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William W. Bell papers16069585

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 14, 2025.
Description is written in: English.

Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary

3041 Broadway

New York, NY 10027

Telephone: (212) 851-5606

burke@library.columbia.edu

URL: <https://library.columbia.edu/locations/burke.html>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary
Creator:	Bell, William, 1860-
Title:	William W. Bell papers
ID:	16069585
Date [inclusive]:	1941 -- 1945
Physical Description:	0.25 linear feet 0.25 linear feet; 1 box
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	This collection contains reports and newsletters created or compiled by Reverend William W. Bell, a Methodist missionary working in India and Burma, and relating to his work with British prisoner of war camps during WWII through the YMCA.

Preferred Citation

Item description, William W. Bell papers, circa 1941-1945, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

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Biographical / Historical

William W. Bell was a Methodist missionary for 42 years in India and Burma, where he lived with his wife and children. During World War II, Bell worked in British prisoner of war camps with prisoners from Axis countries, under the auspices of the World's Committee of the Y.M.C.A., which was part of the National Council of the Y.M.C.A.s in India, Burma, and Ceylon.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains reports and newsletters created or compiled by Reverend William W. Bell, a Methodist missionary working in India and Burma, and relating to his work with British prisoner of war camps during WWII through the YMCA. Reports are typed and detail Bell's efforts to introduce creative activities to prisoners of war from Axis countries in order to "prevent boredom;" some notes of thanks from prisoners of war are also included. Newsletters include the "Y.M.C.A. War Prisoners' Aid Commentator," "War Prisoners Aid Reporter," and "Y.M.C.A. War Prisoners Aid News."

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged in one series in chronological order.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Access

The following boxes are located offsite: Box 1. Please note that requests for use of boxes held in offsite storage must be made three business days in advance.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

This collection was purchased and received in the spring of 2022, accession GEN-2022-005.

Processing Information

Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. The finding aid was created by Leah Edelman in 2022.

Conditions Governing Use

Some material in this collection may be protected by copyright and other rights. Information concerning copyright, fair use, and reproduction requests can be consulted at Columbia's Copyright Advisory Office.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Missions -- India
- Methodist Church -- Missions
- Young Men's Christian associations
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Prisoners and prisons

Burke Library record group:

General collections

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Collection Inventory

William W. Bell papers, 1941 -- 1945

Physical Description: 0.25 linear feet 0.25 linear feet; 1 box

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is arranged in chronological order.

Scope and Contents

This series contains reports and newsletters created or compiled by Reverend William W. Bell, a Methodist missionary working in India and Burma, and relating to his work with British prisoner of war camps during WWII through the YMCA. Reports are typed and detail Bell's efforts to introduce creative activities to prisoners of war from Axis countries in order to "prevent boredom;" some notes of thanks from prisoners of war are also included. Newsletters include the "Y.M.C.A. War Prisoners' Aid Commentator," "War Prisoners Aid Reporter," and "Y.M.C.A. War Prisoners Aid News."

Title/Description	Instances	
Reports, 1941 -- 1945	box 1	folder 1
Newsletters, 1942 -- 1945	box 1	folder 2

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