

NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION RECORD

RG5694.AM: Coyle, Quentin M., 1917-2005

Scrapbook: mostly 1943-1945

Valley, Douglas County, Neb.: World War II bomber pilot

Size: 1 volume

BACKGROUND NOTE

Quentin M. Coyle, a native of Valley, Nebraska, served as a Liberator bomber pilot during the war. On April 24, 1944, Coyle's plane was shot down over Germany and he was forced to parachute to safety. After landing in the Black Forest region near Schappach, Germany, Coyle was captured and held in the local jail until he could be transferred to Stalag Luft III at Sagan (approximately 80 miles southeast of Berlin). Coyle was held at Sagan until January 27, 1945, when Russian troops threatened the area and the Germans were forced to move their prisoners to Nuremberg. Two months later he was moved to Moosburg. It was there on April 29 (Coyle's birthday) that General Patton's Third Army liberated the prisoners.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of a scrapbook relating to Quentin M. Coyle's military service during World War II and to his capture and imprisonment in a German POW camp. The scrapbook contains the telegram to Quentin's father, George Coyle, from the War Department informing him that his son was currently "missing in action." Also included are various newspaper clippings about Quentin's imprisonment. However, the most interesting items contained in the scrapbook are the letters and postcards sent home by Quentin Coyle during his time as a prisoner of war. Quentin's letters home describe life in the POW camp. He talks about other Nebraskans that are in the camp and describes some of the daily activities the prisoners engage in to alleviate boredom. He describes their garden plot, movies they're allowed to see, and various athletic competitions. He often asks his family to send additional warm clothing, candy and other food stuffs, and cigarettes (for trading).

Note: For additional information, see the [Nebraska State Historical Society Blog](#).

DESCRIPTION

Scrapbook, ca. 1943-1945

TMM 09-27-2010
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Subject headings:

Coyle, Quentin M., 1917-2005

United States. Army Air Forces -- History -- World War, 1939-1945

World War, 1939-1945 -- Prisoners and prisons