

Collection #
SC 2996

**KARL HEINZ HUCKENBECK–LEE W. DICKEY
CORRESPONDENCE, 1944–1947**

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 1 folder, 9 letters

COLLECTION
DATES: 31 December 1944–2 September 1947

PROVENANCE: Dakota M. Rose, Franklin, Indiana 27 December 2013

RESTRICTIONS: None

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HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION
NUMBER: 2013.0429

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Lee W. Dickey (1919–2003) was born in Indiana and was living in South Bend in the mid-1930s. He later moved to Indianapolis where he lived with his uncle and worked as a telephone and telegraph linesman. On 12 May 1941 he enlisted in the U. S. Army and was assigned to the Warrant Officers at Fort Benjamin Harrison. Dickey remained in Indianapolis for the remainder of his life.

Karl-Heinz Huckenbeck (b. ca. 1920) was from Krefeld, North Rhine Westphalia, Germany. He served in the German Afrika Korps during World War II and was taken prisoner by the Americans. He was sent to Fort Benjamin Harrison along with approximately 300 others to provide maintenance on the buildings and performed various other duties at the post. When Ft. Harrison became an Army Disciplinary Barracks for American prisoners in February, 1945, Huckenbeck and the other Germans were sent to Fort Knox, Kentucky due to military regulations segregating POWs from American military prisoners. In February, 1946, Huckenbeck was moved to a POW camp in England. He remained in England as a POW at least until September, 1947.

Sources:

Ancestry, Library Edition, accessed 1 February 2014.

Indiana Military History.org, accessed 1 February 2014

(<http://www.indianamilitary.org/FtHarrison/SoThinkMenu/FtHarrisonSTART.htm>)

Information in collection

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of nine letters exchanged between Dickey and Huckenbeck from 31 December 1944 until 2 February 1947. Eight letters were written by Huckenbeck and one by Dickey. Dickey and Huckenbeck apparently became friends while at Fort Benjamin Harrison. The first two letters were exchanged while Huckenbeck was at Fort Knox, Kentucky, 31 December 1944 and 3 January 1945. Both agree to be very cautious in what is written in the letters so as not to attract attention and Huckenbeck warns Dickey not to call him on the telephone.

The remaining seven letters were written by Huckenbeck while a POW in England, 19 May 1946–2 September 1947. To avoid suspicion, Huckenbeck calls Dickey “Uncle Lee.” In the letters he tells of the camps, discusses marriage and jobs, and expresses a desire to return to the United States after the war, with Florida as a possible location. Huckenbeck also thanks Dickey for sending him American cigarettes and asks him to send food to his parents in Krefeld, Germany. In his last letter, he states that he hopes to be released by the end of the year and move to the United States as soon as possible.

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CONTAINER

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CATALOGING INFORMATION

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1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:
<http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, SC 2996).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.