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## **Guide to the Sherwin L. Barton World War II Papers, 1942-1996 (bulk 1943-1946)**

Accession number: 2005-0144H

University Libraries

The Pennsylvania State University

Special Collections Library

Historical Collections and Labor Archives

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## **Descriptive Summary**

- Creator:** Barton, Sherwin L. (Sherwin Lemmon), 1918-1995
- Title:** Sherwin L. Barton World War II Papers, 1942-1996 (bulk 1943-1946)
- Accession:** 2005-0144H
- Provenance:** Created by Sherwin L. Barton and then held by his widow, Lori Barton. Gift of their niece, Roseanne Marie Peters, 2006.
- Extent:** .93 cubic feet
- Repository:** Pennsylvania State University, University Libraries, Special Collections Library

## **Administrative Information**

### **Access**

Unrestricted access.

### **Preferred Citation**

Sherwin L. Barton World War II Papers, 1942-1996 (bulk 1943-1946), Accession 2005-0144H, Historical Collections and Labor Archives, Special Collections Library, University Libraries, Pennsylvania State University.

### **Arrangement**

The papers are arranged in one series and within the series by format: loose papers, bound volumes, photographs, and artifacts.

### **Biographical Note**

Sherwin Lemmon Barton was born on 7 December 1918, in Parowan, Utah. Raised in California, he left high school in 1937, one semester short of graduation, and then worked as a laborer. Barton was inducted into the U. S. Army on 6 August 1940, and

initially stationed in Hawaii. In February 1943 Barton completed pilot school, and was promoted to second lieutenant in the Army Air Corps, and on 20 May 1943, he was honorably discharged from the Army and transferred to active service in the Air Corps, at which time he was married, with one daughter. From mid-January 1944 Barton was based in England in the Eighth Army Air Force, 100th Group. He flew four combat missions before being shot down while piloting a B-17 over Germany on 6 March 1944. Barton was briefly a prisoner of war at Dulag Luft in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, before being transferred to North Camp I of Stalag Luft I in Barth, Germany. The camp was captured by the Russian army in May 1945 and Barton remained there until the following month, when the U.S. Army arrived. Discharged on 1 December 1945, he later served in the Army Reserves and worked in California and New Mexico as a building designer and contractor. Barton had two more daughters from his first marriage; he remarried in 1971. In 1989 Barton moved to Oregon. He died in Coos Bay, Oregon, on 7 April 1995.

## Scope and Content

The Sherwin L. Barton World War II Papers, 1942-1996, features handwritten remembrances and illustrations of Barton's capture and incarceration in Germany, 1944-1945, held variously in a diary book supplied to prisoners by the American Y.M.C.A, and on loose sheets of illustrations and other documents. Barton inserted prison camp newsletters and other relevant documents into the diary. Additional illustrations by Barton appear in *Behind Barbed Wire* (1946), a book written by a fellow prisoner, Lieutenant Morris J. Roy. The collection also includes two panorama photographs of his flight training squadrons in California in 1942, a wood and metal collage that he made while at Stalag Luft I, sketches of Barton drawn by fellow prisoners, and diverse military artifacts: badges, medals, bars, pins, wings, and a medallion.

## Bibliography

A substantial online collection of digitized prisoner of war documents, narratives, drawings, poetry, identification papers, and prison newsletters is available at "Stalag Luft I Online" (<http://merkki.com/>). This collection is useful for context and comparison to items in the Barton papers.

## Index Terms

These materials are indexed under the following headings in the catalog of the Pennsylvania State University. Researchers wishing to find related materials should search the catalog under these index terms.

## **Personal Name Creators**

Barton, Sherwin L. (Sherwin Lemmon), 1918-1995

Roy, Morris J. (Morris John), 1915- . Behind barbed wire

## **Corporate Subjects**

Stalag Luft I

United States. Army Air Forces. Bomb Group, 100th

## **Topical Subjects**

Fighter pilots -- United States -- Biography

Prisoners of war -- Germany

Prisoners of war -- United States -- Biography

World War, 1939-1945--Personal narratives, American

World War, 1939-1945--Prisoners and prisons, German

## **Form/Genre Terms**

Diaries -- Germany -- 20th century

Insignias

Newsletters

Photographs

## **Container List**

### **Prisoner of War Series**

Prisoner of war, 1943-1946.

Box 1

Folder 01

Military and civilian records, narratives, and other papers, 1943-1995 and undated

Box 1

Folder 02

Prison camp documents and drawings, 1944-1945

Box 1  
Folder 03  
Item 01  
Diary, 1944-1946

Item 02  
Morris J. Roy, *Behind Barbed Wire*, 1946

Box 1  
Folder 04  
Sketch of Barton, undated

Box 2  
Artifacts, 1940s-1996 and undated

Framed military honors (reading from top to bottom): column 1: "The Rock of Chickamauga" pin; expert badge with "Rifle" bar; sharpshooter badge with "Pistol" and "Grenade" bars; "Asiatic Pacific Campaign" bar, ribbon, and medal. Column 2: gold Great Seal of the United States badge; prisoner of war honorable service bar, ribbon, and medal; "American Campaign" bar; "American Defense" bar, ribbon, and medal. Column 3: Air Force insignia pin/button; flight engineer wings; pilot wings; unidentified bar; "Air Medal" bar; "European, African, Middle Eastern Campaign" bar, ribbon, and medal.

Medallion encased in green velvet box with gold Great Seal of the United States: "Remember Pearl Harbor."

Loose items: expert badge with "Machine Gun" and "Hand Grenade" bars; marksman badge with "Pistol-D" bar; pilot wings; pilot wings pin; "Veterans Helping Veterans" pins, 1993, 1994, and 1996; "International Inventors Workshop" pin.

Collage, affixed to a wooden shield: carved wooden pilot wings; 10-inch piece of barbed wire; tarnished metal eating utensils arranged in a star pattern; metal plate stamped "3324 Stalag Luft."

Set of interlocking-stainless steel eating utensils.

Box 3

Folder 01  
Panorama photographs, flight training squadrons, 1942