

Collection #
M 1225
OM 0607
BV 5112-5133, BV 5139

AMERICAN RED CROSS, INDIANAPOLIS CHAPTER 1919–1965

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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: Manuscript Materials: 2 document cases, 22 bound volumes, 1 oversize manuscript folder
Visual Materials: 3 photograph albums, 4 photograph boxes, 2 color photograph folders
Artifacts: 7 artifacts

COLLECTION DATES: 1919–1965

PROVENANCE: Indianapolis Public Library, September 1990

RESTRICTIONS: When viewing the photograph albums gloves are required, ask for them at the desk

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: American Red Cross, Indianapolis Area Chapter Records, 1916–1978: M0551, F1090—1108

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1990.0215

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Indianapolis Chapter of the American Red Cross formed on July 19, 1916 with William Fortune as president, Rev. Francis H. Gavisk as vice-president, John H. Holliday as treasurer, and Guernsey Van Riper as secretary. For the past 100 years, this agency has focused on three main areas of assistance: disaster relief, health services, and military support. In terms of relief, chapter volunteers have responded to natural and manmade disasters throughout the state's history by providing food, clothing, medicines, nursing care, and transportation. Health services, meanwhile, have included supplying the public with first aid, home nursing, swimming classes, nutrition information, and civil defense education. Finally, the organization has provided various types of military support: sewing and knitting millions of surgical dressings, coordinating blood drives, providing communication between soldiers and their families, and caring for the wounded on the battlefield as well as at several central Indiana hospitals, like Billings and Wakeman. Such assistance has been offered by the agency during every major conflict since World War I.

The Indianapolis Chapter of the American Red Cross also provided assistance to Indianapolis Service Men's Centers Inc., an organization that provided a "home away from home" for uniformed individuals from WWII into the 1960s.¹ The city's first club opened on Wabash Street on May 22, 1941. Led by director Dorothy F. Buschmann, it included numerous amenities for service men to enjoy including a game room, library, writing room, pantry shelf, and weekly dances. Subsequent branches with similar amenities were opened and/or incorporated during next two years to keep up with GI demand: Union Station Canteen on December 22, 1941, Illinois Street Center on July 8, 1942, Senate Avenue Center (for black service men) on July 24, 1942, and The Robert Park Center in the spring of 1943.

Each location was staffed mostly by volunteers from the community. Probably the largest group were the "Cadettes," single women between 18 and 30 who were selected by the organization to spend time with service men at the clubs and during dances. Members of the Indianapolis Chapter of the American Red Cross also volunteered at the centers, specifically in First Aid Rooms and by preparing weekly "Sunday Nite Suppers." In the end, these efforts by the Red Cross and Service Men's Centers played an important role in helping GI morale both before and after combat.

Sources:

[M0551 Collection Guide](#)

<http://www.in.gov/library/2478.htm>

Information in collection

¹ Service Men Clubs in Indianapolis originally operated from 1941–1947. They were reactivated in 1950 after the start of the Korean War.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of two series.

Series one covers the Indianapolis Chapter of the American Red Cross and includes several scrapbooks of newspaper clippings from 1919 to 1951, eleven volumes of *The Red Cross Courier*, the official publication of the American National Red Cross, from 1930 to 1940, one color newspaper advertisement from 1932, and one artifact.

Series two covers Indianapolis Service Men's Centers Inc. (SMC). This section contains reports, memos, correspondence, newspaper clippings, newsletters, greeting cards, photo albums, and six artifacts related to the organization and its services.

Because of their fragile condition some of the albums were disbound and the photographs stored in folders in photograph boxes. The order of the photographs from the albums has been maintained within the folders.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: American Red Cross, Indianapolis Chapter

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Scrapbook: Newspaper Clippings, May 1919–November 1921	BV 5112
Scrapbook: Newspaper Clippings [Home Service], 1920	BV 5113
Scrapbook: Newspaper Clippings, 1921–23	BV 5114
Scrapbook: Newspaper Clippings, 1925–26	BV 5115
Scrapbook: Newspaper Clippings, 1927–29	BV 5116
Scrapbook: Newspaper Clippings, 1935–36	BV 5117
Scrapbook: Newspaper Clippings, 1938–40	BV 5118
Scrapbook: Newspaper Clippings, 1941	BV 5119
Scrapbook: Newspaper Clippings, 22 January–18 June 1942	BV 5120
Scrapbook: Newspaper Clippings, September 1942–December 1943	BV 5121
Scrapbook: Newspaper Clippings, 3 June–13 August 1943	BV 5122
Scrapbook: Newspaper Clippings, 1926–27	Box 1, Folder 1
Scrapbook: Newspaper Clippings, 1930–33	Box 1, Folder 2
Scrapbook: Newspaper Clippings, 1943–45	Box 1, Folder 3
Scrapbook: Newspaper Clippings, 1946–51	Box 1, Folder 4
<i>Red Cross Courier</i> (Volume IX), 1930	BV 5123
<i>Red Cross Courier</i> (Volume X), 1931	BV 5124
<i>Red Cross Courier</i> (Volume XI), 1932	BV 5125

<i>Red Cross Courier</i> (Volume XII), 1933	BV 5126
<i>Red Cross Courier</i> (Volume XIII), 1934	BV 5127
<i>Red Cross Courier</i> (Volume XIV), 1935	BV 5128
<i>Red Cross Courier</i> (Volume XV), 1936	BV 5129
<i>Red Cross Courier</i> (Volume XVI), 1937	BV 5130
<i>Red Cross Courier</i> (Volume XVII), 1938	BV 5131
<i>Red Cross Courier</i> (Volume XVIII), 1939	BV 5132
<i>Red Cross Courier</i> (Volume XIX), 1940	BV 5133
American Red Cross Color Newspaper Advertisement, 11 September 1932	OM 607
G.A.R. National Encampment Ribbon, 1920	Artifact: 1990.0215

Series 2: Indianapolis Service Men's Centers Inc.

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
History of Service Men's Center (SMC), 1944–62	Box 1, Folder 5
History of Regiment Two Cadettes of the SMC, March 1946	Box 1, Folder 6
Committees' Minutes and Correspondence, July 1942–February 1943	Box 1, Folder 7
Publicity, 1942	Box 1, Folder 8
"SMC and Me- I Found A Home," December 1945	Box 1, Folder 9
Indiana Bell Telephone Company, 1944; 1951	Box 1, Folder 10
SMC Closing, 1946	Box 1, Folder 11
Greeting Cards, 1940s	Box 1, Folder 12
Service Men's Center Reports, 1950–52	Box 1, Folder 13

Publicity Committee: Reports, Memos, and Correspondence, 1950s	Box 1, Folder 14
Correspondence, 1951	Box 1, Folder 15
Radio Correspondence, 1951	Box 1, Folder 16
"Home Folk Mail Box" Correspondence, February-May 1951	Box 1, Folder 17
Stenography Class 244, 1957	Box 1, Folder 18
SMC Annual Report, May 1963–April 1964	Box 1, Folder 19
Miscellaneous Documents, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 20
What's Cookin'/Cadettiquette Newsletters, 1950s	Box 2, Folder 1
SMC State Book: Alabama-Idaho, 1957–65	Box 2, Folder 2
SMC State Book: Illinois-Massachusetts, 1957–65	Box 2, Folder 3
SMC State Book: Michigan-New York, 1957–65	Box 2, Folder 4
SMC State Book: North Carolina-Texas, 1957–65	Box 2, Folder 5
SMC State Book: Utah-Wyoming; International, 1957–65	Box 2, Folder 6
SMC Photo Album: Dorothy Buschmann and Associates, n.d. (1 of 9)	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 1
SMC Photo Album: Dorothy Buschmann and Associates, n.d. (2 of 9)	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 2
SMC Photo Album: Service Men and Women at SMC, n.d. (3 of 9)	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 3
SMC Photo Album: Service Men and Women at SMC, n.d. (4 of 9)	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 4
SMC Photo Album: Service Men and Women at SMC, n.d. (5 of 9)	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 5

SMC Photo Album: Portraits of Service Men and Women, n.d. (6 of 9)	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 6
SMC Photo Album: Portraits of Service Men and Women, n.d. (7 of 9)	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 7
SMC Photo Album: Families, n.d. (8 of 9)	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 8
SMC Photo Album: Interior Shots of Service Men's Center, n.d. (9 of 9)	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 9
SMC Activities, n.d.	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 10
Parties/Dances, n.d.	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 11
Donald R. Zehnter at SMC, 1952	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 12
"[SMC] Clean-Up Pictures, March 1963	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 13
Miscellaneous Photos, n.d.	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 14
"Photo-Pio Team," 1963	Color Photograph: Folder 1
Serviceman's Portrait: Bremer, n.d.	Color Photograph: Folder 2
SMC Photo Album: Life at SMC, 1941–1942 (1 of 5)	Photo Album Storage: Album 1, PAB
SMC Photo Album: Life at SMC, 1941–1942 (2 of 5)	Photo Album Storage Album 2, PAB
SMC Photo Album: Life at SMC, 1942 (3 of 5)	Photo Album Storage Album 3, PAB
SMC Photo Album: Life at SMC, 1951–1954 (4 of 5)	Photographs: Box 2, Folder 1
SMC Photo Album: Life at SMC, 1951–1954 (4 of 5)	Photographs: Box 2, Folder 2

SMC Photo Album: Life at SMC, 1951–1954 (4 of 5)	Photographs: Box 2, Folder 3
SMC Photo Album: Life at SMC, 1951–1954 (4 of 5)	Photographs: Box 2, Folder 4
SMC Photo Album: Life at SMC, 1951–1954 (4 of 5)	Photographs: Box 2, Folder 5
SMC Photo Album: Life at SMC, 1951–1954 (4 of 5)	Photographs: Box 2, Folder 6
SMC Photo Album: Life at SMC, 1951–1954 (4 of 5)	Photographs: Box 2, Folder 7
SMC Photo Album: Life at SMC, 1951–1954 (4 of 5)	Photographs: Box 3, Folder 1
SMC Photo Album: Life at SMC, 1951–1954 (4 of 5)	Photographs: Box 3, Folder 2
SMC Photo Album: Life at SMC, 1951–1954 (4 of 5)	Photographs: Box 3, Folder 3
SMC Photo Album: Life at SMC, 1955–1957 (5 of 5)	Photographs: Box 3, Folder 4
SMC Photo Album: Life at SMC, 1955–1957 (5 of 5)	Photographs: Box 3, Folder 5
SMC Photo Album: Life at SMC, 1955–1957 (5 of 5)	Photographs: Box 3, Folder 6
SMC Photo Album: Life at SMC, 1955–1957 (5 of 5)	Photographs: Box 3, Folder 7
SMC Photo Album: Life at SMC, 1955–1957 (5 of 5)	Photographs: Box 4, Folder 1
SMC Photo Album: Life at SMC, 1955–1957 (5 of 5)	Photographs: Box 4, Folder 2
SMC Photo Album: Life at SMC, 1955–1957 (5 of 5)	Photographs: Box 4, Folder 3
Scrapbook: Newspaper Clippings and Greeting Cards, 1952–62	BV 5139

Army Patch	Artifact 1990.0215
Navy Patch (1 of 2)	Artifact 1990.0215
Navy Patch (2 of 2)	Artifact 1990.0215
Two Recordio-Grams	Artifact 1990. 0215
Recordio-Gram (1 of 2)	Artifact 1990.0215
Recordio-Gram (2 of 2)	Artifact 1990.0215