

Guide to Henry Kurtz Military Collection – 2012.116

Reference code US CoGrCGM 2012.116
Title Henry Kurtz Military Collection
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Finding aid prepared by Demi Ball

Name and location of repository Hazel E. Johnson Research Center
Greeley History Museum
714 8th Street
Greeley, CO 80631
Phone: (970) 336-4187
Email: museums@greeleygov.com
URL: <http://greeleymuseums.com/>

Collection Summary

Dates 1890-1977
Bulk dates 1943-1950
Level of description Collection
Extent 0.5 cubic feet
Creator(s) U.S. Government and Kurtz Family

Administrative/Biographical History

Biographical note on Lt. Henry W. Kurtz

Henry Kurtz was born in 1921 in Windsor, Colorado. He lived in Windsor until he left for Army boot camp in 1943. After graduating Windsor High School in 1939, he was one of four to receive the Northern Colorado I.S.C. Scholarship. He attended Colorado A&M (now Colorado State University in Fort Collins) and was a part of the R.O.T.C. program there while studying chemistry. He married Annabelle Moorhead in 1943 and left for Army training in Kentucky that same year. He was deployed overseas in January of 1945. He was killed in action in April of 1945 in Germany. His body was cremated inside of the tank he was overseeing. There was no burial for him, but he is honored at the Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery and Memorial, which is located outside of Liege, Belgium. He had no children, but is widow, Annabelle, and his parents, William and Effie, were given his personal items after his death.

Biographical note on William Kurtz

The father of Henry Kurtz, William, was born May 14, 1890 in Denhoff, Russia. He came to the United States in 1910 and married Effie Frank in Windsor, Colorado on January 25, 1914. He worked for the Great Western Sugar Company and the city of Windsor before he retired. Kurtz was a devote member of the Bethel American Lutheran Church throughout his life. Kurtz died December 14, 1970 from cancer. He was survived by his three daughters (listed below), five grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and his brother, Philipp Kurtz of Greeley.

Biographical note on Eva “Effie” Elizabeth (Frank) Kurtz

Mother of Henry, Effie, was born in July 17, 1892 in Kautz, Russia. She came to the United States in 1909 and made her home in Windsor. She married William Kurtz in 1914. It is unclear if they came to the United States together or traveled separately. She was a member of the Bethel Lutheran Church. She had a brother, Philip Frank, who lived in Loveland, and two sisters, Elizabeth Lind and Mary Lind who lived in the Windsor and Greeley area. She had four children: Henry Kurtz, Mary Ring, Effie Brunner, and Ruth Rice. By her death on November 19, 1978, she had five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Scope and Content

Collection consists of numerous newspaper clippings (most likely compiled by the Kurtz family and friends); letters to family members from government officials; government documents about Henry’s missing and death status; a Purple Heart certificate; documents about Henry’s death; certificates of service signed by John F. Kennedy; various envelopes addressed to the Kurtz family; as well as personal items belonging to William, Effie, and Henry Kurtz.

System of arrangement

No original order. Order imposed by material type and subject. Letters are in chronological order within each subseries.

Conditions governing access

There are no restrictions on the access of this collection.

Conditions governing reproduction and use

There are no restrictions on the use or reproduction of this collection.

Languages and scripts of the materials

English/German

Immediate source of acquisition

This collection was donated by Marjean Sheridan. In Memory of Ruth Kurtz Rice.

Notes	Preferred citation: Camp Family Collection, City of Greeley Museums, 2012.116. More information on Henry W. Kurtz's military career and his family can be found in the collection: "The Letters of Henry W. Kurtz, 1940-1945" (2004.18).
Names	Brunner, Eva "Effie" (Kurtz) Kurtz, Eva "Effie" Elizabeth (Frank) (1892-1978) Kurtz, Henry William, Lt (1921-1945) Kurtz, Olive "Annabelle" (Moorhead) Kurtz, William (1880-1970)
Places	Lawton (Oklahoma) Omaha (Nebraska) Washington (D.C.) Windsor (Colo.)
Subjects	Correspondence Family members Germans from Russia World War II
Document forms	Correspondence Federal Documents and Certificates Newspaper Clippings Envelopes

Contents

Series I: Correspondence

Subseries A: From Henry Kurtz

Consists of change of address notice from Henry Kurtz to family and package slip from Henry to Effie (Frank) Kurtz

Subseries B: Status Letters

Consists of letters from government agencies about Henry's status (Missing in Action and Killed in Action)

Subseries C: Condolences

Consists of 4 letters to the Kurtz family about the death of their son. From military leaders, chaplains, etc.

Subseries D: Insurance

Consists of documents about Henry's family receiving his life insurance money from the United States Army.

Subseries E: Pension

Consists of documents about Henry's family receiving his pension from the United States Army and the transferring of the case to different departments.

Subseries F: Personal items

Consists of letters and documents about Henry's personal items left after his death, paperwork regarding a gold pin issued to him (pin is in Greeley Museum's Custody), and inventory of personal items.

Subseries G: Letters of Henry Kurtz Summaries

Consists of summaries of the letters of Henry Kurtz, written by his sister Ruth Rice. Full letters can be found in the Greeley Museums Collection: "The Letters of Henry W. Kurtz, 1940-1945" (2004.18).

Series II: Federal Documents and Certificates

Consists of certificates to Henry Kurtz (Purple Heart, Honorable Discharge, and training proficiency), war bond receipts, and certificates of thanks signed by President John F. Kennedy and President Harry Truman.

Series III: Envelopes

Consists of four envelopes from the War Department, Veterans Administration, and Thanksgiving Church Offering.

Series IV: Newspaper Clippings

Subseries A: Events in Kurtz's life

This consists of clippings about Kurtz's high school accomplishments, marriage, and stations in the military.

Subseries B: Kurtz Obituaries

Consists of updates about Kurtz death and memorial services.

Subseries C: War Updates

Updates about WWII in general, including VE Day.

Subseries D: Poems and Sermons

Clippings with sermons, poems, or messages.

Series V: Early Life

Consists of Henry Kurtz's birth certificate, Confirmation booklet, confirmation hanky, baby weight chart, and German birth certificate (all in German, possibly from Russia or baptism confirmation).

Series VI: Death

Subseries A: Presidential Message

Pamphlets and an election booklet including a message from Former President Richard Nixon, about the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

Subseries B: Physical Remains

Consists of a letter to Effie Kurtz about the status of her son's remains.

Subseries C: Burial Place

Consists of a map, pamphlet, and large illustration of the Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery and Memorial in Belgium, where Kurtz is memorialized.

Subseries D: Obituaries

Consists of typed out obituaries of Henry Kurtz by unknown authors.

Series VII: Photographs (see individual catalog records for more information)

Subseries A: Childhood Photos

Consists of photos of Henry William Kurtz as a child.

Subseries B: Youth Photos

Consists of photos of Henry William Kurtz as a young adult.

Subseries C: Wedding Photos

Consists of photos of Henry William Kurtz at the time of his wedding.

Subseries D: Military Photos

Consists of photos of Henry William Kurtz during his service in the Military.

Subseries E: Family Member Photos

Consists of photos of Kurtz and Frank family members.

Series VIII: Miscellaneous Documents

Consists of a graduation announcement, diploma, autograph book, poem, document jacket, and Bible, all related to Henry Kurtz (see individual catalog records for more information).

Series VIII: Objects

Consists of clothing and personal items belonging to Henry Kurtz's parents who were Germans from Russia, as well as ephemera owned by Henry Kurtz during his time in the Army (see individual catalog records for more information).

Container List

Series I: Correspondence

Subseries A: From Henry Kurtz

Box	Folder
1	1

Subseries B: Status Letters

Box	Folder
1	1

Subseries C: Condolences

Box	Folder
1	2

Subseries D: Insurance

Box	Folder
1	3

Subseries E: Pension

Box	Folder
1	3

Subseries F: Personal Items

Box	Folder
1	4

Subseries G: Letters of Henry Kurtz Summaries

Box	Folder
1	4

Series II: Federal Documents and Certificates

Box	Folder
1	5

Series III: Envelopes

Box	Folder
1	6

Series IV: Newspaper Clippings

Subseries A: Events in Kurtz's Life

Box	Folder
1	7

Subseries B: Kurtz Obituaries

Box	Folder
1	7

Subseries C: War Updates

Box	Folder
1	7

Subseries D: Poems and Sermons

Box	Folder
1	7

Series V: Early Life

Box	Folder
1	8

Series VI: Death

Subseries A: Presidential Message

Box	Folder
1	9

Subseries B: Physical Remains

Box	Folder
1	9

Subseries C: Burial Place

Box	Folder
1	9

Subseries D: Obituaries

Box	Folder
1	9

Series VII: Photographs

Subseries A: Childhood Photos

Box	Folder
1	10

Subseries B: Youth Photos

Box	Folder
1	11

Subseries C: Wedding Photos

Box	Folder
2	12

Subseries B: Military Photos

Box	Folder
3	13
4	

Subseries B: Family Member Photos

Box	Folder
5	14

Series VIII: Miscellaneous Documents

Box	Folder
1	15
1	N/A

Series IX: 3-D Objects

Box	Folder
Rehoused with Objects	