



**INVENTORY TO  
THE MILLER J. TONKEL PAPERS, 1939-1997**

**Purdue University Libraries  
Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections  
Research Center  
504 West State Street  
West Lafayette, Indiana 47907-2058  
(765) 494-2839**

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Revised by: Trevor Burrows, February 8, 2017  
Processed by: Shauna Borger, 2009

## Descriptive Summary

<b>Creator Information</b>	Tonkel, Miller J., 1919-2003
<b>Title</b>	Miller J. Tonkel papers
<b>Collection Identifier</b>	MSA 15
<b>Date Span</b>	1939-1997, predominant dates 1939-1942
<b>Abstract</b>	Photographs, certificates, and artifacts documenting Miller J. Tonkel's time at Purdue University in the early 1940s.
<b>Extent</b>	0.75 cubic feet (1 manuscript box, 1 medium flat box, 1 OS photograph)
<b>Finding Aid Author</b>	Shauna Borger, 2009
<b>Languages</b>	English
<b>Repository</b>	Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center, Purdue University Libraries

## Administrative Information

<b>Location Information:</b>	ASC
<b>Access Restrictions:</b>	Collection is open for research.
<b>Preferred Citation:</b>	MSA 15, Miller J. Tonkel papers, Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries
<b>Copyright Notice:</b>	Purdue University
<b>Related Materials Information:</b>	MSR 3, Purdue University Slide Rules Collection, 1889-1962 Collection on the Ross Civil Engineering Camp, 1920s-1950s

## Subjects and Genres

### Persons

Tonkel, Miller J., 1919-2003

### Topics

Purdue University—Alumni and alumnae

Purdue Boilermakers (Football team)

Purdue University. Civil Engineering

### Form and Genre Types

Certificates

Letters (correspondence)

Photographs

Photograph albums

Slide rules

### Occupations

Civil engineers

## Biography of Miller J. Tonkel, 1919-2003

Miller J. Tonkel was born August 14, 1919 in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He attended Purdue University from 1938 to 1942. While at Purdue, he was a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Tonkel graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. Tonkel was commissioned into the Corps of Coast and Geodetic Survey in 1943. Tonkel's postgraduate education included special oceanographic studies at the University of Washington, graduation from the Armed Forces Staff College and the Federal Executive Institute at Charlottesville, Virginia, and participation in the Brookings Institutions' Advanced Study Program Conference for Federal Science Executives. In the United States military, Captain Tonkel served with hydrographic and oceanographic operations in waters off the North American continent and in the North Pacific, including the first systematized oceanographic survey of the north central Pacific and underwater atomic tests in the Pacific. Tonkel also held commands in the Gulf of Mexico, Pacific, and Alaskan areas. During World War II, Tonkel served as Regimental Survey Officer with the 11th Marine Artillery, 1st Marine Division in Okinawa, Tientsin, China, and Guam from 1945 to 1947. Awards for his service included the Bronze Star, the Department of Commerce Bronze Medal, the Society of American Military Engineers KARO Award, and the Victory Medal. Tonkel retired from the military on February 27, 1977 after more than 34 years of service. Miller J. Tonkel died on July 16, 2003 in Anderson, South Carolina.

### Source(s):

*"Profiles in Time-C&GS Biographies, Captain Miller J. Tonkel."* NOAA History. NOAA Corps Bulletin, February 1, 1977. Retrieved on August 3, 2009 from <http://www.history.noaa.gov/cgsbios/biot6.html>

## **Collection Description**

### **Scope**

The Miller J. Tonkel papers (1939-1997, 0.75 cubic feet) document Miller Tonkel's time at Purdue University as a student in Civil Engineering. Negatives and photographs show Purdue University football games and area buildings and landmarks. Papers include certificates from the Purdue Alumni Association celebrating Tonkel's graduation anniversaries, as well as a leather-bound commencement program from 1942. Artifacts in the collection include a slide rule and a photograph album, the latter of which documents campus events and student life, area scenery, and Tonkel's friends and family circa 1940.

### **Descriptive Rules**

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

### **Processing Information**

Whenever possible, original order of the materials has been retained. All materials have been housed in acid-free photographic sleeves, acid-free folders, and acid-free boxes. Artifacts have been housed in a separate acid-free box for preservation purposes.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

### **Miller J. Tonkel papers, 1939-1997**

0.75 cubic feet

#### **Box 1**                    *Photographs, certificates, and miscellaneous papers*

##### Folder

1. Purdue Exponent, May 20, 1939
2. Negatives and photographs, 1940-1942  
Photographs from Miller J. Tonkel's time at Purdue. Includes images of Purdue football games, area landmarks, and portraits of Tonkel.
3. Leather-bound commencement program, 1942
4. Certificates and correspondence from Purdue Alumni Association, 1972-1997

#### **Box 2**                    *Photograph album and slide rule*

##### Item

1. Photograph album, 1940-1942  
Subjects represented include football and baseball, Ross Camp, travels throughout Indiana including Vevay and Switzerland County, campus events during 1940, and campus buildings and landmarks.
2. Slide rule in embossed leather case, c. 1940s

#### **OS 1**

##### Item

1. Oversized class photograph from Ross Camp, 1939