

Guide to the Harvey Seymour Sussman Papers

MS 1457



compiled by Diane E. Kaplan

August 1990

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 1457

CREATOR: Sussman, Harvey Seymour, 1923-

TITLE: Harvey Seymour Sussman papers

DATES: 1942-1995

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.5 linear feet

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers consist of correspondence, memorabilia, and photographs which document Harvey Seymour Sussman's year as a member of the Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP) at Yale University and his service as a member of the Office of Strategic Services. The papers also include material for the ASTP reunion at Yale in 1990 and a 1995 diary of a return visit to Burma.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1457>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1457>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Harvey Sussman, 1986, 1989-1990, 2005, and 2006; Robin Winks, 1987; and Daniel C. O'Neil, 1990.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Harvey Seymour Sussman Papers (MS 1457). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Harvey Seymour Sussman was born in Brooklyn, New York, on October 3, 1923. His family later moved to Baltimore where he graduated from high school. He was inducted into the army in February 1943, and while in training at Camp Lee, Virginia, he was selected to study Malay in the Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP). From June 1943 to June 1944, he was stationed at Berkeley College on the Yale University campus where he took intensive language training. He was then sent to Washington to learn cryptography by the Office of Strategic Services (OSS).

Sussman served overseas with the OSS, first in England, and then in Burma and Ceylon, with other special assignments in the Far East. On his return to the United States in March 1946, Sussman married Muriel Anne Hodes. He returned to Yale University to complete a B.A. degree in oriental studies and graduated in February, 1948.

While at Yale and for a year after graduation, Sussman did Malay translation for the United States State Department. He entered the wholesale food business and eventually became president of Consolidated Brokers, Inc., a food brokering company in New Haven, Connecticut. Sussman died on December 16, 2010, in Delray Beach, Florida.

Scope and Contents

The Harvey Seymour Sussman Papers consist of correspondence and memorabilia, which document Harvey Sussman's military service during World War II. The papers highlight his participation in the Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP) studying Malay at Yale University. Additional correspondence and memorabilia record Sussman's OSS assignments in the Far East and his travels through Europe and Asia on his way to this posting. Sussman's student years at Yale following the end of the war and his work as a Malay translator are also recorded in the papers. Harvey Sussman donated his papers to the Yale University Library in 1990, following a reunion of ASTP participants at which he exhibited many of these papers. Materials given to Sussman by other reunion participants supplement these papers.

The papers are arranged in two sections: Correspondence and Memorabilia. Correspondence includes Sussman's frequent letters to his family in Baltimore and later to his fiancée Muriel Hodes in New Haven. Sussman's letters from Camp Lee and from Yale describe the daily routine of a young Jewish soldier's life and detail the rigorous program of training for an ASTP participant. Though for security reasons he was

not able to describe the work he was doing during his time in the Far East, Sussman's letters after his arrival are full of the daily details of military life.

Memorabilia includes announcements, programs, and course notes from the ASTP program at Yale, as well as playbills and invitations from the New Haven area. The section also includes military orders, travel brochures, postcards, and photographs from Sussman's assignments. Examples of Sussman's contract work as a Malay translator for the State Department are also in this section. Several files document Sussman's efforts to locate former ASTP members and to prepare a reunion at Berkeley College in May 1990. These files include correspondence with members and officials at Yale helping to organize the reunion, as well as programs and memorabilia from the reunion. The photographs include pictures of the ASTP participants and of colleagues on assignment in the Far East during World War II and photographs taken at the reunion. Printed materials of a conference dealing with the Office of Strategic Services is also included in the papers.

With his papers, Sussman also donated his short-snorter, a record of his military travels in currency, and other paper money and coins. These are now located in the Yale University Art Gallery's collection of Coins and Medals.

Collection Contents
Original accession

| Correspondence | | |
|------------------|--|---|
| b. 1, f. 1 - 5 | General | 1943-1949, 1969, 1985-1990, undated |
| b. 1, f. 6 - 8 | Hodes, Muriel A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy. | 1944-1945 September |
| b. 1, f. 9 - 16 | Sussman family | 1943 January-1944 April |
| b. 2, f. 17 - 33 | Sussman family | 1944 May, July-1945 December |
| Memorabilia | | |
| b. 3, f. 34 - 35 | ASTP: course notes [includes notebook of Malay language] | 1943-1944 |
| b. 3, f. 36 | ASTP: New Haven | 1943-1944 |
| b. 3, f. 37 | Military | 1944-1946 |
| b. 3, f. 38 | Travel: England | 1944 |
| b. 3, f. 39 | Travel | 1944-1945 |
| b. 3, f. 40 | Yale | 1947-1948 |
| b. 3, f. 41 | Malay translation work | 1947 |
| b. 4, f. 42 - 43 | Malay translation work | 1947-1948 |
| Reunion of ASTP | | |
| b. 4, f. 44 | Planning papers | 1988-1989 |
| b. 4, f. 45 | Responses from ASTP members | 1989-1990 |
| b. 4, f. 46 | Planning and concluding papers See also: Folder 49 | 1990 |
| b. 4, f. 46A | Responses and reminiscences of ASTP members | 1988-1991, undated |
| b. 4, f. 47 | "The Secrets War" [Office of Strategic Services conference materials] English | 1991 July 11-12 |

| | | |
|--------------|---------------|---|
| b. 4, f. 47A | Miscellaneous | 1942, 1943, 1946, 1960, 1984, undated |
| f. 5, f. 48 | Photographs | 1942-1945, 1989-1990, undated |
| f. 5, f. 49 | Oversize | 1990 |

Accession 1995-M-139: Additional Material

Myanmar (Burma): chronicle of a return visit by veterans of Detachment 101, O.S.S.
(added to Box 4)

1995

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Espionage
Malay language -- Study and teaching
Military intelligence
World War, 1939-1945 -- Secret service

Geographic Names

Burma

Names

Sussman, Harvey Seymour, 1923-

Corporate Bodies

Army Specialized Training Program (U.S.)
Berkeley College (Yale University)
United States. Office of Strategic Services
Yale University -- Students