

# PRITZKER MILITARY MUSEUM & LIBRARY

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## Lt. Sollie Kaplan Collection

**Creator:** Sollie Kaplan  
**Dates:** 1942-1977  
**Quantity:** 0.5 linear feet, 1 letter-sized document box  
**Acquisition:** Donated by Jill Kaplan, September 18, 2006  
**Identification:** PMML Item# 112135, Call# PAPERS 00007; OCLC# 226967009.  
**Citation:** [Document Title]. The Lt. Sollie Kaplan Collection, [Box #, Folder #], Pritzker Military Museum & Library, Chicago, IL.  
**Language:** English  
**Finding Aid:** Written by Devin Hunter, May 2008; Updated Andrea Martinez, 2018

*Archival collections are stored at a remote archival facility. Please contact the Museum & Library at least 48 hours in advance of your visit to view an archival collection.*

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## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 89<sup>th</sup> birthday.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
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 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 1 <sup>st</sup> 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

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## **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

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## 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 – England.

World War, 1939-1945 - France - Paris.

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

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## 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**

Receipt: Wilkinson Sword Company, London, March 1943  
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 artistiques*  
Three 7" x 9" photographs of the Paris Liberation

**Thirteen**

**Letter: from Kaplan**

To his brother Phil, December 1942