

Lillian Shapiro Papers, 1942-1955

Collection Summary

Reference Code:	MRQ, US.
Repository:	Special Collections, Haverhill Public Library, Haverhill, Massachusetts.
Call Number:	MSS 81
Creator:	Shapiro, Lillian, 1908-1987
Title:	Lillian Shapiro Papers
Dates:	1942-1955, undated
Size:	1 box, 1 oversized box (1.75 linear feet)
Language(s):	Collection materials are in English.
Abstract:	This collection contains military records, personal correspondence, mementos, newspaper clippings, and photographs pertaining to Captain Lillian Shapiro, the first member of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps from Haverhill, Massachusetts.

Biographical Sketch

Lillian Shapiro was born in 21 July 1908 in Siberia, Russia, to Louis and Eva Shapiro. She moved with her parents to Haverhill, Massachusetts, in 1912 and graduated from Haverhill High School in 1926. After high school she worked as an office manager/bookkeeper at Pioneer Mounting and Finishing Company.

Shapiro enrolled in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps on 28 July 1942, and was released from active duty effective 26 January 1946. She enlisted as an officer, initially given the rank of 2nd Lieutenant, with ultimate promotion to Captain. During this time, her positions included Motor Transport Instructor, Company Commander, Detachment Commander, Battalion Commander, and Control Officer. After the war, she moved to New York City and worked as an office manager at an advertising display company. She died 23 April 1987.

Arrangement

- Series 1. Military Documents, 1942-1953, undated
 Subseries 1.1: Military Personnel File, 1942-1945, undated
 Subseries 1.2: Post-Service Papers, 1951-1953
Series 2. Personal Papers, 1943, undated
 Subseries 2.1. "Army Mementoes" Scrapbook, undated
 Subseries 2.2. Personal Correspondence, 1943, 1946
Series 3. Photographs, 1942, 1945 undated

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains military paperwork, photos, individual correspondence, and personal keepsakes relating to Lillian Shapiro, of Haverhill. It has been arranged into three series. Series one contains Shapiro's military personnel file, as well as records pertaining to her service both during and after the war. Series two contains Shapiro's personal scrapbook as well as correspondence and other materials. Series three contains photographs, taken either in Daytona Beach Florida or at Stark General Hospital in Charleston, South Carolina.

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation:	[Item Identification], Lillian Shapiro Papers, MSS 81, Special Collections, Haverhill Public Library, Haverhill, Massachusetts.
Custodial History:	Found in collection.
Acquisition Information:	Unknown.
Processing Information:	Processed by Dominic Scheidegger, 2021. Revised by Elizabeth Smith, 2025.
Access Rights:	Collection is open for research.
Phys. Access Restrictions:	None.
Tech. Access Restrictions:	None.
Copyright:	Copyright has not been assigned to the Haverhill Public Library. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Board of Trustees. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the Haverhill Public Library as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained by the researcher.
Related Collections:	None.
Separated Material:	None.
Conservation Notes:	Photographs were sleeved to protect them; paper clips, staples, and other fasteners were removed.

Subjects: Jewish soldiers—United States
 Shapiro, Lillian, 1908-1987
 United States. Army. Women's Army Auxiliary Corps
 Women Immigrants--United States
 Women soldiers—United States
 World War, 1939-1945

Collection Inventory

Series 1: Military Documents, 1942-1953, undated

This series contains Shapiro's military personnel file, as well as records pertaining to her service both during and after the war. Included are orders, official correspondence, and other documents arranged chronologically.

Subseries 1.1: Military Personnel File, 1942-1945, undated

This subseries contains military documentation including orders, memos, and promotion announcements.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Recruiting paperwork, orders, bond forms, pay forms, June 1942-December 1943	1	1
Orders, promotion, pay card, letter leave order, telegram, 1944	1	2
Quarters, orders, ID request, training, leave, transfer, discharge, 1945	1	3
Welcome pamphlet, service rating form, clothing and equipment record, undated	1	4
Military ID, membership cards, 1942-1948	1	5
Life insurance, 1943	1	6

Subseries 1.2: Post-Service Papers, 1951-1953

This subseries contains documents not found within Shapiro's 201 file and pertaining to post-war activities. Included are a copy of Shapiro's military history, request for release from active duty, reserve paperwork, Veterans Administration paperwork, a certificate of literacy, and related correspondence.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Statement of balance, newsletter, military history, release papers, memo, 1944-1945	1	7

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Orders, reserve paperwork, retirement points, correspondence, 1951-1953	1	8
Medical history (blank), oath of office, DD Form 98, questionnaire, undated	1	9
Veterans administration identification, certificate of eligibility, 1948	1	10
Certificate of literacy, 1955	1	11

Series 2: Personal Papers, 1943, undated

This series contains Shapiro's personal scrapbook, correspondence she received, photocopied newspaper clippings (the originals are present in the scrapbook), and a W.A.A.C. brochure.

Subseries 2.1: "Army Mementoes" Scrapbook, undated

This subseries contains photocopied reproductions of news clippings found in the scrapbook, three letters sent to Shapiro during and after the war, and a W.A.A.C. brochure.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
"Army Mementoes" scrapbook, 1942, undated	2 (OS)	1
Photocopied news clippings, 1942, undated	1	12

Subseries 2.2: Personal Correspondence, 1943, 1946

This subseries contains three letters received by Shapiro during and after the war, as well as a W.A.A.C. brochure.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Personal correspondence, 1943, 1946, undated	1	13
W.A.A.C. brochure, 1943	1	14

Series 3: Photographs, 1942, undated

This series contains photos from Shapiro's tenure in the military. Many feature her prominently, though many do not. Photos were taken in Daytona Beach, Florida, and at Stark General Hospital in Charleston, South Carolina. Notes and markings do appear on the back of some photographs.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Photographs of Shapiro, 1945, undated	1	15
Group, drill photographs, undated	1	16
Portraits, small-group photographs, undated	1	17
Oversize photograph, 1942	2 (OS)	2