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Schreck, Christopher J.

SCHMUCKER, MORTON L.

1943-1945

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Morton L. Schmucker (d. 2006) was a captain and the Weather Officer for the 355th Fighter Group in the United States Army Air Forces during World War II. He also served as a Liaison Officer for the Air Force Academy as a colonel from 1958 to 1983. Col. Schmucker donated this collection to the Air Force Academy in 1999.

The 355th Fighter Group served primarily as escort for Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress/Consolidated B-24 Liberator bombers that attacked industrial areas of Berlin, Karlsruhe, Neuberg, Misburg, Gelsenkirchen, and Minden. The group also flew fighter sweeps, area patrols, and bombing missions, striking enemy air bases, locomotives, bridges, radio stations, and armored cars. In April 1944, the group successfully bombed and strafed German airfields during a snow squall, a mission for which the group was awarded a Distinguished Unit Citation.

The group provided fighter cover for Allied forces landing in Normandy on 6 June 1944, and afterwards hit transportation facilities to cut enemy supply lines. The 355th Fighter Group flew its last combat mission on 25 April 1945, after which it transferred to Gablingen, Germany for duty with United States Air Forces in Europe as part of the army of occupation.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of two boxes divided into two series. The scrapbook in Series One covers the 355th Fighter Group from June 1943 to September 1945. It was produced by the Staff Weather Officer, Morton Schmucker, and contains photos and documents pertaining to weather forecasting during the war. It also records names, dates, and events relating to the 355th Fighter Group and its squadrons, the 354th, 357th, and 358th. The publications in Series Two cover Victory over Europe Day (V-E Day) in May and Victory over Japan Day (V-J Day) in August, 1945.

Names: Schmucker, Morton L.

Keywords and terms: World War II; World War, 1939-1945; European Theater; United States Army Air Forces; 355th Fighter Group; 354th Fighter Squadron; 357th Fighter Squadron; 358th Fighter Squadron; 2nd Scout Air Force: Weather Officers; Forecasting; Meteorology; Meteorologists; Army of Occupation: V-J Day, 1945; V-E Day, 1945; Steeple Morden, Cambridgeshire; England; United Kingdom; Gablingen, Germany; 1940s

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ARRANGEMENT AND DESCRIPTION

SERIES ONE: SCRAPBOOK

BOX 1

*This scrapbook has been scanned and a digital copy is available on the McDermott Library website. Contact Clark Special Collections for more information.

Page 1	Introductory page describing the 355th Fighter Group (comprised of the 354th, 357th, and 358th Fighter Squadrons) and its activities during World War II
Page 2-3	Personal military journal of Schmucker. Cadet training; 355th Fighter Group; the <i>Queen Elizabeth</i> ; England
Page 4	Map of Great Britain and Ireland with the route of the 355th drawn
Page 5	Large fold-out map of a section of England (in "Folder 1")
Page 6	Published Items (in "Folder 1") <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pamphlet: "Assignment to Britain: An Army Air Forces Guide to the United Kingdom." Headquarters, AAF, Washington D.C., 1942 • Pamphlet: "Hubert." Cartoons by Sgt. Dick Wingert from the <i>Stars and Stripes</i>, 1944 • Article: "Alerted: Troops Spoiling for a Fight Stream Through Embarkation Point"
Page 7	Group photos of members of the 355th with names, ranks, and titles
Page 8-9	Interior and exterior photographs of the flying control and meteorological building
Page 10	Report: "Studies on Local Forecasting-Steeple Morden, Cambridgeshire, AAF-122, Weather Call-058, Period 1 Nov. 1943 to 1 June 1944"
Page 11	Report: "Studies on Local Forecasting-Steeple Morden, Cambridgeshire, AAF-122, Weather Call 058, Period 1 July 1944 to 1 January 1945"
Page 12	Schematics and photographs of a mobile weather station produced by Schmucker
Page 13	Memo from the Office of the Staff Weather Officer to Command Officer, 18th Weather Squadron. Subject: Instruments for the portable weather station, 26 October 1944

Page 14	Hand-drawn map with numbered key: F-122 Steeple Morden, England
Page 15	“Code Tables for Weather Code, 1939.” U.S. Department of Commerce, Weather Bureau
Page 16	“Mort and Friends.” Nine captioned photos of members of the 355th Fighter Group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wayne Mack • John Schmidt • Joe Mudrenick • Jim Tillery • Harry Lykens
Page 17	Nine un-captioned photographs of members of the 355th Fighter Group
Page 18-19	Patches and a greeting card relating to the 355th Fighter Group
Page 20	Artwork relating to the Eighth Air Force and a photograph captioned “Pat Murphy in Paris”
Page 21	354th Fighter Squadron Photos: Joe Williams, Ken Kinnard, Bud Fortier, and Cush Cushman
Page 22	354th Fighter Squadron Photos: Jeeter Neil (POW), Rich Brown, Brady Williamson, Chuck Lenfest (POW), and Jim Austin
Page 23	354th Fighter Squadron Photos: Bob Kurtz (KIA), Cully Ekstrom (KIA), and Sammy Houston
Page 24	357th Fighter Squadron Photos: Jonsey (POW), Wilson (KIA), Fred Ramsdell, and Hank Billie
Page 25	357th Fighter Squadron Photos: Butch Butcher (POW), Ole Olson (KIA), Ben Johnson, Kenny Williams (POW), Joe Kerch (POW)
Page 26	357th Fighter Squadron Photos: Dick Lang, Bud Lambert (KIA), Cully Cullerton (POW)
Page 27	358th Fighter Squadron Photos: Ray Meyers, Slugger Sluga, Diz Dissette, Slow-Joe Reed
Page 28	358th Fighter Squadron Photos: Fuzzy Fussell, Dicky Dixon (KIA), Dud Dudley, Hoffer Hoffman, De George
Page 29	358th Fighter Squadron Photos: McGinty, Charlie Blair, De Witt, Charlie Hecht
Page 30	355th Fighter Squadron Photos: Bill, Dixie, Ken
Page 31	355th Fighter Squadron Photos: Gresh Gresham, Hodge Kirby, Duf Duffy, Les Minchew

Page 32	355th Fighter Squadron Photos: Glenn Williams, Doc Burns, Jim Tillery, Nick Nicholson
Page 33	Written text regarding the 4th Mustang Group, the 56th T-Bolt Group, and the 355th Fighter Squadron
Page 34	Map of the Balkan States, 1914
Page 35	Cloth map: “Zones of France, 2nd Edition,” 1944. Caption states “Map from pilot escape kit”
Page 36	Map: Samples of Briefing Board for 355th Group Missions”
Page 37	Map: “F.O. 277-22 March 1944”
Page 38-39	<i>Yank</i> magazine page with a story title “Phantom Air Force” about the Eighth Army Air Force weather scouting Mustangs
Page 40-41	The 2nd Scout Air Force (384 th Bomb Group). Group photo; Brooks; Whit
Page 42	Weather briefing visual aid examples
Page 43	Schmucker Bronze Star article and photos
Page 44-45	Magazine page/artwork titled “Liberty Run” by Tom Flannery
Page 46	“Little Yankee” play advertisement and two “Wells & Winch” beer coasters
Page 47	“Skirts” play souvenir program and ticket, n.d.
Page 48	American Red Cross map of London, n.d.
Page 49	“‘Geographia’ Plan of London and Suburbs” with index, n.d.
Page 50-51	Six postcards of London
Page 52	Newspaper articles: “American football in London & English reaction to it
Page 53	“And They do Need the Pads” narrative about an Army vs. Navy football game in London, 1944
Page 54	Photos captioned “The Flak-Home at Tiverton”
Page 55	Photos of Edenhurst Torquay, rest hoe for the 8th Air Force
Page 56	Postcards of Exeter Cathedral
Page 57	The 1945 English Derby letter and information
Page 58	Cambridge University color postcards
Page 59	Postcards of colleges in England

Page 60	Photos of York, the York Cathedral, and the old Roman wall
Page 61	Photos and a booklet of York Minister castle
Page 62-67	Postcards/drawings of York Minister castle
Page 68	Postcards of Brighton and Brighton Beach; History of early York
Page 69	Three newspaper comics with the caption “Examples of English cartoons and humor”
Page 70	Postcards of trains
Page 71	Newspaper article: “Why can’t we get reliable weather forecasts?” by Charles Graves, 17 June 1945
Page 72	Narrative of the 355th Fighter Group following VE Day titled “Looking at Bad News”; German language guide
Page 73	Narrative titled “Sling-Psychrometering in Germany”; Envelope for letter on Page 73a
Page 73a	Letter regarding the occupying forces stationed in Gablingen, Germany following the war, from Page 73
Page 74	Map of route from Steeple Morden to Gablingen, Germany
Page 75-80	Sketches of R-77 and surrounding area visible from base in Gablingen, Germany, produced by Schmucker
Page 81-84	Illustrations and text intended to alert pilots to weather and flying problems at R-77 and around the Alps, produced by Schmucker
Page 85	Hand-drawn map of R-77, Gablingen, Germany
Page 86	Blank page
Page 87	Flyer from a musical in Paris
Page 88	Postcards of scenes from Cannes and the French Riviera and cards from Hotel Martinez, September 1945
Page 88a	French language guide taken from envelope on Page 88
Page 89-90	Postcards of scenes from Cannes and the French Riviera
Page 91	Photos captioned “Augsburg to Paris” documenting to initial leg of Schmucker’s trip home following his assignment in Germany
Page 92-96	Postcards from France

Page 97	Magazine article titled “Paris: It Belongs also to Parisians”
Page 98	Flyer titled “The United States Army Guide for Leave Troops”
Page 99	American Red Cross Map of Paris, 1945
Page 100	Blank page
Page 101-105	Postcards from France, captioned by Schmucker
Page 106	Photos from Camp Tophat, Antwerp, Belgium
Page 107	Camp Tophat welcome page
Page 108	Photos from the <i>Rensselaer Victory</i> as it took soldiers back to the US
Page 109	Photos of Boston Harbor, 12 October 1945
Page 110	Telegrams from Morton Schmucker to Elizabeth Schmucker informing her of his arrival in the US
Page 111	Schmucker Army discharge papers
Page 112	Blue Star Service Banner displayed by Schmucker’s mother while he was in service
Folder 2	Misplaced Scrapbook Items. Text, drawings, and orders that came from the scrapbook

SERIES TWO: PUBLISHED MATERIAL

BOX 2

Folder 1	Published Material <ul style="list-style-type: none">• United States Army Air Forces Officer’s Club Booklet, Steeple Morden, Cambridgeshire, England, October 1944• Souvenir Program: The 355th Fighter Group Association 40th Anniversary, Steeple Morden, England, May 1984• <i>Target: Germany-The US Army Air Forces’ Official Story of the VIII Bomber Command’s First Year Over Europe</i>. London: His Majesty’s Stationary Office, 1944.
Folder 2	Newspapers and Magazines <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Time</i> Vol. XLVI, No. 8, 20 August 1945. “Pony Edition” specially printed for the U.S. Armed Forces• <i>Yank: The Army Weekly</i> British Edition, 18 May 1945. Covers Victory in Europe Day (V-E Day)

- *Daily Express* No. 14,017, 8 May 1945. Headline reads “This is VE Day: The King and the Premier will Speak,” covers Victory in Europe Day (V-E Day)
- *News Chronicle*, No. 13,881, 8 May 1945. Headline reads “Today is V Day,” covers Victory in Europe Day (V-E Day)
- *The Stars and Stripes* Vol. 5, No. 158, 8 May 1945. Headline reads “Germany Quits,” covers Victory in Europe Day (V-E Day)
- *The Stars and Stripes* Vol. 1, No. 100, 15 August 1945. Headline “War Ends,” covers Victory over Japan Day (V-J Day)