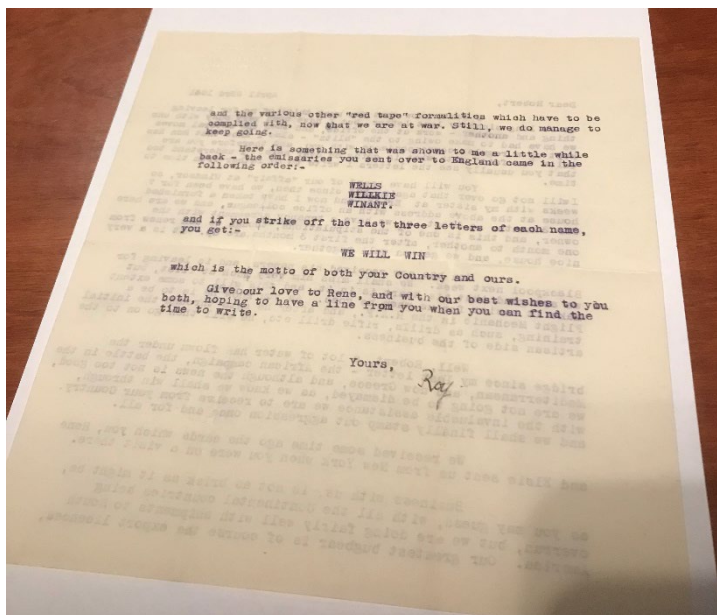


Gettysburg College  
Musselman  
**Library**  
*special collections*

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Guide to MS-269:  
Roy and Ron Mathews WWII Letters  
Gettysburg College, Musselman Library



Special Collections and College Archives  
Victoria Ramsay, 2023, Pohanka intern  
July 2021

## MS-269: Roy and Ron Mathews WWII Letters

*Processed by Victoria Ramsay, 2023, Pohanka intern*

*July 2021*

### Size

1 box, 1 cubic foot

### Location

Special Collections

### Dates

Inclusive: 1939 - 1960

Bulk: 1940-42

### Provenance

Purchased by Special Collections from Jordan Antiques.

### Biographical Note

The majority of the letters in this collection were written by R.T. Mathews—known as “Roy”—and his brother R.A. Mathews—“Ron”—to their uncle in America, Robert J. McNally, as they struggled through World War II, Ron as a soldier and Roy as he moves his family through bombed English cities. Others involved in the letters are T.A. Mathews—the father of Roy and Ron—and his sister Winnie.

### Historical Note

This collection notes the impact the German “Blitz” had on the British people, from destroying homes to entire cities. Named after the German word “blitzkrieg,” meaning “lightning war,” from September 1940 to May 1941 German aircraft dropped bombs on British cities like London in an attempt to hurt strategic cities and the morale of British citizens.<sup>1</sup>

### Scope and Content Note

Primarily covering the years between 1939 and 1943, this collection details specifics of British Army life during the Second World War, such as a soldier’s schedule, interaction with family, and types of work needed. It also covers topics relating to American-British relations during WWII, as the men write from Britain to an American audience (their uncle or father), and the recipient of these letters attempts to house a child from war-torn England, receiving a letter on why this offer has fallen through thus far.

### Series Description

This collection is divided into four Series. **Series 1:** Roy Correspondence. **Series 2:** Ron Correspondence. **Series 3:** Other Correspondence. **Series 4.** Miscellaneous.

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<sup>1</sup> “The Blitz.” Encyclopedia Britannica.

## Subjects

WWII—World War II—Second World War—England—America—Allies—Army—War Correspondence—  
Blitzkrieg—Blitz

## Box List

### Box 1

#### Series 1

- 1-0 Finding aid and family background
- 1-1 Roy Mathews – Robert McNally Correspondence 1930-1940
  - Letter dated 11/13/39
  - Letter dated 1/12/40
  - Letter dated 8/23/40
  - Letter dated 11/20/40
- 1-2 Roy Mathews – Robert McNally Correspondence 1941
  - Letter dated 4/23/41
  - Letter dated 8/16/41
  - Letter dated 11/11/41
- 1-3 Roy Mathews – T.A. Mathews Correspondence
  - Letter dated 5/16/41
- 1-4 Roy Mathews – Robert McNally Correspondence 1942-43
  - Letter dated 3/6/42
  - Letter dated 11/10/43

#### Series 2

- 1-5 Ron Mathews – Robert McNally Correspondence 1940
  - Letter dated 4/16/40
  - Letter dated 10/6/40
  - Letter dated 10/30/40
  - Letter dated 12/20/40
- 1-6 Ron Mathews – Robert McNally Correspondence 1941
  - Letter dated 3/16/41
  - Letter dated 8/12/41

#### Series 3

- 1-7 Arthur Edmonds – Robert McNally Correspondence
  - Letter dated 9/21/40
- 1-8 Winnie Mathews – Robert McNally Correspondence
  - Letter dated 6/2/41

## Series 4

### 1-9 Miscellaneous Letters

- To Rene McNally from Sheila Kaye-Smith (3/26/1924)
- To Robert McNally from Evan John Simpson (1/4/40)
- To the McNallys from Mrs. Henry B. Gilpin (3/11/41)
- Frank Hammond Bookseller Receipt (9/3/49)

### 1-10 Miscellaneous Envelopes

- Dated 2/1/39
- Dated 8/17/39
- Dated 6/5/40
- Dated 8/27/40
- Dated 4/24/41
- Dated 6/12/41
- Dated 7/13/42
- Dated 11/24/42

## Related Collections

There are various WWII letter collections among our holdings. See <https://libguides.gettysburg.edu/c.php?g=1064149&p=7739861> for more information.

## Sources

<https://www.britannica.com/event/the-Blitz>

## Contact Information

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[www.gettysburg.edu/special-collections](http://www.gettysburg.edu/special-collections)