

# **Katharine Louise Heuisler collection**

**AFC 2001/001/76950**

**Guides to the Collections in the Veterans History Project**



**LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS**

**Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.  
May 2011**

Contact information:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/vhp.contact>

Additional search options available at:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/eadvhp.vh016004>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/2015655446>

Prepared by Rachel Telford

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Katharine Louise Heusler collection: Veterans History Project (U.S.)

**Inclusive Dates:** 1937-1946

**Bulk Dates:** 1943-1946

**Call No.:** AFC 2001/001/76950

**Creator:** Heusler, Katharine Louise, 1911-1994

**Extent (items):** 115 items.

**Extent (folders):** 23 folders.

**Extent (graphic images):** graphic images: 99 photographic prints : black and white ; various sizes.

**Extent (manuscripts):** manuscript: 1 transcript (13 pages).

**Extent (manuscripts):** manuscripts: 23 folders.

**Language:** In English.

**Repository:** Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress , Washington, D.C. <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/vhp.home>

**Abstract:** The Katharine Louise Heusler Collection consists of civilian papers, clippings, correspondence, creative works, a memoir, printed matter, regimental histories, a transcript and photographs, documenting the work Heusler did with the Red Cross in Europe and the Pacific during World War II.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### People

Heusler, Katharine Louise, 1911-1994.

### Organizations

American Folklife Center.

Veterans History Project (U.S.) collector.

### Subjects

Women volunteers--United States--Correspondence.

World War, 1939-1945--War work--Red Cross.

World War, 1939-1945--Women.

### Form/Genre

Clippings.

Correspondence.

Manuscripts.

Photographs.

Transcripts.

## Administrative Information

### Arrangement

Arranged in two series: Manuscripts and Photographs.

Manuscripts are arranged alphabetically by type of material. Correspondence subseries is divided into three parts in order to maintain the donor's arrangement: letters from Heusler to her family (MS04); letter to Heusler (MS05); letters removed from scrapbook (MS20) and arranged chronologically (MS06).

Photographs PH04-PH12 removed from scrapbook (MS20), original order retained. Photographs PH13-PH98 removed from photo album, original order retained.

## Acquisition

Accessioned, 2011.

## Separated Material

A road map of Northern France with dates and routes noted by Heuisler has been transferred to the Geography and Map Division of the Library of Congress. <https://lccn.loc.gov/2012588623>

## Copyright Status

Duplication of collection materials may be restricted.

## Access and Restrictions

Collection is open for research; access restrictions apply. To request collection materials, please contact the Veterans History Project at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/vhp.contact>

## Preferred Citation

Katharine Louise Heuisler Collection (AFC/2001/001/76950), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress.

## Biographical Note

Katharine Louise Heuisler was born January 13, 1911, in Baltimore, Maryland, the eighth child of Hildegard Gardiner and Philip Ignatius Heuisler, who was president and chairman of Emerson Drug Company, and president of Maryland Glass. Heuisler was reared in Catonsville, Maryland, attended the Eden Hall Convent of the Sacred Heart School in Philadelphia, and in 1929, graduated from the Roland Park Country School in Baltimore.

At the outbreak of World War II, Heuisler was working for Piper & Hill Real Estate Company in Baltimore. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, she volunteered for the local Red Cross, driving trucks between military bases at night, and worked on the military radio assembly line at the Bendix Corporation in Towson, Maryland, during the day.

In late 1942, Heuisler volunteered for overseas service with the American Red Cross, and in May 1943, she sailed to Scotland aboard the Queen Elizabeth. Heuisler served as a Clubmobile captain, dispensing coffee and doughnuts to thousands of troops in England, France, Germany, Belgium, and Holland. After the war in Europe ended, she returned to Baltimore, but was soon asked to join the Red Cross in the Pacific. She spent six months on Okinawa as a club director, providing recreation services to Army and Navy personnel.

Following the war, Heuisler returned to Baltimore, where she was the proprietor of the Katharine Heuisler Dress Shop from 1946-1964. She remained a devoted Red Cross volunteer and donor. She died on November 30, 1994, in Baltimore.

## Scope and Content

The Katharine Louise Heuisler Collection consists of civilian papers, clippings, correspondence, creative works, a memoir, printed matter, regimental/unit histories, a transcript and photographs, documenting Heuisler's work with the Red Cross in Europe and the Pacific during World War II. The bulk of the collection consists of letters written by Heuisler to her family and friends while she was overseas, 1943-1945. Topics covered include: Red Cross training; travel to Europe; living conditions in England, including food, housing and uniforms; duties as a Clubmobile crew member, including driving, making doughnuts, and providing refreshments to soldiers; concentration camps; Germany's surrender; return to the United States; opening of a club on Okinawa; and recreation.

Photographs depict Heuisler at work and during time off, fellow Red Cross workers, US and foreign military personnel, and Red Cross equipment and supplies.

## Description of Series

*Container*

*Series*

Series I: Manuscripts

Series II: Photographs

Oversize material

# Container List

## *Container*

## *Contents*

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### Series I: Manuscripts

- BOX-FOLDER MSS2132/1** Civilian Papers, 1945-1946  
1 folder  
MS11: Fleet Christmas Club Report [1945].  
MS13: American Red Cross press release (undated).  
MS14: Memo from Heuisler to American Red Cross Club and Recreation Department, Opening of Kin Do Club (undated).
- BOX-FOLDER MSS2132/2** Clippings, 1942-1995  
1 folder  
MS01: Includes press coverage of Heuisler's service in the American Red Cross, contemporary article about Okinawa, obituary. *See also Oversize.*
- BOX-FOLDER MSS2132/3** Correspondence, 1945-1946  
1 folder  
MS04: Correspondence from Heuisler to family and friends, and from American Red Cross to Heuisler's mother. Topics covered include: Arrival overseas, concentration camps, German surrender, return to the United States, and opening of club on Okinawa.
- BOX-FOLDER MSS2132/4** Correspondence, January 24, 1945  
1 folder  
MS05: Correspondence to Heuisler from Office of the Commanding General of Headquarters XIII Corps, inviting her to dinner with General Gillem.
- BOX-FOLDER MSS2132/5-7** Correspondence, 1942-1946  
3 folders  
MS06: Correspondence from Heuisler to her mother, aunt Becky, sisters Marie and Mikey, and friend Sue. Topics covered include: Red Cross training; travel to Europe; living conditions in England, including food, housing and uniforms; duties as a Clubmobile crew member, including driving, making doughnuts, and providing refreshments to soldiers; recreation. *See also Oversize.*
- BOX-FOLDER MSS2133/1-5** Correspondence, 1942-1946  
5 folders  
MS06 continued
- BOX-FOLDER MSS2133/6** Creative Works, undated  
1 folder  
MS07: Application for a date with a Seabee.
- BOX-FOLDER OVZ139/1** Creative Works, undated  
1 folder  
MS08: Drawing depicting an intoxicated officer encountering the enemy.
- BOX-FOLDER MSS2133/7** Memoir, undated  
1 folder  
MS10: Clubmobile life and activities, author unknown.
- BOX-FOLDER MSS2133/8** Printed Matter, 1939-1946  
1 folder  
MS15: Hot Springs fountain tourist brochure, Liège, France (1939).

## Series I: Manuscripts

### Container

### Contents

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- MS16: Okinawa, American Red Cross photo book [1946].  
MS22: Postcard, Bad Harzburg Kasino (undated).
- BOX-FOLDER MSS2133/9** Regimental/unit histories, 1945-1946  
1 folder  
MS17: "The Road to Germany: The Story of the 5th Armored Division."  
MS18: "Fourth Cavalry."  
MS19: "Mission Accomplished: The Story of the Campaigns of the VII Corps United States Army in the War Against Germany, 1944-1945."
- BOX-FOLDER OVZ136/3** Transcript, December 25, 2943  
1 folder  
MS21: Baltimore Sunpapers Christmas Broadcast.
- BOX-FOLDER MSS2133/10** Scrapbook, undated  
1 folder  
MS20: Copy of scrapbook containing letters, clippings, photos.

## Series II: Photographs

- BOX-FOLDER MSS2137/1** Original Photographic Prints, 1937-1946  
1 folder  
PH01-PH99: Heuisler at work and during time off, fellow Red Cross workers, US and foreign military personnel, and Red Cross equipment and supplies.

## Oversize material

- BOX-FOLDER OVZ135/1** Clippings, 1944  
1 folder  
MS02: "The Sinker" American Red Cross Clubmobiler newsletter.
- BOX-FOLDER OVZ136/1** Clippings, November 17, 1945  
1 folder  
MS03: "The Puebla News" newsletter.
- BOX-FOLDER OVZ136/2** Correspondence, 1942-1946  
1 folder  
MS06