlet from Stratford-Upon-Avon in England, the signatures of both Hitler and Himmler, Russian Identification cards, and multiple military medals. He also kept a collection of German letters and other paraphernalia related to the German P.O.W.s at Camp Ritchie following the war's conclusion. There is some uncertainty of what Schweppe did specifically once he went to Europe, but his collection certainly gives an indication to where he was.

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### **Keywords**

World War II, U.S. Army, Camp Ritchie, MD, D-Day Landing, Europe, England, Germany, Russia, German P.O.W.s, Adolf Hitler, Heinrich Himmer, War Souvenirs

### **Disciplines**

European History | History | Military History | United States History

**Guide to the  
MS-220: Homer W. Schweppe Papers**



**Abby Metheny '18, Fortenbaugh Intern  
March 6, 2018**

## **MS – 220: Homer W. Schweppe Papers**

(3 boxes, 1 cubic feet)

Location: Special Collections

Inclusive Dates: 1811 - 1956

Bulk Dates: 1941-1946

*Processed by: Abby Metheny '18, Fortenbaugh Intern  
March 6, 2018*

### **Provenance**

Donated to Gettysburg College Special Collections in 2016 by Homer Schweppe's daughter, Susan Schweppe Moreau (Gettysburg College Class of 1971).

### **Biographical Note**

Homer W. Schweppe was born on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 1918 in Aberdeen, South Dakota to Carl and Flora Schweppe. Shortly afterwards, the Schweppe family moved to New Ulm, Minnesota where Homer went to North Western College, and later received a Masters of Arts from the University of Wisconsin before joining the U.S. Army On September 11, 1941. From there, Schweppe was stationed in Fort Snelling, Minnesota until he joined the 212<sup>th</sup> Coastal Artillery Regiment at Camp Wallace, Texas, and later, Camp Davis, North Carolina. Schweppe attended an Officer's school at Camp Davis and was commissioned as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant. He then served as a public relations officer with the Coastal Artillery regiment in Seattle, Washington until he was promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant, and eventually Captain, when he went to Camp Ritchie to lecture on German Army identifications, equipment, and maps until December, 1942. In January of 1943, Schweppe was sent to England as a member of the First Engineers Special Combat Brigade and was eventually promoted to the rank of Major. He was present during the D-Day landings and the occupation of Germany, collecting various artifacts along the way. By December of 1945, Schweppe was back at Camp Ritchie, which now held German P.O.W.s, and worked as a censor for the papers and letters the German prisoners were producing. Schweppe married Marian Lucile Daniel on March 1, 1946 and began to work as a Special Agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation until 1977. Homer W. Schweppe died December 6, 2008 at the age of 90.

### **Historical Note**

World War II was an international struggle fought from September, 1939 to August, 1945, though one could argue that it began much earlier. In the European and Mediterranean theaters of operation, the main Allied powers of Britain, the United States, and Russia fought against the Axis powers of Germany and Italy in hopes of putting down their unprovoked war and put an end to their fascist regimes. In the Pacific, the Allied Forces, including China, went up against the Japanese Empire which

had already been on a 10-year-long militaristic crusade of expansion and imperialism. World War II would end in Europe on May 8, 1945 following the collapse of the Third Reich and Hitler's death on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. It would take another 2½ months for Japan to surrender after the United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, bringing the war to a complete end. In total, roughly 15 million military personnel died worldwide, while close to 45 million civilians died, though the numbers constantly change.

### **Scope and Content Notes**

This collection is made up of a vast variety of materials pertaining to Homer William Schweppe's experiences during World War II. Schweppe compiled various items during his initial military service in the United States, such as his Seattle Port Officer I.D. badge and his uniform patches. There are also items from his time at Camp Ritchie, including his glossary of "Nazi Duetsch" terms and a book on the Order of Battle of the German Army, to which he contributed. Schweppe also included items he collected while overseas, such as a German Map of the D-Day Invasion area, a welcome pamphlet from Stratford-Upon-Avon in England, the signatures of both Hitler and Himmler, Russian Identification cards, and multiple military medals. He also kept a collection of German letters and other paraphernalia related to the German P.O.W.s at Camp Ritchie following the war's conclusion. There is some uncertainty of what Schweppe did specifically once he went to Europe, but his collection certainly gives an indication to where he was.

### **Subjects**

World War II – U.S. Army

World War II – U.S. Army – Camp Ritchie, MD

World War II – U.S. Army – D-Day Landing

World War II – U.S. Army – Europe – England

World War II – U.S. Army – Europe – Germany

World War II – U.S. Army – Europe – Russia

World War II – U.S. Army – German P.O.W.s

World War II – Adolf Hitler

World War II – Heinrich Himmler

World War II – Victory

## Series Description

This collection is divided into three Series. **Series 1:** Homer Schweppe in the Army, **Series 2:** War Souvenirs, **Series 3:** Postwar

## Box List

### Box 1

1-0 Finding Aid and Biographical Information

#### **Series 1 (Homer Schweppe in the Army)**

- 1-1 Patches (1<sup>st</sup> Engineers and 212<sup>th</sup> Coastal Artillery)
- 1-2 Photo of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Homer Schweppe (1942)
- 1-3 Homer Schweppe's Ration Book
- 1-4 Welcome Pamphlet for Stratford-Upon-Avon
- 1-5 Newspapers – U.S. (1941, 1943, 1944)
  - New Ulm Daily Journal – December 16, 1941
  - New Ulm Daily Journal – April 23, 1943
  - St Paul Dispatch – February 24, 1944
- 1-6 Newspapers – British (1945)
  - Daily Express – April 13, 1945
  - Daily Express – May 3, 1945
  - Daily Telegraph – May 11, 1945

#### **Series 2 (War Souvenirs)**

- German WWII Map of D-Day Invasion Area (June 6, 1944) (Oversized)
- 1-7 German Maps and Military Strength Charts (1880s)
- 1-8 Himmler's Signature
- 1-9 Hitler's Stationary
- 1-10 German Military Orders – Nov. 20, 1943 – With Hitler's Signature
- 1-11 Russian Identification Cards
  - Nicholai Ivanovich Nabokov's Party Candidate Card
    - Photo in back translates as "Memento for brother Kolya from sister Klava and friend Anya")
  - Nicholai Ivanovich Nabokov's Red Army I.D. Card
- 1-12 Stamp Collection
  - Envelope with writing "German Stamps, 1946"
  - German Stamps c.1946
- 1-13 German Dog Tags belonging to August Krüger
- 1-14 "Vormarsch: Farbfotos von Heinz Schroter" (1941)

#### Artifacts

- Seattle Port Officer I.D. Badge
- Pocket New Testament – Army issued

“Fürchtet Gott! Ehret den König!: Ein Geleitsbuchlein für evangelische Soldaten”  
German WWII Map of D-Day Invasion Area (June 6, 1944) (In Rolled Storage)

### **Box 2—Artifacts**

#### Item List:

##### German and Russian Medals

- German Iron Cross
- German Medal for Service in the East (Russia) (2)
- Russian Medal for Victory over Japan (1945)

##### Military Sewing Kits (2)

##### Food Preparation Kit

##### U.S. Army Face Towel

##### Handbook on German Military Forces (2) (1943)

##### Order of Battle of the German Army (April 1943)

##### Nazi Deutsch: A Glossary (1944)

### **Box 3**

#### **Series 3 (Postwar)**

##### 3-1 Newspapers

- New Ulm Daily Journal – Victory Edition
- New Ulm Daily Journal (December 22, 1945)
- New Ulm daily Journal (March 19, 1946)

##### 3-2 Photographs from Camp Ritchie Social Event (1946)

##### 3-3 Camp Ritchie Officer’s Mess Menu (April 15, 1946)

##### 3-4 Japanese Art Print and Note (1956)

##### 3-5 Magazines

- TIME Magazine (May 14, 1945)
- YANK Magazine – Victory Edition (May 18, 1945)

##### 3-6 Camp Ritchie Prisoner Newsletter (1945)

##### 3-7 Camp Ritchie December Report (1945)

##### 3-8 German P.O.W. Censored Letters (7) (1946)

#### Artifacts

##### U.S. Army Medals

- Army of Occupation – Germany – Medal and Ribbon
- American Campaign – Medal and Ribbon
- WWII Victory – Medal and Ribbon
- European, African, Middle Eastern Campaign – Medal and Ribbon

### **Related Collections**

MS-049: Yingling, Jacob M.

MS-056: Adams County German Prisoner of War Camps

MS-067: Robert Bell Bradley Papers

VFM-289: Gallion, Robert

VFM-166: World War II Personal Narratives

VFM-340: World War II Souvenir Booklets  
VFM-275: "Yank: The Army Weekly"