

Harold A. Budke World War II photograph album of India

Ms. Coll. 1155

Finding aid prepared by Clémence Scouten.

Last updated on February 02, 2018.

University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

2015 November 24

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Summary Information

Repository	University of Pennsylvania: Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts
Creator	Budke, Harold A., 1914-1997
Title	Harold A. Budke World War II photograph album of India
Call number	Ms. Coll. 1155
Date [inclusive]	1945-1946
Extent	0.33 linear feet (1 box)
Language	English
Abstract	Captain Harold A. Budke was a medic in the United States Army, posted in Calcutta from 1945 to 1946. The photographs in his album document his experiences from his trip to Calcutta, to his service with the United States Army Dispensary, to his day-to-day experiences in the city, and to his work preparing the U.S.S. <i>Marine Panther</i> to transport GI's and patients from India in early 1946.

Cite as:

Harold A. Budke World War II photograph album of India, 1945-1946, Ms. Coll. 1155, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, University of Pennsylvania

Biography/History

Captain Harold A. Budke was a medic in the United States Army, posted in Calcutta from 1945 to 1946. Harold A. Budke was born on April 2, 1914, in St. Louis, Missouri, and died on January 25, 1997. He graduated from the Washington Center, School of Medicine in Missouri in 1940; married Lillian V. Mallen, a nurse who graduated from St. Mary's School of Nursing in Missouri in 1940; and worked as a physician in Kansas City, Missouri, from at least 1952 to 1960.

Evidence in the photograph album indicates that Budke traveled to India aboard the U.S.S. *General A.W. Greely*, from April to May, 1945. Upon arriving in India, it appears that Budke was stationed in Calcutta where he was the officer-in-charge of the U.S. Army Dispensary. He also appears to have been in charge of embarking patients on the USS *Marine Panther* which left Calcutta on January 26, 1946. It is unclear if Budke traveled on the USS *Marine Panther* or was simply in charge of preparing it for departure.

Scope and Contents

This collection is composed of one volume of photos and ephemera taken in India in 1945 and 1946 by Captain Harold A. Budke, a doctor in the United States Army. The photos primarily chronicle Captain Budke's time in Calcutta. About half the album represents his leisure time, including photographs of himself, travel to places like Darjeeling, the Himalayas, a hunting trip, and sailing expeditions. The album also includes photographs of life in Calcutta and some photographs of military activity. In addition to photographs, the album contains newspaper clippings, a few copies of "Salt" the daily publication of the USS *General A.W. Greely*, invitations to parties, as well as various badges and correspondence. Some loose photos, indicating that Captain Budke likely went to Egypt, Italy and France and some paper money from China, Japan and India were removed from the album and placed in folders.

The Calcutta street scenes Captain Budke assembled are remarkable for their clear presentation, along with his detailed captions, of some of the customs and the extreme poverty present in Calcutta and other areas he visited. Of particular interest may be the images of sacrificing animals; funeral pyres; the process of collecting, drying and distributing cow patties for fuel; and amusements like a very primitive Ferris wheel and merry-go-round. There are also photographs of locals in specific jobs such as street sweepers and rickshaw drivers. In addition, there are photographs of bazaars, markets, and shopping areas; methods of transportation; and restaurants. As a doctor, Captain Budke was also able to identify certain diseases in passers-by which are present in his photographs, such as a beggar with elephantiasis and a child with a "favus" infection. In contrast, Budke also documents the leisure side of Calcutta, including photographs of the Royal Calcutta Race Track. Researchers will also find newspaper clippings regarding mobs and riots in Calcutta, probably in late 1945, although none of the articles are dated.

Captain Budke also documented his work in the military. There are photographs of the United States Central Dispensary and the School of Tropical Medicine. There are several photographs of the freighter U.S.S. *Albert K. Smiley* unloading "Lewisite" bombs into the Bay of Bengal in November, 1945. These bombs were removed from Kancharapara, "the largest ammunition depot in the world." Numerous photographs document GI's embarking on the USS *Marine Panther*; with a focus on patient transportation, its hospital ward, the operating room and sick bay, and hospital corpsmen. Some of the military personnel identified by name in the album include Lt. Willis, Lt. Michaelson, Major Junkermann, Major Vernon Irby and Capt. Wieder. There is also a group photograph of African-American soldiers, signed by everyone in the picture.

Administrative Information

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Access Restrictions

This collection is open for research use.

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Source of Acquisition

Purchased, 2008.

Controlled Access Headings

CORPORATE NAME(S)

- General A. W. Greely (Transport ship).
- United States. Army. Medical Corps.

FORM/GENRE(S)

- Memorabilia
- Photograph albums

- Photographs

GEOGRAPHIC NAME(S)

- India--Photographs
- India--Social life and customs

SUBJECT(S)

- Medicine, Military
- Voyages and travels
- World War, 1939-1945--India

Collection Inventory

	Box	Folder
Harold A. Budke photograph album, 1945-1946.	1	1
Photographs of Egypt, France, and Italy, circa 1945-1946.	1	2
Paper money (Chinese, Indian, and Japanese), circa 1945-1946.	1	2