
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MS 1229
**Phyllis Drapela Collection,
Papers, 1940-1946**

DESCRIPTION

This collection contains correspondence, photographs, newspaper clippings, original U.S. government documents (ration books, war bonds and draft board cards) belonging to Phyllis and Frank Drapela during World War II. These items reflect the activities of Phyllis Drapela, who at the time was a University of Arizona Student and Red Cross volunteer and Frank Drapela, who enlisted into the navy and served aboard the U.S.S. Abner Read. The letters are to Frank, written from his brother and friend who were both soldiers during the war. The photographs vary from pictures of Phyllis and Frank to other soldiers and volunteers of the Red Cross.

1 box, .25 linear ft.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Phyllis Baffert Drapela was born in Tucson Arizona. She attended the University of Arizona from 1942-1946 and was a member of the Associated Students and Young Women's Defense League. She worked in the Red Cross Canteen as an aide and volunteer. She married Frank Drapela, from Prescott, AZ. He joined the Navy and after attending fire control school in San Diego, was assigned to the U.S.S. Abner Read. He was aboard the ship on November 1, 1944 when a Japanese dive-bomber dropped a bomb on it and caused it to sink within 36 minutes. Frank Drapela was seriously injured, and spent two years in hospitals recuperating.

ACQUISITION

Donated by Phyllis Baffert Drapela in 1995.

ACCESS

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

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Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be addressed to the Arizona Historical Society – Tucson, Library/Archives Department.

PROCESSING

The collection was processed by Erika Abad, intern, under the supervision of Riva Dean, Archivist, March 2002.