

PRITZKER MILITARY MUSEUM & LIBRARY

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312-374-9333

Helen Strzelczyk Collection

Creator: Helen Strzelczyk
Dates: 1943-1945
Quantity: 0.25 linear feet, 1 box
Acquisition: Donated by Helen Strzelczyk, April 10, 2015
Identification: PMML ID# 800200, OCLC# 939536602, Call# PAPERS 00192
Citation: [Document Title]. The Helen Strzelczyk Collection, [Box #, Folder #], Pritzker Military Museum & Library, Chicago, IL
Language: English
Finding Aid: Brie Montoya, 2016; Updated by Andrea Martinez, 2018

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Biographical Note

Helen Strzelczyk was born April 9, year unknown. She was a member of the Women's Army Corps (WAC) during World War II. She was stationed in Oro Bay, New Guinea from September 1944 - April 7, 1945, where she worked at the Signal Branch Supply Division USASOS General Depot, also known as "The Pentagon," in Procurement in charge of the Requisition Typing sub-section. From there, she was transferred to the Philippines. She arrived in Manila on April 25, 1945 and was then assigned to Quezon City.

Scope and Content of the Collection

The Helen Strzelczyk Collection consists of memoirs, sketches, uniform pieces and accessories, patches and photographs. The collection relates to Strzelczyk's time serving during World War II. During her service, she was stationed in Oro Bay, New Guinea and Quezon City, Philippines. The collection's papers arrived in a folder, the photographs in an envelope and in no discernable order. All items were reorganized by museum staff.

Arrangement

The collection arrived in no discernable order. Museum staff has arranged the collection. The collection consists of three series:

Series One: Personal Papers

This series contains correspondence, memoirs and sketches. In her letter to "Taba", Strzelczyk outlines her return stateside. Her three memoirs describe the time she spent in Oro Bay, New Guinea and the Philippines, and the time aboard the Maui traveling between the two. Also included are photocopies of sketches that appear to portray time on the Maui. The sketches are signed "EVA".

Series Two: Ephemera

This vast majority of this series is made up of Strzelczyk's WAC uniform and military-issued accessories. Also included are various pins and patches she received. There is also a pair of earrings with Pallas Athena's head, which is the official insignia of the U.S. Women's Army Corps. The contents of this series have been separated from the collection and rehoused.

Series Three: Photographs

The small photograph series includes black and white photos of Strzelczyk in uniform, one with a male soldier.

Rights

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Separations

Item ID	Call Number	Description
800200016		American Campaign Ribbon
800200017		Asiatic Pacific Campaign Ribbon
800200040		Brown leather utility handbag

800200033	Khaki cotton coat with buttoned belt
800200026	Khaki cotton cover with yellow band
800200031	Khaki cotton summer shirt - Technician, Third Grade insignia attached
800200025	Khaki cover with green band
800200032	Light drab cotton summer shirt - Technician, Fourth Grade insignia and Service Forces shoulder patch attached; Marshall Fields & Company Military Uniform tag inside
800200030	Light drab cotton twill summer skirt
800200036	Nude undergarment shorts
800200037	Nude undergarment shorts
800200038	Nude undergarment slip
800200039	Nude undergarment slip
800200035	Olive drab cotton shorts
800200034	Olive drab cotton summer trousers
800200028	Olive drab wool winter skirt
800200041	Olive cotton snap-front wallet
800200042	Olive cotton snap-front wallet
800200013	Pallas Athena earrings - green backing with gold insignia, about 1 inch in diameter; made by Goldfeather Creations
800200014	Red, white and blue ribbon
800200015	Red, white and blue ribbon
800200019	Sergeant insignia patch
800200020	Service Forces sleeve patches
800200021	Service Forces sleeve patches
800200022	Technician, Third Grade insignia patches
800200023	Technician, Third Grade insignia patches

800200024	Technician, Third Grade insignia patches
800200027	Women's Army Auxiliary Corps wool, olive drab winter jacket - attached pins and insignia: Pallas Athene and U.S. collar pins, USARPAC (U.S. Army, Pacific) insignia, Technician, Fourth Grade insignia, World War II MUC (Meritorious Unit Commendation) patch, Honorable Discharge lapel patch, US Army Forces Western Pacific insignia and Overseas Bars patch
800200029	Women's Army Corps cotton, olive drab field overcoat with detachable wool lining
800200018	World War II Victory Ribbon

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.

Subjects

United States. -- Army. -- Women's Army Corps.
 World War, 1939-1945 -- Campaigns -- Pacific Ocean.
 World War, 1939-1945 -- Participation, Female.
 World War, 1939-1945 -- Personal narratives, American.
 World War, 1939-1945 -- Women.

Container List

Box	Folder	Item ID #	Title	Dates
			Correspondence	1945
1	1	800200001	Photocopy of letter from Strzelczyk to "Taba" - returning Stateside from Manila	11/14/1945- 11/18/1945

		Personal Papers	n.d.
1	2	800200002 Photocopy of "Oro Bay - New Guinea" - memoir on Strzelczyk's time in Ora Bay, New Guinea from September 1944-April 1945, including photocopied pictures inserted into the memoir pages	n.d.
		800200003 Copy of "A WAC's Life On The 'Maui' April, 1945" - Strzelczyk's memoir on transferring to Manila in April 1945, including details on learning Franklin D. Roosevelt has passed away and photocopies of photographs pertaining to the story	n.d.
		800200004 Photocopy of "Manila, April 25, 1945" - memoir on Strzelczyk's first day in Manila, Philippines, including photocopies of photographs inserted into the memoir pages	n.d.
		800200005 Photocopy of sketch of a male soldier on a balcony looking at Women's Army Corps members on the deck; by EVA	n.d.
		800200006 Photocopy of a sketch of a male soldier and Women's Army Corps member sitting back to back on deck; drawn by EVA	n.d.
		800200007 Photocopy of a sketch of a male soldier and Women's Army Corps member sitting back to back on deck; drawn by EVA	n.d.
		800200008 Photocopy of a sketch of a male soldier and Women's Army Corps member meeting up at the division of the boat, while a guard looks on; drawn by EVA	n.d.
		800200009 Photocopy of a sketch of the dining hall on board; drawn by EVA	n.d.
		800200010 Photocopy of a sketch of three members of the Women's Army Corps waiting on deck while it rains; drawn by EVA	n.d.

800200011 Photocopy of a sketch of a male soldier climbing up a set of bunks with the caption "She's just going to bed!"; drawn by EVA n.d.

800200012 Photocopy of a sketch of bunks with legs hanging down from the top bunk, women laying in the next two and gear in the bottom bunk; drawn by EVA n.d.

Photographs

1943, n.d.

1 3 800200043 Black and white photograph - Strzelczyk with Chester, both in uniform; captioned on the front "Helen - Chester November 30, 1943"; captioned on the back "Sier. Helen A Crestaw Strzelczyk 4909 N. 31st Str. - Cicero, Ill."; about 5.5 inches high x 3.25 inches wide; 11/30/1943

800200044 Black and white photograph - Strzelczyk in uniform; cut out of her from the previous photograph; dated on the back; about 3.5 inches high x 2.5 inches wide 11/1943

800200045 Black and white photograph - headshot of Strzelczyk in uniform, without cap; dated on the back; about 5.5 inches high x 3.5 inches wide 1943

800200046 Black and white photograph - headshot of Strzelczyk in uniform; about 3.5 inches high x 2.5 inches wide n.d.

800200047 Black and white photograph - Strzelczyk in uniform; about 5.5 inches high x 3.5 inches wide n.d.