



William Morris Collection UA.10.3.494

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

University Archives and Historical Collections

Conrad Hall

943 Conrad Road, Room 101

East Lansing , MI 48824

Business Number: 517-355-2330

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URL: <http://archives.msu.edu/>

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Summary Information

Repository:	University Archives and Historical Collections
Creator:	Morris, William Lewis
Title:	William L. Morris collection
ID:	UA.10.3.494
Date [inclusive]:	1941-1946, undated
Physical Description:	0.1 Cubic Feet 4 folders
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information:
"Item title, Collection title, Collection Identifier, Michigan State University Archives & Historical Collections, East Lansing, Michigan."

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Biographical Note

William Lewis Morris was born on January 14, 1920 in Port Huron, Michigan. He attended Michigan State College (now MSU) from 1939 – 1941 studying engineering. During those three years, Morris was part of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) and participated with the Pistol Team and the Hesperian House. Morris left college and enlisted in the Army Air Corp on November 3, 1941.

In the Air Corp, he had a career as a fighter pilot and obtained the rank of Major. His P-47 Thunderbolt aircraft was nicknamed the "Spartan Spirit" and it had a spartan warrior painted on the nose of his plane. In the final days of the war, Morris' plane was shot down in the China Sea. Luckily, he was able to eject from his plane, parachute into the water, and use his one-man raft to stay afloat. It wasn't long before he was rescued and taken to a hospital off the coast of Okinawa.

After the war, Morris returned to MSC to complete his education. He graduated on December 19, 1946 with a degree in Chemistry. In 1951, Morris married Barbara Shipton. He would go

on to work for Briggs Plumbing in Detroit and became the Vice President of Montgomery Ward in Chicago, Illinois. Morris retired in Florida and passed away on May 20, 2005.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains Morris' certificate to Captain, photocopies of a letter and poem written by Morris, photocopy articles about Morris and the Spartan Spirit being shot down, and photographs of Morris and his plane during the war.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Permission to publish material from this collection must be obtained from University Archives and Historical Collections, Michigan State University.

Conditions Governing Access

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Controlled Access Headings

- World War, 1939-1945
- Photographs
- Michigan State University. Alumni and alumnae

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Morris' Certificate to Captain, October 15, 1946	Box F.D.	folder 1
Photocopy Articles about the Spartan Spirit being shot down, undated	Box F.D.	folder 2
Photocopies of a Letter and Poem by Morris, November 11, 1941 and undated	Box F.D.	folder 3
Photographs. William Morris and his plane, the Spartan Spirit, circa 1945	Box F.D.	folder 4