

Guide to the Angelo Spinelli Papers

MS 1632



compiled by Carol King and Randall D. Law

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 1632

CREATOR: Spinelli, Angelo, 1917-

TITLE: Angelo Spinelli papers

DATES: 1943-1989

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.25 linear feet (1 box, 1 folio)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers consist of written reminiscences by Angelo Spinelli and printed material relating to Spinelli and his photographs. Of note is an issue of a prisoner of war newsletter entitled "The Pow Wow" dated June 25, 1943.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1632>

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.1632>.

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

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research. Copies of commercially produced audiovisual materials contained in this collection cannot be made for researcher use outside of the repository.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

Angelo Spinelli Papers (MS 1632). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Angelo M. Spinelli was born in 1917 in the Bronx. During World War II, Spinelli was a combat photographer in the U.S. Army Signal Corps. He took part in the invasion of North Africa on November 8, 1942, and was captured by the Germans on February 14, 1943, near the Fiad Pass. Soon after his arrival at Stalag IIIB near Fustenberg on the Oder, Spinelli obtained a camera and tripod from a German guard in exchange for cigarettes. In his twenty months at Stalag IIIB, Spinelli continued to trade cigarettes for rolls of film and took over 1200 photographs of life within the prison camp. The 300 negatives that turned out to be usable portray the daily life of the "Kriegies," American P.O.W. slang for the German word for prisoner of war.

Nine months after his capture, Spinelli was awarded in absentia the Legion of Merit for reconnaissance work which he had performed. Spinelli was freed by the Russians in May 1945 from Stalag IIIA near Berlin where he spent the last seven months of the war.

In 1946, Spinelli wrote a booklet, in collaboration with Colonel C. Ross Greening, entitled *The Yankee Kriegies*. Spinelli's photographs have appeared in many books, such as *Prisoners of World War II*, and have been exhibited throughout the United States.

After the war, Spinelli was a jewel merchant in Yonkers for 38 years. He retired to Hallandale, Florida, in January 1989.

The papers were the gift of Angelo Spinelli in 1992

Scope and Contents

The Angelo Spinelli Papers consist of materials documenting his life and, in particular, his experience as an American P.O.W. during World War II. Printed materials of the collection include a genealogy of the Spinelli family (in Italian) and Spinelli's written reminiscences. The majority of the collection pertains to Spinelli's photographs taken inside Stalag IIIB during the war. The collection includes 148 exhibit photographs and a videotape of various television programs which have used Spinelli's photos. The collection also includes copies of several newspaper and magazine articles about Spinelli's photographs. The folio folder of the collection includes a copy of a newsletter written by American P.O.W.s at Stalag IIIB in 1943.

Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	Genealogy of the Spinelli family (in Italian) 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.	1953, undated
b. 1, f. 2	"Incredible Photographs of a Kriegie," <i>The Stars and Stripes</i>	1989 October 2
b. 1, f. 3	"Lensman's Secret Focus on World War II" English	1989 Fall-Winter
b. 1, f. 4	Photographs of mounted prisoner of war photographs: Series A-B 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.	undated
b. 1, f. 5	Photographs of mounted prisoner of war photographs: Series C-D 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.	undated
b. 1, f. 6	Reminiscences 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.	undated
b. 1, f. 7	"The Secret Camera of Angelo Spinelli," <i>Soldiers</i> English	1989 April
b. 1, f. 8	Televised videotape of prisoner of war photographs [commercially produced]	1988
b. 2	Newspaper articles	1990 July 8, September 6
b. 2	"The Pow Wow" English	1943 June 25

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

Prisoners of War -- Germany
Prisoners of War -- United States
World War, 1939-1945 -- Prisoners and prisons,
German

Names

Spinelli, Angelo, 1917-