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Edward C. Straka Collection

Creator: Edward Straka
Dates: 1940-1957
Quantity: 2 document boxes
Identification: PMML Item# 320785, OCLC# 248044571, Call# PAPERS 00031
Citation: [Document Title]. The Edward C. Straka Collection, [Box #, Folder #], Pritzker Military Museum & Library, Chicago, IL.
Language: English
Finding Aid: Written by Kathryn Hofherr, June 2008; Updated by Andrea Martinez, 2018

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Biographical Note

Edward Charles Straka was born in Illinois on June 14, 1922. The son of a Czechoslovakian immigrant, Straka grew up with four brothers and sisters. At the onset of World War II, he joined the Navy.

Straka served in the Navy throughout the war and continued to serve during the 1950s. During that time, Straka was stationed at numerous locations and documented his travels through postcards. Upon his discharge from the Navy, Straka moved back to Chicago where he taught in the Chicago Public School system. Straka never married, but was a devoted uncle to his three nieces and nephews.

Edward Straka died in 2007 in Chicago, Illinois.

Scope and Content of the Collection

The collection contains a seventy-three page scrapbook consisting mainly of postcards and photographs taken by Straka. Also included in the scrapbook are United States

Navy orders and pamphlets from the ships Straka served aboard; maps of Chicago rail systems; newspaper clippings; and personal correspondence. The remainder of the collection is comprised of newspaper clippings, pamphlets, cards, naval orders and photographs which came loose from the scrapbook. The bulk of the materials relate to Straka's naval service during the 1950s.

Arrangement

The original page order of the scrapbook has been maintained. The collection is contained within 2 archival boxes. Box one holds the scrapbook; box two holds loose items.

Rights

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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.

Names

Straka, Edward Charles, 1922-2007

Subjects

Postcards--1940-1960.
U.S. Naval Intelligence School
U.S. Navy
USO clubs--Chicago (IL).
U.S.S. Columbus (Cruiser)
U.S.S. Sea Robin

Detailed Description of the Collection

Box One

Scrapbook

Page 1 Loose documents removed (4)

Postcard 1- Dominion Square Building, Montreal, Quebec (unsent), n.d.

Postcard 2- St. James Cathedral, Montreal, Canada (unsent), n.d.

Postcard 3- St. Catherine Street showing Departmental Stores. Montreal, Canada (unsent), n.d.

Page 2 Postcard 1- McGill University, Montreal, Canada (unsent), n.d.

Postcard 2- Union Terminal, Quebec, Canada (unsent), n.d.

Postcard 3-La Maison Montcalm, Quebec (unsent), n.d.

Page 3 Postcard 1- Place D'Armes, Quebec (unsent), n.d.

Postcard 2- City Hall Square, Quebec City (unsent), n.d.

Postcard 3- Interior of the Basilica, Quebec, Canada (unsent), n.d.

Postcard 1- Les ramparts, Quebec, Canada—The Ramparts (unsent), n.d.

Postcard 2- Quebec, La Terrasse Dufferin (unsent), n.d.

Postcard 3- Le Port, Quebec, Canada (unsent), n.d.

Page 4 Postcard 1 (top left)- Quebec- Elevateur J. Gosselin (unsent), n.d.

Postcard 2 (top right)- Quebec- Le Chateau Domine La Basse (unsent), n.d.

Postcard 3 (bottom)- Quebec- Vue Generale De La Ville Sur Le St-Laurent (unsent), n.d.

Page 5 Postcard 1- La Citadelle Quebec (unsent), n.d.

Postcard 2- Air View of the Citadel. Quebec, Canada (unsent), n.d.

Postcard 3- Quebec- Le Parlement (unsent), n.d.

Page 6 Postcard 1- Porte St-Louis (unsent), n.d.

Postcard 2- Quebec- Portes Saint-Jean (unsent), n.d.

Postcard 3- No caption (unsent), n.d.

Page 7 Postcard 1- Cyclorama- St. Anne de Beaupre (unsent), n.d.

Postcard 2- Basilique, Ste. Anne de Beaupre, P.Q., Canada, the Basilica (unsent), n.d.

Postcard 3- La IV Station Du Chemin De La Croix (unsent), n.d.

Page 8 Postcard 1- Time Square, New York City (unsent), n.d.

Postcard 2- Time Square at Night, New York City (unsent), n.d.

Postcard 3- Tudor City, Showing Welfare Island and East River, New York City (unsent), n.d.

Page 9 Postcard 1 (top left)- Statue of Liberty (unsent), n.d.

Postcard 2 (top right)- Paramount and Times Buildings at Night, New York City (unsent), n.d.

Postcard 3 (bottom left)- Radio City Music Hall, New York City (unsent), n.d.

- Postcard 4 (bottom right)- Foyer of the Radio City Music Hall, New York City (unsent), n.d.
- Page 10** Postcard 1- Radio City Music Hall Ballet, New York (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2- Radio City Music Hall, Rockefeller Center, New York City (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 3- Interior of the Radio City Music Hall, New York City (unsent), n.d.
- Page 11** Postcard 1 (top)- Radio City Music Hall, New York (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2 (bottom left)- R.C.A. Building, Rockefeller Center, New York City (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 3 (bottom right)- Nine Rockefeller Plaza, New York City (unsent), n.d.
- Page 12** Postcard 1- Sunken Gardens and Fountain Front of R.C.A. Building, New York (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2 (bottom left)- Aerial View of Rockefeller Center, New York City (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 3 (bottom right)- Empire State Building, New York City (unsent), n.d.
- Page 13** U.S.S. Sea Robin Brochure, n.d.
- Page 14** Loose item removed
- Page 15** Postcard 1- Skyline, Minneapolis, Minn. (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2- Canal Street, New Orleans, La (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 3- Canal Street, Looking West, New Orleans, LA (unsent), n.d.
- Page 16** Postcard 1- Jackson Square and Cabildo, New Orleans, LA (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2- Chartres Street View, Old French Quarters, Showing Napoleon House, New Orleans, La. (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 3- Old Absinth House, 234 Bourbon St., New Orleans, La (unsent), n.d.
- Page 17** Postcard 1 (top left)- The Roosevelt, New Orleans, "The Pride of the South" (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2 (top right)- Interior of Church of the Immaculate Conception (Jesuit), Baronne St., New Orleans, La. (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 3 (bottom)- New Charity Hospital, New Orleans, La. (unsent), n.d.
- Page 18** Postcard 1- The McAllister (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2- Formal Gardens and Museum Vizcaya, Dade County Art Museum, Miami, Fla. (to Straka from Ann), 1954

- Postcard 3- The Gardens at Vizcaya- Dade County Art Museum, Miami, Florida (to Mr. & Mrs. F. Straka), 1956
- Page 19** Postcard 1- Vizcaya (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2- Vizcaya (unsent), n.d.
- Page 20** Postcard 1- Vizcaya (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2- "Pickin' Chicken," (to Straka from Ara Belle), 1951
- Page 21** Postcard 1- The Bahama Islands (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2- Nassau Shoreline, Bahamas (to P.O. Carroll from Straka), 1953
Postcard 3- Post Office at Rawson Square (to Mrs. H Straka from "Eddy"), 1953
- Page 22** Postcard 1- Bay Street, Nassau, Bahamas (to "Eddy" from unknown sender),
1953
Postcard 2- Paradise Beach (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 3- Western Beach (to P.O Carroll from unknown sender), n.d.
- Page 23** Photograph 1- No caption, 1957
Photograph 2- No caption, 1957
Photograph 3- No caption, 1957
Photograph 4- No caption, 1957
Photograph 5- No caption, 1957
Photograph 6- No caption, 1957
- Page 24** Photograph 1- No caption, 1957
Photograph 2- No caption, 1957
Postcard 1- Entrance, Turkey Run State Park, Marshall, Indiana (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2- Suspension Bridge over Sugar Creek—Trail 1 (unsent), n.d.
- Page 25** Postcard 1- Ladder Rock on Sugar Creek—Trail 3 (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2- Chief Illini Motel (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 3- Illini Union Bridge, University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, Ill. (to Straka frm Jim Hahn, S.A.), 1953
- Page 26** Postcard 1- Armory, University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, Ill. (unsent), n.d.
Photograph 1- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 2- No caption, n.d.
- Page 27** Photograph 1- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 2- No caption, n.d.

- Photograph 3- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 4- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 5- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 6- No caption, n.d.
- Page 28** Photograph 1- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 2- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 3- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 4- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 5- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 6- No caption, n.d.
- Page 29** Intermittent Travel Orders Involving Temporary Additional Duty,
1957
- Page 30** Postcard 1- St. Mary's College, Winona, Minn. (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2- Sterling Motel of Winona, Minnesota (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 3- Beautiful Hiawatha Valley (unsent), n.d.
- Page 31** Postcard 1- The Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Winona, Minn.
(unsent),
n.d.
Postcard 2- Hot Fish Shop (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 3- State Capital—Madison, Wisconsin (unsent), n.d.
- Page 32** Postcard 1- City Hall, Milwaukee, Wisconsin (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2- Milwaukee, Wisconsin (unsent), n.d.
- Page 33** Postcard 1- Greetings from Schwaben Hof, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
(unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2- Milwaukee Arena- Auditorium (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 3- Schlitz Brewing Co., Milwaukee, Wisconsin (unsent), n.d.
- Page 34** Postcard 1 (top left)- Wisconsin Ave., Looking West (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2 (top right)- Mader's German Restaurant (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 3 (bottom left)- Mader's German Restaurant (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 4 (bottom right)- Mader's German Restaurant (unsent), n.d.
- Page 35** Photograph 1- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 2- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 3- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 4- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 5- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 6- No caption, n.d.
- Page 36** Map- Homecoming Visitors Route, n.d.
Photograph- no caption, n.d.
- Page 37** Map of North Shore Train Line, n.d.

- Page 38** Map of Chicago Loop Train Stations, n.d.
- Page 39** Portraits and Illustrations brochure, n.d.
Portrait- No caption, n.d.
U.S. Postage 3¢ International Naval Review (4), n.d.
- Page 40** Letter to Straka from Mildred Lyon Hetherington, n.d.
- Page 41** Photograph 1- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 2- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 3- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 4- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 5- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 6- No caption, n.d.
- Page 42** Photograph 1- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 2- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 3- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 4- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 5- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 6- No caption, n.d.
- Page 43** Photograph 1- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 2- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 3- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 4- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 5- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 6- No caption, n.d.
- Page 44** Photograph 1- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 2- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 3- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 4- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 5- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 6- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 7- No caption, n.d.
- Page 45** Photograph 1- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 2- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 3- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 4- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 5- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 6- No caption, n.d.
- Page 46** Loose Items Removed (3)
Photograph 1- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 2- No caption, n.d.

Page 47 Photograph 3- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 1- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 2- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 3- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 4- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 5- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 6- No caption, n.d.

Page 48 Photograph 1- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 2- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 3- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 4- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 5- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 6- No caption, n.d.

Page 49 Photograph 1- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 2- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 3- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 4- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 5- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 6- No caption, n.d.

Page 50 Photograph 1- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 2- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 3- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 4- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 5- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 6- No caption, n.d.

Page 51 Photograph 1- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 2- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 3- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 4- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 5- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 6- No caption, n.d.

Page 52 Photograph 1- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 2- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 3- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 4- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 5- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 6- No caption, n.d.

Page 53 Photograph 1- No caption, n.d.
Photograph 2- No caption, n.d.

Photograph 3- No caption, n.d.

Photograph 4- No caption, n.d.

Photograph 5- No caption, n.d.

Photograph 6- No caption, n.d.

Page 54 Photograph 1- No caption, n.d.

Photograph 2- No caption, n.d.

Photograph 3- No caption, n.d.

Photograph 4- No caption, n.d.

Photograph 5- No caption, n.d.

Photograph 6- No caption, n.d.

Page 55 Photograph 1- No caption, n.d.

Photograph 2- No caption, n.d.

Photograph 3- No caption, n.d.

Photograph 4- No caption, n.d.

Photograph 5- No caption, n.d.

Photograph 6- No caption, n.d.

Page 56 Postcard 1-Old St. Patrick's Church (unsent), n.d.

Photograph 1- No caption, n.d.

Photograph 2- No caption, n.d.

Photograph 3- No caption, n.d.

Photograph 4- No caption, n.d.

Page 57 Photograph 1- No caption, n.d.

Photograph 2- No caption, n.d.

Photograph 3- No caption, n.d.

Photograph 4- No caption, n.d.

Photograph 5- No caption, n.d.

Photograph 6- No caption, n.d.

Page 58 Loose Items Removed (4)

Photograph 1- No caption, n.d.

Photograph 2- No caption, n.d.

Newspaper Clipping- "Week's Score is 5," n.d.

Page 59 Photograph 1- No caption, n.d.

Photograph 2- No caption, n.d.

Photograph 3- No caption, n.d.

Photograph 4- No caption, n.d.

Photograph 5- No caption, n.d.

Photograph 6- No caption, n.d.

Page 60 Photograph 1- No caption, n.d.

Photograph 2- No caption, n.d.

Photograph 3- No caption, n.d.

Photograph 4- No caption, n.d.

Photograph 5- No caption, n.d.

Photograph 6- No caption, n.d.

Page 61 Loose item removed (1)

Postcard- Chicago, Illinois (unsent), n.d.

Page 62 Loose item removed (1)

Postcard 1- Greetings from Washington (unsent), n.d.

Postcard 2- Union Station and Columbus Memorial Fountain,
Washington, D.C. (unsent), n.d.

Postcard 3- The National Capitol from the Air with the Congressional
Library in the Background, Washington, D.C. (unsent), n.d.

Page 63 Postcard 1- Pennsylvania Avenue from Treasury Building,
Washington, D.C. (unsent), n.d.

Postcard 2- U.S. Treasury, Washington, D.C. (unsent), n.d.

Postcard 3- White House, Washington, D.C. (unsent), n.d.

Page 64 Postcard 1- Department of State Building, Washington, D.C. (to
Straka from

Marcia, Dorothy and Julie), 1940

Postcard 2- National Archives Building, Washington, D.C. (unsent),
n.d.

Postcard 3- The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of
the United States (unsent), n.d.

Page 65 Postcard 1 (top)- National Gallery of Art (to Straka from unknown
sender), 1944

Postcard 2 (bottom left)- National Gallery of Art (unsent), n.d.

Postcard 3 (bottom right)- National Gallery of Art (unsent), n.d.

Page 66 Postcard 1- National Gallery of Art- Washington Family (unsent),
n.d.

Postcard 2- Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. (unsent), n.d.

Postcard 3- National Museum, Washington, D.C. (unsent), n.d.

Page 67 Postcard 1 (top left)- Beautiful Mall from Lincoln Memorial (unsent),
n.d.

Postcard 2 (top right)- The Washington National Monument,
Washington, D.C. (unsent), n.d.

Postcard 3- Lincoln Memorial, Washington, D.C. (unsent), n.d.

Page 68 Postcard 1 (top left)- Lincoln Memorial, Washington, D.C. (unsent),
n.d.

Postcard 2 (top right)- The Lincoln Memorial Statue (unsent), n.d.

- Page 69** Postcard 3 (bottom)- The Lincoln Memorial (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 1- Arlington Memorial Bridge and Lincoln Memorial, Washington, D.C. (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2- Custis Lee Mansion, Arlington, Va (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 3- Arlington Memorial Amphitheatre, Arlington, Va (unsent), n.d.
- Page 70** Postcard 1- Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Washington, D.C. (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2- American Red Cross Headquarters, Washington, D.C. (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 3- Thomas Circle, Washington, D.C. (unsent), n.d.
- Page 71** Postcard 1- Main Stair Hall, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. (unsent), n.d.
Postcard 2- Main Reading Room, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. (unsent), n.d.
- Page 72** Loose items removed (8)

Box 2

Loose scrapbook items

Folder One

Pre-Processing Scrapbook Images

Photographs taken of each page of the scrapbook, 2008

Folder Two

Loose Pages Removed From Scrapbook

Page 15

Page 16

Page 19

Page 20

Page 27

Page 28

Page 61

Page 62

Folder 3

Loose Scrapbook Photographs

[Page 59] Select Photographs Set- Washington, D.C., n.d.

[Page 73] Photograph- No caption, n.d.

[Page 73] Photograph- No caption, n.d.

[Page 73] Photograph- No caption, n.d.

Folder 4**Loose Scrapbook Documents**

[Page 63] Armed Forces Liberty Pass, 1956

[Page 47] Bridal Book, 1957

[Page 47] Bridal Book Open House Insert, 1957

[Page 73] U.S. Naval Intelligence School, Authorization to Travel,
1957

[Page 59] Newspaper Clippings, 1957

[Page 59] Rules for Schooling, 1957

[Page 62] Standard Transfer Order, 1957

[Page 73] Letter to Straka from Tommy (nephew), 1957

[Page 73] Request for Absence Approval, 1957

Folder 5**Loose Scrapbook Documents**

[Page 1] Is Your Slip Showing?, n.d.

[Page 1] Chicago USO Information Sheet, n.d.

[Page 1] Outline of Instruction, n.d.

[Page 15] Welcome Aboard USS Columbus, n.d.

[Page 47] Thank you card from Marilyn, n.d.

[Page 73] U.S. Naval Intelligence School Language Division Cleaning
Bill, n.d.

[Page 73] Letter to Straka from Martin (nephew), n.d.

[Page 1] Chicago Dope Sheet, n.d.