

Robert N. Abbott Collection

Finding aid prepared by Cheri Crist

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Local History & Genealogy Division

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Summary Information

Repository	Local History & Genealogy Division
Title	Robert N. Abbott Collection
Date [inclusive]	1934-1968
Extent	1.6 Cubic feet 2 boxes
Physical Description	Approximately 75 moldy documents were scanned and have been segregated in a separate box.
Language	English
Mixed materials [Box]	2
Mixed materials [Box]	1
Abstract	The Robert N. Abbott Collection consists of Abbott's personal papers, speeches, a 1934 yearbook, a scrapbook, testimony and correspondence regarding his time as a prisoner of war in Korea, court documents pertaining to his death in a 1964 helicopter crash, Monroe County Civil Defense newsletters, newspaper clippings, documents pertaining to WWII service, photographs.

Citation

Robert N. Abbott Collection, [Box#, Folder#], Local History & Genealogy Division, Central Library of Rochester and Monroe County N.Y.

Biographical Note

Though his life was cut short in its prime, devastating his beloved native city of Rochester as well as his family, the legacy of Robert Noe Abbott (1915-1964) is no less remarkable for its brevity. Known as "Rochester's most decorated soldier," Abbott served in both the Second World War and Korea, rising through the ranks from Private First Class to become a Lieutenant Colonel. After a distinguished service record, and after enduring an excruciatingly long stint as a prisoner of War, Abbott worked as a civil defense leader from the mid-1950s through the early 1960s. He firmly subscribed to a number of American Cold War beliefs about the "Red Menace" and worked actively to convince his fellow Rochesterians about the dangers posed by communism at home and abroad. Abbott died from injuries sustained from a tragic accident while monitoring Rochester's 1964 race riots.

Scope and Content Note

Contains Robert Abbott's personal papers, speeches, yearbook, scrapbook, testimony and correspondence regarding his time as a prisoner of war in Korea, court documents, Monroe County Civil Defense newsletters, newspaper clippings, documents pertaining to WWII service, motion picture film, photographs.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Local History & Genealogy Division 5/12/2014

Access

There are no restrictions regarding access to this collection. However, researchers wishing to access the mold-damaged documents in box 2 should be referred to Betty Spring, who will provide access to digital versions of these documents.

Use

Permission to publish, reproduce, distribute, or use in any current or future manifestations must be obtained in writing from the Rochester Public Library Local History & Genealogy Division.

Custodial History

The Robert N. Abbott collection was given to the library by Roberta Abbott Buckle.

Related Materials

Related Materials

Watts, Nancy. The Rochester Riots of 1964: A Scrapbook. LH-ST Rqr305.896 W352r 1, LH-ST Rqr305.896 W352r 2

Controlled Access Headings

Personal Name(s)

- Abbott, Robert Noe, 1915-1964
- Buckle, Roberta Abbott

Subject(s)

- Helicopters--Accidents--United States
 - Prisoners of war--Korea
 - Race riots--New York (State)--Rochester--1960-1970
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Bibliography

Robert N. Abbott: Korean War POW and Casualty of Rochester's Race Riot, <http://www.libraryweb.org/rochimag/abbott/introduction.htm> (accessed 5/12/2014)