

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

A Guide to the Albany Helps Nijmegen Committee Collection

Collection Summary

Collection Title: Albany Helps Nijmegen Committee Collection

Call Number: MG 238

Creator: Albany Helps Nijmegen Committee

Inclusive Dates: March 25, 1947. March 29, 1947. April 18, 1947. October 3, 1947. September 23, 1948.

Bulk Dates: March, 1947- September 1948.

Abstract: This collection contains correspondences, photographs, and newspaper clippings from both Albany and the Netherlands relating to the “Albany Helps Nijmegen” campaign of 1947.

Quantity: 11 letters/ related documents, 32 photographs/ postcards, 10 newspaper clippings

Administrative Information

Custodial History:

Preferred Citation: Albany Helps Nijmegen Committee Collection, MG 238. Albany Institute of History & Art Library, New York.

Acquisition Information:

Accession #:

Accession Date:

Processing Information:

Processed by Conor Lynch; completed on November 4, 2014.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access: N/A

Restrictions on Use: Permission to publish material must be obtained in writing prior to publication from the Chief Librarian & Archivist, Albany Institute of History & Art, 125 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12210.

Index Term

Persons

Hatch, John Davis, Jr.

Piper, Robert M.

Byrne, William T.

Wilhelmina, Helena Pauline Maria, 31 August, 1880- 28 November, 1962

Organizations

Royal Dutch Airlines

The Knickerbocker News

The Times Union

U.S. Eighty-second Airborne Division

The Hague

Ten Eyeck Hotel

Valkhof United Business Complex

University of Oregon

Albany Hardware & Iron Co.

Albany Public Market, Inc.

Bond Clothes

Cotrell & Leonard

Empire Super Markets

Fabian Theaters

Flah & Co.

Hamele's

Honigsbaum's

McManus & Riley

Miracle Food Market

John G. Myers Co., Inc.

Harry Simmons Co., Inc.

Warner Bros. Theaters

W.M. Whitney & Co.

Subjects

World War II. Aid. Relief. Correspondence. Letter. Letters. Photograph. Photographs.

Newspaper. Newspapers. Albany. Nijmegen. Campaign. 1947. Clothing. Food. Adoption.

Places

Albany, New York.

Nijmegen, Netherlands.

Eugene, Oregon.

Document Types

Letters. Photographs. Newspapers.

Titles

N/A

Biography/History of

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, which 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: 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.

Scope and Contents of the Records/Papers/Collection

The materials in this collection consist of eleven letters and related documents, 32 photographs and postcards, and ten newspaper clippings. 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.

Organization of the Records/Papers/Collection

This collection is organized in three folders. The first folder contains cards (Letters) and notes, the second: photographs, and the third: newspapers.

Related Material

N/A

Separated Materials

N/A

Other Finding Aids

N/A

Detailed Description of the Records/Papers/Collection

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

Series: MG 238. **Series Title:** Albany Helps Nijmegen Committee Collection

Box #	Folder #	Item #. Title / Description
1	1	Albany Helps Nijmegen Committee Collection Cards & Notes
1	2	Albany Helps Nijmegen Committee Collection Photographs
1	3	Albany Helps Nijmegen Committee Collection News Clippings