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Conscientious Objectors World War II papers, 1940-1946. MS0061

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Congregational Library & Archives

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Summary Information

Repository:	Congregational Library & Archives
Creator:	Palmer, Albert
Creator:	Schmalz, Alfred
Source:	Congregational Christian Committee on Conscientious Objectors
Title:	Conscientious Objectors World War II papers, 1940-1946.
ID:	MS0061
Date [inclusive]:	1940-1946
Physical Description:	1.61 Cubic Feet (3 cases)
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	Application forms; Albert W. Palmer papers; Alfred Schmalz papers; publications.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Congregational Christian Churches, Conscientious Objectors World War II Papers, 1940-1946, MS0061. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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Biographical / Historical

In 1940 The United States congress passed the Selective Training and Service Act, establishing the first peace time draft in the country's history. This act allowed for conscientious objectors (C.O.s) to be exempt from combat service, but it required other contributions from these individuals. Those who objected to the practice of fighting could serve as non-combatant military personnel, but those who felt that war was too objectionable to support in even an ancillary role were required to serve in civilian public service camps (C.P.S.). Unlike non-combatants these individuals received no salaries and were required to provide funds for their own upkeep. Originally these camps were run by the National Service Board for Religious

Objectors (N.S.B.R.O), a combined effort of the three historic peace churches. By 1943 the draft had expanded and the government began to operate its own CPS camps. Accounts of the government run "Germfask" camp are contained in the collection. If an objector could not supply the costs for his own upkeep he would rely on the aid of his church. Although the Congregational Church was not considered one of the historical peace churches it did officially recognize conscientious objection as a religious right and sought to support its objectors. Substantial portions of this collection are financial correspondence requesting donations, and collated financial records.

Many public figures and individuals felt or fostered resentment towards objectors. This is evidenced within the collection in letters requesting aid being returned by pastor's who disagree with rights of the objectors. Equally many who might have disagreed wrote in expressing their support of the C.O.s rights, expressing the complicated relationship of 20th century society to this phenomenon. Conditions in the camps were not always good, and some of this collection documents the feelings of isolation, fear and neglect that some of the C.O.s felt.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains the papers of Albert Palmer and Alfred Schmalz, both at one time the director of the Congregational Christian Committee for Conscientious Objectors. Their papers include a wide variety of correspondence, as well as some documentation of their activities. Their correspondants include C.O.s and those who wished to obtain C.O. status as well other pastors and donors or potential donors to the C.O. cause. Their records of their activities include substantial records of Congregational C.O.s as well as financial statements detailing the costs incurred by C.O. maintenance. In addition to their records the collection contains a set of contemporary publications on the topic of conscientious objection, including pamphlets, newsletters and reports. Finally the collection contains a significant number of conscientious objector application slips.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged into four series, The Albert Palmer papers, the Alfred Schmalz Papers, Publications on Conscientious Objection, and Conscientious Objector Applications. The Palmer and Schmalz papers are both arranged semi chronologically. Folders in both had no original file system so their contents have been partially described. Within folders files are arranged semi chronologically and semi topically, the original order of the creators has been

maintained. Publications are arranged semi chronologically. Application slips are arranged alphabetically by applicant.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Processing Information

Processed by Sarah Childs Gagnon, adapted for Archives space by Abelard Newell (Simmons Intern)

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Controlled Access Headings

- World War, 1939-1945 -- Personal narratives, American.
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Religious aspects.
- Associations, institutions, etc.
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Conscientious objectors -- United States.
- Congregational Christian Committee on Conscientious Objectors

Collection Inventory

Dr. Albert W. Palmer's papers as Chairman of the Congregational Christian Committee on Conscientious Objectors., 1941-1945

Title/Description	Instances	
<p>Correspondence regarding C.O.s and C.O. applications, 1941-1943</p> <p><u>Processing Information:</u> Processing Information</p> <p>P1 of folder divided into 3</p>	box 1	folder 1
<p>Correspondence regarding C.O.s and C.O. applications, 1941-1942</p> <p><u>Processing Information:</u> Processing Information</p> <p>P2 of folder divided into 3</p>	box 1	folder 2
<p>Correspondence regarding C.O.s and C.O. applications, 1942-1943</p> <p><u>Processing Information:</u> Processing Information</p>	box 1	folder 3
<p>Correspondence regarding C.O.s and CPS camps, 1943-1944</p> <p><u>Processing Information:</u> Processing Information</p> <p>P1 of folder divided into 2</p>	box 1	folder 4
<p>Correspondence regarding C.O.s and CPS camps, includes C.O. questionnaires, 1941-1944</p> <p><u>Processing Information:</u> Processing Information</p> <p>P2 of a folder split into 2</p>	box 1	folder 5
<p>Correspondence regarding C.O.s, C.O. applications and CPS camps, 1941-1942</p> <p><u>Processing Information:</u> Processing Information</p> <p>P 1 of a folder divided into 2</p>	box 1	folder 6
<p>Correspondence regarding C.O.s, C.O. applications and CPS camps, 1942-1943</p> <p><u>Processing Information:</u> Processing Information</p> <p>P2 of a folder divided into 2</p>	box 1	folder 7
<p>Personal correspondence with C.O.s, 1941</p>	box 1	folder 8

Correspondence regarding contributions(folder 1 of 2), 1944	box 1	folder 9
Correspondence regarding C.O.s, contributions, assignment slips, 1944	box 1	folder 10
Correspondence regarding C.O.s, completed CPS questionnaires, lists of C.O.s, 1941-1944	box 1	folder 11
Assignment slips, lists of C.O.s, 1943	box 1	folder 12
Correspondence on C.O.s with lists of C.O.s, 1942-1943	box 1	folder 13
Correspondence regarding contributions(folder 2 of 2), 1944	box 1	folder 14
Correspondence regarding contributions, non-contributions, financial statements, C.O. lists, 1943-1944	box 1	folder 15
Reports on CPS camps conditions, 1944	box 1	folder 16
Correspondence regardings C.O. demobilization, 1944-1945	box 1	folder 17
Resolution to General Council, correspondence regarding C.O.s, C.O. lists, 1941-1944	box 1	folder 18
Memorandum presented to Congregational Christian Committee on Conscientious Objectors, 1945	box 1	folder 19

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Reverend Alfred Schmalz's papers as Chairman of the Congregational Christian Committee on Conscientious Objectors, 1944-1946

Title/Description	Instances	
Albert Palmer correspondence, 1944	box 1	folder 20
Correspondence regarding CPS camps, finances, reimbursing peace churches, 1945	box 1	folder 21
<u>Processing Information:</u> Processing Information P1 of a folder split into 2		
Correspondence regarding CPS camps, finances, reimbursing peace churches, 1944-1945	box 1	folder 22
<u>Processing Information:</u> Processing Information P2 of a folder split into 2		
Correspondence regarding dependency, finances, and demobilization, 1944-1945	box 1	folder 23

Correspondence, lists of C.O.s annotated, confidential dependency status questionnaires., 1944-1946	box 1	folder 24
<u>Processing Information:</u> Processing Information		
P1 of a folder split into 2		
Correspondence, lists of C.O.s annotated, confidential dependency status questionnaires., 1945-1946	box 1	folder 25
<u>Processing Information:</u> Processing Information		
P2 of a folder split into 2		
Correspondence regarding Boutwell case, 1944-1946	box 1	folder 26
Correspondence regarding C.Os, financial statements, committee minutes, 1944-1946	box 1	folder 27
Correspondence regarding dependency funds, finances, 1945-1946	box 1	folder 28
<u>Processing Information:</u> Processing Information		
Correspondence regarding dependency funds, finances, 1945	box 1	folder 29
<u>Processing Information:</u> Processing Information		
P2 of a folder split into 2		
Correspondence regarding dependency and dependency forms, 1946	box 1	folder 30
Correspondence regarding finances, 1946	box 1	folder 31
Correspondence regarding C.O.s, funding, with C.O.s, 1944-1945	box 1	folder 32
Correspondence regarding funding, 1946	box 1	folder 33
Correspondence with ministers opposed to conscientious objection funding, 1945	box 1	folder 34
Correspondence regarding cooperating local committees, 1945	box 1	folder 35
Correspondence regarding demobilization, 1946	box 1	folder 36
Agendas, minutes, disbursements, Congregational Christian Council for Conscientious Objectors, Executive Committee for War Victims and Reconstruction, 1941-1946	box 1	folder 37
Resolutions and correspondence to General Council, 1944-1946	box 1	folder 38

Correspondence and reports on amnesty, 1945-1946	box 1	folder 39
Germfask newsletter and correspondence, 1945-1946	box 1	folder 40
Message of Governor Earl Warren of California vetoing bill prohibiting employment of conscientious objectors in state agencies, c1946	box 1	folder 41
Connecticut C.O. lists and correspondence regarding Connecticut C.O., 1944-1945	box 1	folder 42

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Publications, 1940-1946

Title/Description	Instances	
Issues of The Reporter, 1944-1946	box 1	folder 43
National Committee on Conscientious Objectors (ACLU) newsletter, 1944-1946	box 1	folder 44
Amnesty Bulletin , 1946	box 1	folder 45
Issues of Information (publication of Friends' Civilian Public Service), 1944-1946	box 1	folder 46
Issues of Germfask newsletter, 1945-1946	box 1	folder 47
Publications of the Congregational Christian Committee on Conscientious Objectors and the Congregational Christian Committee for War Victims and Services, c1942-46	box 1	folder 48
Unsorted conscientious objection publications(folder 1 of 4), c1942-1946	box 2	folder 1
<u>Processing Information:</u> Processing Information		
Unsorted conscientious objection publications(folder 2 of 4), c1942-1946	box 2	folder 2
<u>Processing Information:</u> Processing Information		
P2 of a folder split into 2		
Unsorted conscientious objection publications(folder 3 of 4), c1942-1946	box 2	folder 3
<u>Processing Information:</u> Processing Information		
P1 of a folder split into 2		
Unsorted conscientious objection publications(folder 4 of 4), c1942-1946	box 2	folder 4

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Conscientious objector application forms, 1940-1943

Title/Description	Instances	
Bundle 1, 1940	box 3	folder 1
Bundle 2, 1940-1943	box 3	folder 2

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