

Inventory of the

John L. Gent
DeKalb, Illinois

Collection

In the

Regional History Center

RC 354

INTRODUCTION

Mike Wayman, John Gent's nephew, donated the John L. Gent Collection to the Joiner History Room whom later donated the items to the Regional History Center for proper care on September 15, 2016. Gent's items were saved over the years by his sister, Elizabeth Gent Smith.

Property rights in the collection belong to the Regional History Center, literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no access restrictions to the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 1.25
Number of containers: 3
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 354

SCOPE AND CONTENT

Materials in the John L. Gent collection date from 1905 to 1946, but are predominantly from the years leading up to and including World War II (1936-1945). While serving Gent collected artifacts significant to his time at war. These artifacts represent a large portion of the collection and include foreign paper money and coins as well as military arm bands, patches, ribbons, pins, and belt buckles. Nazi Party propaganda postcards, many of which feature Hitler, are also included in the collection. A small part of the collection consists of U.S. Army publications given to serviceman during WWII.

Researchers interested in war propaganda may also be interested in the collection of World War I & II posters found in RC 200.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

John L. Gent was born October 14, 1906 in DeKalb, Illinois. He enlisted in the U.S. Army on June 30, 1941 in Chicago. He was a member of the 183rd Field Artillery Battalion in WWII, which were a part of the VII U.S. Corps under the command of Lieutenant General J. Lawton Collins. They fought in campaigns including Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland (Germany), Ardennes-Alsace (Belgium/Battle of the Bulge), and Central Europe. He died on October 24, 1971 and was buried in St. Mary Cemetery located in DeKalb. His military headstone reads, "Tec 5, 183rd Field Artillery Battalion."

SUBJECT TRACINGS

DeKalb (Ill.)
Postcards
United States. Army.
Veterans
World War II

RC 354- John L. Gent Collection

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	1	Army Song Book, 1941
	2	Army Route Guides and Phrase Books, 1942-1944
	3	Army Chemical Warfare Protection Guides, 1942-1944
	4	War Ration Books, 1942-1943
	5	Bulletin of Religious Services, October 13-14, 1945
	6	German Postcards (54), 1934-1936
		Artifacts:
	7	Military Patches (20) and Ribbon Guide
8	Foreign Paper Money, 1905-1937	
2		Binoculars in original case
3		Whistles (2)
		Sewing Kit (1)
		Pocket Knife Kit (1)
		Pouch with mirrors and safety pins (1)
		Foreign Coins (85)
		Wooden Cigarette Holder (1)
		Safety Match Box(1)
		Dagger enclosed in case (1)
		Ammunition Holder (1)
		Hand Grenade Pin and Pieces (1)
		Medals, Pins, Ribbon Bars, and Buttons (82)
		Belt Buckles (6)
	Leather Belt with coin decoration (1)	
	Arm Bands (4)	
	Miniature book <u>Der Führer und die Wehrmacht</u> (1)	