

# ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

## A Guide to the Albany Helps Nijmegen Committee Records

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### Summary Information

**Repository**

Albany Institute of History & Art Library

**Creator**

Albany Helps Nijmegen Committee

**Title**

Albany Helps Nijmegen Committee Records

**Identifier**

MG 238

**Date**

1947-1948

**Physical Description**

3 folders

**Physical Location**

The materials are located onsite in the Museum.

**Language of the Material**

English

**Abstract**

This collection contains correspondence, photographs, and newspaper clippings from both Albany, New York and the Netherlands relating to the “Albany Helps Nijmegen” campaign of 1947.

## **Preferred Citation**

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

Albany Helps Nijmegen Committee Records, 1947-1948, MG 238. Albany Institute of History & Art Library, Albany, New York.

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## **Conditions Governing Access and Use**

### **Restrictions on Access**

None

### **Copyright**

The researcher assumes full responsibility for conforming with the laws of copyright. Whenever possible, the Albany Institute of History & Art Library will provide information about copyright owners and other restrictions, but the legal determination ultimately rests with the researcher. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with the Archivist/Librarian.

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## **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Accession: # unidentified

Accession Source/Date: unidentified

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## **Processing Information**

Processed by C. Lynch, November 2014; finding aid updated by H. Cox, June 2021.

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## **Biographical/Historical**

In March of 1947, a committee chaired by John D. Hatch Jr. was formed in Albany, New York, with the purpose of providing aid through the donation of various goods including clothing, food, and building materials to the city of Nijmegen. This city had been devastated in the fighting of World War II. Nijmegen, a Dutch city situated on the Waal River near the German border, with a population of roughly 100,000-120,000 at the end of the war, suffered some of the heaviest bombings of the war, and paid a terrible cost for

liberation, including over 2,000 citizen deaths, over 3,500 homes destroyed or damaged, and over 400 streets ruined.

The “Albany Helps Nijmegen” committee, also known as the “Albany Adopts Nijmegen” committee, encouraged residents of the Albany area to donate a variety of items to rehabilitate the battered city of Nijmegen. To encourage donations, the committee emphasized the similarities between the two cities in their advertisements, including the similar terrain and population sizes of the two cities, the historical tie of some of Albany’s founders coming from Nijmegen, and the involvement of the 82nd Airborne Division, which included many soldiers from the Albany area in the fight for the liberation of Nijmegen.

This collection includes the correspondence between the chairman of the Albany committee, John D. Hatch, Jr. and Dutch politicians including the Mayor and the Burgomaster of Nijmegen. The collection also contains an itinerant program for the visit of the Albany committee to Nijmegen, photographs and postcards showing views of Nijmegen, and various newspaper clippings from both American and Dutch newspapers containing advertisements and articles referencing the Albany Helps Nijmegen committee.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection is organized in three folders containing cards and notes; photographs, and newspapers. The main subjects in these documents are the city of Nijmegen, and the relief effort of the Albany Helps Nijmegen Committee, mostly in the form of descriptions of the materials wanted for donation, and some details about the state of the city of Nijmegen.

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## Contents List

The following section contains a listing of the materials in the collection.

<b>Description</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Cards & Notes, 1947-1948	1	1
Photographs, 1947-1948		2
News Clippings, 1947-1948		3