



Gremms-Doolittle Library  
Schenectady County Historical Society  
32 Washington Ave., Schenectady, NY 12305  
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**Guide to the Charles and Douglas Snell**  
**World War II Correspondence:**  
**1943-1945 (2006.2.18)**

Creators: Snell, Charles  
Snell, Douglas

Accession Number: 2006.2.18

Extent: .66 cubic feet

Source: Unknown

Inclusive Dates: 1943-1945

Access: Access to this collection is unrestricted.

Abstract: The Charles and Douglas Snell Collection comprises letters written to family and friends during the last two years of World War II, 1943-1945. The letters are separated into two distinct boxed series by individual author: Box "A" - Douglas: August 1, 1943 to August 19, 1945, and Box "B" - Charles - April 15, 1943 to August 27, 1945 and. Each boxed set contains a folder of miscellaneous items that are related to the letters.

Scope and Content Note:

The Charles and Douglas Snell Collection comprises materials related to their personal correspondence to family and friends during their military service in World War II. Anecdotal information contained in the letters provides a general overview of their personal lives during the war, while giving the readers a flavor of military routines and military life during the conflict. Due to strict government censorship, combat related information such as strategic locations and other compromising information is often excluded or eliminated by the military reviewers. One can find, however, a wealth of information about military life such as: training routines, food, entertainment, job related descriptions, inspections, rank, camp life, R and R, pay grades and war bonds, life on the home front, warfare schools and lectures, as well as other related information regarding American political views, and Victory Gardens. The text also includes generalized overviews of American lifestyles during the time. Charles Snell's letters delve deeply into his time in western USA, particularly California and the South Pacific. He gives vivid descriptions of impressive national parks, camp routines, camp athletics, his love of gardening and classical music, and his work with the Chaplain, to name a few. Douglas

describes his tour in England, discussing the people, places and things he encountered there, while elaborating on his life in a military war zone. Finally, the letters give the reader an overview about the personal lives of the authors and their family including anecdotes about Schenectady, Union College, other local residents, and General Electric, to name a few.

Organization Note:

The collection has been maintained in chronological order, by author, in two boxed collections. Each box is divided into folders dated by month and year. The letters, in most cases, are opened and clipped to their original envelopes. It should be noted that many of the letters are written or typed on a variety of embossed military letterheads; and many of the envelopes have unique stamps, markings, air mail insignias, or postmarks related to the era. Interesting details regarding censorship can be studied by reviewing some of these documents. The collections also contain political cartoons, V-Mail (Victory Mail), pictures, newspaper articles, and other unique or relevant information.

Biographical Notes:

Charles and Douglas Snell were the sons of William A. and Kathryn (Vedder) Snell of 418 Plymouth Avenue, Schenectady, NY. Charles, born 1921, enlisted in the Army in 1943. After returning from military service, Charles married Julie Kamerer. He went on to live in Silver Spring, Maryland, where he died in 1997. Douglas, born 1924, also enlisted in the Army in 1943. After returning from his military service, he attended Union College. Douglas relocated to Norristown, Pennsylvania, where he continued to live until his death in 1997. Both Snell brothers are buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Processed By/Date: Don Germain – Fall 2011

Box and Folder Listing:

<b>Box/Folder</b>	<b>Item</b>
A-1	Snell, Douglas – WW II Letters Dated April 15 - May 28, 1943
A-2	Snell, Douglas – WW II Letters Dated June 6 – September 30, 1943
A-3	Snell, Douglas – WW II Letters Dated April 1944
A-4	Snell, Douglas – WW II Letters Dated May 1944
A-5	Snell, Douglas – WW II Letters Dated June 1944
A-6	Snell, Douglas – WW II Letters Dated July 1944
A-7	Snell, Douglas – WW II Letters Dated August 1944
A-8	Snell, Douglas – WW II Letters Dated September 1944
A-9	Snell, Douglas – WW II Letters Dated October 1944
A-10	Snell, Douglas – WW II Letters Dated November 1944
A-11	Snell, Douglas – WW II Letters Dated December 1944
A-12	Snell, Douglas – WW II Letters Dated January 3 – August 27, 1944
A-13	Snell, Douglas and Charles – Miscellaneous - Hand Written, Detailed Anecdotal Notes From the Reviewer Regarding the Specific Content of Each Letter in Both Boxes (Not in Chronological Order)
B-1	Snell, Charles – WW II Letters Dated August 1 – November 20, 1943

B-2	Snell, Charles – WW II Letters Dated June 1 – July 31, 1944
B-3	Snell, Charles – WW II Letters Dated August 1 – September 30, 1944
B-4	Snell, Charles – WW II Letters Dated October 2 – December 21, 1944
B-5	Snell, Charles – WW II Letters Dated January 7 – August 19, 1945
B-6	Snell, Charles and Snell Douglas – WW II Miscellaneous Information Related to their service and correspondence 1943-1945