

**Collection #
M 1044**

**NICHOLAS WILLIAM HATFIELD
PAPERS, 1943–1946; 1981**

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Processed by

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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
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Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript box; 1 photograph box; 57 artifacts

COLLECTION DATES: 1943–1946; 1981

PROVENANCE: Nicholas J. Hatfield, Indianapolis, Indiana, October, 2012

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2012.0281

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Nicholas William Hatfield (1910–1981) was born in Indianapolis and attended Shortridge High School and Butler University. In 1935 he received his medical degree from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia and served his internship at City Hospital in Indianapolis. Upon completing his internship, he practiced for his office at 2032 N. Rural Street. Hatfield and his wife, Vivian, had three children. In July, 1942, he enlisted in the U.S. Army where he was commissioned a Captain in the Medical Corps and was sent overseas in October, 1943, to Australia. Hatfield was assigned to a medical station with the 41st Division in New Guinea and the Philippines. Hatfield was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action on Biak Island, New Guinea on 7 June 1944. Despite a severe leg injury, he remained behind caring for the wounded until all had been evacuated. In April, 1945, he was promoted to major and was discharged from the service in February, 1946. After the war, Hatfield returned to his medical practice in Indianapolis.

Sources:

Information in collection.

Ancestry, Library Edition, accessed, 4 January 2013.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The bulk of the collection consists of correspondence from Nicholas Hatfield to his wife, Vivian while serving as a doctor in the U. S. Army during World War II, November, 1943–August, 1945 mostly while he was in the Pacific Theater. Most of the content regards his every day activities and responses to events at home and with family. He also writes about his wound saying not to worry that is not serious and he is not in pain. There also are letters written by Vivian to Nicholas, March, 1944–April, 1945 regarding his family and everyday life in Indianapolis. Other letters include those from his mother, December, 1944–April, 1945, and other letters between Hatfield and friends and relatives, July, 1943–March, 1945. Non-personal correspondence includes letters from the War Department to Mrs. Hatfield regarding her husband's wounding and his recovery; Nicholas Hatfield's service records and his being awarded the Silver Star; correspondence and documents pertaining to his partial disability pension; and newspaper clippings mentioning Hatfield's military service.

Also contained are a significant number of photographs taken by Hatfield while in New Guinea, the Philippines, and Japan during the occupation as well as some official and family photographs of him and his wife. Artifacts include Hatfield's Silver Star and Purple Heart, military insignia, pins, buttons, ribbons, and a Japanese flag.

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48 military ribbon, insignia pins, buttons, patch, etc., ca. 1943–1945; key, n.d.	Artifacts: 2012.0281
Dog tags, ca. 1943	Artifacts: 2012.0281
Japanese flag, n.d.	Artifacts: 2012.0281
2 currency bills, Japanese Occupation	Artifacts: 2012.0281

Matted Silver Star and Purple Heart medals with
Caduceus and U. S. pins, picture and service
information, ca. 1943–1946

Artifacts:
2012.0281

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

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, M 1044).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.