

Collection #  
P 0866

**INDIANA SELECTIVE SERVICE STAFF GROUP PORTRAIT,  
AUGUST 1944**

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Processed by

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION:** 1 photograph folder

**COLLECTION  
DATES:** August 1944

**PROVENANCE:** Gift from Marvin Ray Beeker of Bloomington, Indiana,  
September 2023

**RESTRICTIONS:** None

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HOLDINGS:**

**ACCESSION  
NUMBER:** 2023.0139

**NOTES:**

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Selective Service System is an independent agency of the United States government that maintains information on U.S. citizens and other U.S. residents potentially subject to being drafted into military service. On 6 September 1940, Congress passed the Burke-Wadsworth Act, also known as the Selective Training and Service Act. President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed it into law ten days later. It was the first time in U.S. history that the country had begun mobilizing an army while still at peace but was done in anticipation of American entry into World War II.

The Selective Training and Service Act of 1940 required men between the ages of 21 and 35 to register with local draft boards. Once the U.S. entered World War II, men aged 18 to 45 were subject to conscription, and all men aged 18 to 64 were required to register. By the end of the war, 50 million men between 18 and 45 had registered, and 10 million had been inducted into the military.

The Act originally conscripted men aged 21 to 35 for a period of twelve months. In 1941, the service period was extended to eighteen months, and later that year the age bracket was increased to include men aged 18 to 37. Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941, and subsequent declarations of war by the U.S. against the Empire of Japan and a few days later against Nazi Germany, the military service period was extended in early 1942 to last for the duration of the war plus six-months in the Organized Reserves.

The Director of the Selective Service System at this time was a Hoosier. Lewis Blaine Hershey (1893–1977), from Steuben County, was the System's second director, serving from 31 July 1941 to 15 February 1970.

### Sources:

Holbrook, Heber A. "The Crisis Years: 1940 and 1941" in *The Pacific Ship and Shore Historical Review*. <http://www.pacshiprev.com/PacificArchivesSubDirectory/page31.html> Accessed 5 October 2023.

Indiana State Library. "Selective Service System" <https://secure.in.gov/library/collections-and-services/reference/general-research-guides/selective-service-system/> Accessed 5 October 2023.

"Summary of U.S. Conscript Bill Approved by Congress." *The Indianapolis News*, 16 September 1940, p. 7.

The National World War II Museum. "The Draft and World War II" <https://www.nationalww2museum.org/students-teachers/student-resources/research-starters/draft-and-wwii> Accessed 5 October 2023.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Virginia Madge Mallett was born 10 April 1918 to Martin Baldwin Mallett and Pearl Blanche Christy Mallett in Daviess County, Indiana. She graduated from Plainville High School in 1936. She worked as a stenographer for the Naval Surface Warfare Center Crane Division in Martin County until she retired. She was a member of Parkview Christian Church and Plainville Eastern Star. She died in Plainville on 18 January 2012.

She is pictured in this Selective Service staff photograph in the second row, at the far right. This photograph was a gift from the husband of Madge's late niece, Catherine J. Beeker.

Source:

Find a Grave. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/84133706/virginia-madge-mallett>  
Accessed 5 October 2023.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection consists of one black-and-white 8x10 photograph that is a group portrait of the Indiana State Selective Service staff under the direction of Colonel Robinson Hitchcock. The photograph was taken in August 1944 on steps at the American Legion Mall near Pennsylvania and St. Clair streets in Indianapolis.

Individuals in the portrait are identified on the back of the photograph; it appears that the names are listed beginning with the front row, left to right, then the second row, left to right, etc. There is some confusion in the order of the fourth row due to there being a partial fifth row. The back row shows ten men, but only nine names are listed.

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### CONTENTS

Front row, left to right: Captain Ted Nicholas, Betty Payleitner, Sergeant John Stahl, PFC John Zartman, PFC Wayne Grabill, Mary Ramier, Bertha Stefanchik, Ruth Russell.

Second row, left to right: Virginia Dougherty, Dolly Herman, Mary Fine, Marie Spellman, Tula Smyrnis, Rosemary Hudler Cantor, Charlotte Illett [Charlotte Illett], Fern Bingham, Helen Eickhoff, Helen Smith, Madge Mallett.

Third row, left to right: Meredith Nicholson [**not** the well-known author], Kathleen Royer, Bernice Thompson, Fritzi Deets, Lillian Buchenberger, Marcia Linder, Maxine Iliff, Virginia Kelly Wilson, Ann Ott Cassady, Shirley Oakes, Christine Benson.

Fourth row, left to right: Captain Hugh M. Quigley, Major Samuel S. Springer. The exact order of the following is unclear: Mary Bowland, Ruth Gage, Vivian Davis, Bernice Fissell, Margaret Duffy Smith, Virginia "Minnie" Wilson, Ruth Robertson, Aletha Milledge, Faye Wallace, Lehetta Post [?], Nellie Cox, Sylvia Pruett, Janice Frey, Marjorie Knell.

Back row [there are ten men, but only nine names listed: Lieutenant James G. Cominos, Lieutenant Colonel Lytle J. Freehafer, Colonel Robinson Hitchcock, James Conley, Paul Severeid, Regin Davis, Lieutenant Colonel Glen Ward Lee, Major Robert W. Platte, Captain Marion Wallace.

### CONTAINER

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