S1079 Hassebock Correspondence, 1942-1946
5 Folders

PROVENANCE

Natalie Drew donated the collection on March 22, 2012

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection contains letters written by members of the Henry Hassebock family of Mascoutah, Illinois during World War II. The correspondents included Benjamin Keck, son-in-law of the Hassebock’s; Mona Hassebock Keck, wife of Ben; and the Hassebock sons Walter, Henry (Hank), and Elmer. All the men were privates in the U.S. Army. Benjamin Keck served in the Pacific Theater of war in the 81st Division, U.S. Army. He saw combat in the South Pacific, and near the end of the war, in the Philippine Islands. Elmer served in Germany late in the war and performed occupation duty in Austria into 1946. There is no information that indicates that either Henry or Elmer served overseas.

The letters kept the family informed on where their sons and son-in-law served but said little about their training camp experiences or their service overseas. No doubt, military censorship prevented the men from writing about specific details of service as their officers read and censored enlisted men’s correspondence to ensure that the men did not reveal pertinent military information.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

Series 1 Letters from Benjamin Keck, Mona Keck, Walter Hassebock, Henry Hassebock, and Elmer Hassebrock to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hassebock, 1942-1946

Series 2 Pictorial Supplement of The Wildcat, 81st Infantry Division (The Wildcat was the divisional newspaper, presumably sent home by Walter Hassebock. The pictures illustrate combat operations on the islands of Peleliu and Angaur, 1944-1945.)
FOLDER LISTING

Series 1, Letters Home

1. Correspondence, 1942
2. Correspondence, 1943
3. Correspondence, 1944
4. Correspondence, 1945-1946

Series 2, Pictorial Supplement of the Wildcat, 81st Infantry Division, publication dates unknown but covering combat in 1944-1945.

5. The Wildcat, 1944-1945