

Collection #  
SC 3514

**RICHARD C. DATZMAN  
DIARY TRANSCRIPT, 1942–1943**

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Processed by

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## COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION: 1 manuscript folder

COLLECTION  
DATES: 1942–1943

PROVENANCE: Donated by Richard C. Datzman

RESTRICTIONS: None

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RELATED  
HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION  
NUMBER: 1993.0178

NOTES:

## BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL SKETCH

Dr. Richard Carroll Datzman was born on 11 December 1921 in Fort Wayne, Indiana, to Margaret Hirzel and Basil Gregory Datzman. He moved with his family to Bolivar, Benton County, Indiana, at age 18 before attending medical school at Indiana University in Bloomington.

Datzman married Mariuth Howard on 23 August 1944. He then graduated from the Indiana University School of Medicine in December 1944 with a medical degree in Radiology. He enlisted as a flight surgeon with the United States Army Air Corps from 1945 until 1947. After his service, he cofounded a radiology business in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and started the first hospice team at Parkview Hospital.

Datzman moved from Indiana to New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1979. He died on 9 May 2008 and is buried in the Sacred Heart Cemetery in Fowler, Indiana.

In the years leading up to United States entry into World War II, the Indiana University system began developing courses and programs to prepare students for possible conflict. IU Bloomington maintained a strong ROTC program, requiring fit male students be involved in two years of military training and offering older students military commissions after completing advanced training. By 1938, the school had created the Medical Administrative Corps comprising students aged 18 to 45 enrolled in the medical and dental schools. The Corps was dedicated to training students for military roles as medics, surgeons, and dentists. The IU Medical Center in Indianapolis also increased research on improving methods of treating wounds and curing infections, with a focus on training students in case of shortages of professional nurses.

After the United States entered the war, IU switched to using a three semester academic plan to increase graduation rates with two- to three-year graduation programs rather than the traditional four. The school also increased its focus on military training, providing training spaces for both army and navy programs including Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Services (WAVES) and the U.S Coast Guard Women's Reserve (SPARS).

Sources:

Ancestry.com

Materials in Collection

"IU and World War II." Indiana University Archives. Accessed October 5, 2018.  
<http://collections.libraries.indiana.edu/iubarchives/exhibits/show/iu-and-world-war-ii>

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of a typed transcript of two sections of a diary belonging to Richard C. Datzman. The first section contains all of the diary entries for the year 1942 while Richard was a medical student at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. The second section contains all of the diary entries for the year 1943 from January until July while he was at the Indiana School of Medicine in Indianapolis, Indiana. The transcript was created by Mary Fran Lebamoff Peterman in May 1992.

The diary contains daily entries that describe a variety of content. The majority of the entries center on Richard's life at school and his work in the medical program, with information focusing on his teachers and classmates, classes and research, and his grades. He also describes pop culture like songs, movies, and celebrities; school sporting events and scores; leisure activities with his family and friends.

In addition to his personal life, Richard also notes current events relating to World War II's European, North African, and Pacific theatres as well as home front developments in the United States. He primarily discusses topics such as military movements, casualties, major political speeches, and the impacts of rationing back home.

Some of the major military campaigns he references include the Philippine Islands, the East Indies, the Aleutian Islands, Guadalcanal, Northern Solomons, New Guinea, India-Burma, Egypt-Libya, Algeria-French Morocco, Tunisia, Sicily, the European Air Offensive, and German and Russian campaigns around Stalingrad.

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