Biographical Note

Sollie Kaplan was born July 28, 1917 in Chicago. After attending business school at the University of Illinois, Kaplan enlisted in the Army Air Corps on January 7, 1942.

After service as a private and sergeant, he transferred to the Adjutant General Officer Candidate School at Fort Washington, Maryland, eventually receiving a commission as 2nd Lieutenant on June 30, 1943. Kaplan served with the Air Corps in Southampton, England and Paris, France as an Administrative Officer and Adjutant in the Transportation Corps. Kaplan was discharged from the Army December 30, 1945 as a 1st Lieutenant.

He resumed a civilian career in construction and real estate development in Chicago until relocating to Florida. Lt. Kaplan passed away June 12, 2006, just before his 89th birthday.
Date | Event
--- | ---
July 28, 1917 | Born, Chicago, Illinois
1936-1937 | University of Illinois, School of Commerce
1938-1939 | University of Miami (Florida), School of Commerce
January 12, 1942 | Enlists in US Army
June 30, 1943 | Commissioned as 2nd Lt., Fort Washington Adjutant General School
August 1943 | Assigned to Southampton, England Army Air Base
November 29, 1944 | Assigned to Paris
December 30, 1945 | Honorably discharged as 1st Lt.

Decorations

1943 | European Theater of Operations Ribbon
1945 | Bronze Battle Star, Northern France Campaign
1945 | American Theater Ribbon
1945 | World War II Victory Medal

Scope and Content of the Collection

The Kaplan Collection consists of records related to Lt. Kaplan’s service in the Army Air Corps during the Second World War. Folders include a set of snapshots of Kaplan and fellow officers and tourist photograph cards and postcards acquired by Kaplan while on duty in Paris in 1944-45. Three remarkable photographs by an unknown photographer portray scenes from the Liberation of Paris in August 1944. Other highlights include passes and visitation cards representing the American Red Cross in France, the House of Commons visitors’ galley, and many others. A 1945 newsletter from Kaplan’s Army Air Corps base provides rare informal description of base life at the end of the war, and a typewritten letter from Kaplan to his Uncle reveals the realities of Army service, from dating to resenting officers.

A detailed resume created by Kaplan in the 1970s serves as a biographical overview, and one folder contains the significant Enlistment Papers and Records of Separation from Kaplan’s Army career. Two booklets are included in the collection: one commemorating Kaplan’s Officer Candidate School graduation class from Fort Washington, Maryland, and the second a guide to London by the American Red Cross Informational Department.

Arrangement

The collection is one series arranged in thirteen folders under headings that reflect either records format or subject.
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Related Collections

Norman N. Breyer Collection

Key Subjects

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the Library’s online catalog. Researchers interested in materials about related topics, persons, or places should search the catalog using these subject headings.

Subject

World War, 1939-1945 - Campaigns - France - Normandy.
World War, 1939-1945 – Veterans.

Geographic

Fort Washington (Md.)
Paris (France) - History - 1940-1945.

Named Corporation

United States. Army. Air Corps – History
United States. Army. Transportation Corps – History.
United States. Army – Newsletters

Detailed Description of the Collection

Folder | Name of folder
--- | ---
One | Personal Photographs
| Five snapshots of Kaplan in his Army uniform
Two  
Newspaper Photographs
Photograph clipping of Kaplan and other officers from *Illustrated* magazine, December 12, 1942
Photograph clipping of Kaplan portrait, unknown Chicago newspaper

Three  
Enlistment and Discharge Papers

Four  
*AAC Newsletter: Vol. 1, No. 4 (August 4, 1945)*
Army Air Corps Headquarters, Reims, France

Five  
Personal Biography

Six  
Passes and Permits: Europe
Paris Assignment Card, US Army, November 1944
Cumberland Hotel (London) Guide
Cumberland Hotel (London) pamphlet
Menu: US Army Hospital Ship *Wisteria*, September 10, 1945
Permanent Pass, Officers Mess (Majestic Hotel, London), December 13, 1944

House of Commons pass, December 9, 1942
The Enlisted Men Dance invitation, March 6, 1943
American Red Cross Washington Club membership card
American Red Cross in Great Britain pass to Houses of Parliament, London, ca. 1943
Room Reservation, American Red Cross in Great Britain
American Red Cross Coupon book, ca. 1943
Card for Empire Parliamentary Association, London, ca. 1943
Club Interallié membership card, Reims, France, 1945
Orders of the Day, Parliament (London), 2nd Sitting after December 6, 1942

Seven  
Receipts and Appraisals: 1965-1977

Eight  
Passes and Permits: US
Letter to Members of the US Army Expeditionary Force, from President Roosevelt
Pass to the US House of Representatives galley, March 2, 1944
Pass to the US Senate galley, March 2, 1942
Courtesy Card for Sollie Kaplan from the US House of Representatives, March 2, 1942
District of Columbia driver’s permit, 1942
Hotel Baltimore Officers Mess pass, Sollie Kaplan, January 1, 1945
Motor Vehicle Operator's Permit, Bolling Field (DC), Sollie Kaplan, May 23, 1942
Selective Service certificate, October 16, 1940
B'nai B'rith Jackson Park Lodge membership card

Nine  **Receipts: 1943-1944**
Certificate for captured enemy military equipment, US Army, 1945

Ten  **Booklets**
*Over There*, American Red Cross Information Department
*Tags*, Adjutant General Officer Candidate School, Class 20, 1943.

Eleven  **Postcards**
Blank postcards of Paris

Twelve  **Photographs: Paris**
20 miniature *Photographies artisques*
Three 7” x 9” photographs of the Paris Liberation

Thirteen  **Letter: from Kaplan**
To his brother Phil, December 1942