

Collection #
P 0648

**NICHOLAS WILLIAM HATFIELD PAPERS
COLLECTION ADDITION, CA. 1942-1945**

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Processed by

Jessica Fischer
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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 photograph box, 1 half-sized manuscript box, 2 artifacts

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1942-1945

PROVENANCE: Stephen L. Hatfield of Idaho City, ID; c/o Nicholas J. Hatfield of Indianapolis, IN

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Nicholas William Hatfield Papers, M 1044; Nicholas W. (Nicholas William) Hatfield Papers, 1942–1946, 2016, M 0402 & OM 0326

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2013.0310

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Nicholas William Hatfield (1910–1981) was born and raised in Indianapolis, Indiana. He graduated from Shortridge High School and attended Butler University for his Bachelors degree. Hatfield furthered his education at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, receiving his medical degree in 1935. He returned to Indianapolis to complete his internship at City Hospital. Hatfield practiced medicine out of his office at 2032 North Rural Street.

During World War II, Hatfield put his medical skills to use by enlisting in the U.S. Army in July 1942 where he served as a first lieutenant and then a year later captain in the Medical Corps. He was first stationed at Camp Carson in Colorado Springs, Colorado. In 1943, Hatfield was assigned to serve on the staff of Bushnell Hospital in Brigham, Utah. At the end of 1943, he was sent to Australia and then New Guinea where he was assigned to a medical station with the 41st Division. Hatfield sustained a serious leg injury while in action on June 7, 1944 at Biak Island, New Guinea and was later awarded a Purple Heart and a Silver Star for continuing his duties caring for the wounded despite his own injury. In April 1945, he was promoted to major. Hatfield was discharged from the service in February 1946.

After returning from the war, Hatfield resumed his career as a physician. He worked as a general practitioner in Brightwood. He was also worked at Methodist and Community Hospitals. In the decade before his retirement in 1975, Hatfield worked as a reviewing physician in the disability department of the Social Security Administration.

Sources:

Biographical Sketch adapted from IHS collection guides:

Nicholas William Hatfield Papers, M 1044

Nicholas W. (Nicholas William) Hatfield Papers, 1942–1946, 2016, M 0402 & OM 0326

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection is primarily made up of black and white photographs taken by or of Nicholas William Hatfield during his time serving in WWII, ca. 1943-1945. The bulk of the photographs depict the Medical Corps of the U.S. Army while in New Guinea.

In addition to the photographs, the collection includes several manuscript items. There are two pieces of correspondence to Hatfield's wife, Vivian Hatfield: a Christmas Greetings V-Mail (1943) and a postcard (1942). A map of the 13th General Hospital where Hatfield worked in New Guinea in 1944 is included as well as 2 books about New Guinea: *Allied Geographical Section, Southwest Pacific Area, terrain handbook 27, New Guinea: Schouten Islands* (May 12, 1944) & *Papuan Campaign: the Buna-Sanananda Operation, 16 November 1942-23 January 1943* (1944).

There are also several blank postcards, a Japanese flag, and a pair of JES field binoculars from Hatfield's brief time in Japan.

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Spadra, CA: 34th General Hospital, Sep.-Oct. 1943

Tooele, UT, Aug. 1943; Tongatapu Island, 1943

New Guinea, Leg Wound, June 1944

New Guinea, 13th General Hospital, Apr.-Nov. 1944

New Guinea Police Boys, Dec. 1944

New Guinea, Jan.-Mar. 1945

Commemorating President Roosevelt's Death, Apr.-
May 1945

Hatfield in Okinawa, Japan, Sep. 1945

Hatfield & Military, n.d.

Vivian Hatfield, Identification, July 1942

Postcard to Mrs. N.W. Hatfield, 1942; V-Mail to Mrs.
Vivian Hatfield, 1943

13th General Hospital Map, ca. 1942-1945

Japanese Postcards-Blank, n.d. (1 of 2)

Japanese Postcards-Blank, n.d. (2 of 2)

*Papuan Campaign: the Buna-Sanananda Operation,
16 November 1942-23 January 1943, 1944*

CONTAINER

Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 1

Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 2

Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 3

Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 4

Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 5

Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 6

Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 7

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Box 1, Folder 9

Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 10

Box 1, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 2

Box 1, Folder 3

Box 1, Folder 4

Box 1, Folder 5

*Allied Geographical Section, Southwest Pacific Area,
terrain handbook 27, New Guinea: Schouten Islands,
1944*

Box 1, Folder 6

Japanese Flag, ca. 1940s

Artifact: 2013.0310

JES Field Binoculars, ca. 1940s

Artifact: 2013.0310