



MG 689 – D.T. Willis fonds

Dates: 1929-1944 (inclusive).

Extent: 20 cm of textual records, 13 photographs, memorabilia; some oversize.

Biography: Douglas Theodore Willis was born in Dauphin, Manitoba, in 1911. The family moved to Saskatchewan, where he attended high school in Prince Albert, graduating in 1929. That same year he began studies at the University of Saskatchewan, graduating in 1934 with a B.Sc Engineering (Civil). In 1938 he married Helen Swain, whom he had met while both were USask students. Douglas joined the army as an officer in the Royal Canadian Engineers, serving from 1942-1946. His professional career took him to Manitoba, Ontario, Atlantic Canada and British Columbia; and beginning in 1964, he served as a United Nations Technical Expert (UNTAB) on various international assignments, including Kuwait, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, and Cyprus. Helen died in 1981, and Douglas returned to Canada in 1982. He died in 1986.

Scope and content: This fonds contains material relating to Doug Willis' student days at the University of Saskatchewan, notably as an athlete; and material relating to his military career.

Arrangement: It has been organized into three series:

1. University of Saskatchewan – Athletics
2. University of Saskatchewan – Engineering
3. Military Service.

Restrictions: There are no restrictions on access.

Donated to the University Archives by Dr. MA Susan (Willis) Marles.

This guide brings together accessions 2021-022 and 2022-047.

Guide prepared by C. Avery, 24 June 2022.

Series 1: University of Saskatchewan – Athletics.

1. Photographs. - 1929-1934. - 2 folders.

Folder 1:

Unnumbered: Image of swimming team [or water polo team]; bottom left corner torn off.
Example of damage to photograph collection, resulting in donor discarding several images.

W-100: Engineering [Swimming] Team [possibly water polo]. – 1929-1930.

Group photograph in mat frame/folder; individuals include C. Logan; L. Chater, R. Walsh, D. Willis, ? Stoeman; M. Jacoby, ? Donald; S. Young; J. Molard; M. McAdam.

Folder 2:

W-107: Engineering Swimming Team [possibly water polo]. – 1930-1931.

Individuals identified, with some later annotations: Gordon Tallman; Murray Matheson; [Abbie] Olson; Pete Gouin; Micky McAdam; Jack Mollard; Doug Willis; Ralph Walsh; Les Chater.

W-109: University Swimming Team. – 1931-1932.

Group photograph (Thams Studio). Individuals identified by first names: Bill, Les, Mur, "Gravy," Freddie, Steve, Bob, Bill, Gavin, Joe [Griffiths], Len, Larry, "Wheezer," Doug, Bob Barr.

W-110: University Water Polo Team. – 1931-1932.

Group photograph (Thams Studio). Individuals identified by last name: McAdam, Young, Willis, Chater, Walsh, Wilson, Garvie.

W-112: University Swimming Team. – 1932-1933.

Group photograph with some team members in the pool; Joe Griffiths is in the centre (seated). Individuals identified by first names: Les, Bill, Clarence, Hugh, Pete, Baron, Doug, JAL, Al, Dave, Steve, Joe, Les, Johnny.

W-113: University Basketball Team. – 1932-1933.

Group photograph (Thams Studio); team in Huskies sweat suits. Individuals identified: Dave Kirkbride; Al Davies; Doug Willis; G. Wyness; Chi. Edwards; H. Urquhart; Frank Kells; Peter Graham; Murray Matheson; Jow Willburn (manager); Colb McEwan (coach). One individual is unidentified.

W-115: University Wrestling Team. - [ca. 1933-1934].

Group photograph taken in the gym. Doug Willis is 4th from left, middle row. [See also 1934 Greystone].

W-116: Engineering Basketball Team. – 1931-1932.

Group photograph (Thams Studio). Doug Willis is 3rd from left.

See also Photograph B-622: University of Saskatchewan Rugby Team. – 1932.

Panoramic image taken on campus (Gibson Photos). Individuals identified: C. Cook; R. Frey; S. Lande; C. Garvie; J. Missler; J. Nordal; L. Sharpe; B. Wylie; A. Silver; J. Tomecko; D. Willis; J. Logan; R. Hegan; G. Orchard; K. Moor; M. Standt; D. Campbell; F. Kells; A. Davies; P. Graham; K. Laberge; H. Dempster; J. Dewey; R. Lee; R. Silver; R. Philips; H. Hunter.



2. Memorabilia. – 1934.

University of Saskatchewan “Major Athletic Award,” presented to Doug T. Willis. Activities listed on the award include: Rugby, 1932-33, 1933-34; Swimming, 1930-31, 1931-32, 1932-33, 1933-34 (Championship); Basketball, 1931-32, 1932-33, 1933-34; Wrestling, 1932-33, 1933-34. Individual metal shields on wooden plaque.

Series 2: University of Saskatchewan – Engineering.

1. Certificate. – 1934. – see O/S Q7

“The Ritual of the Calling of an Engineer,” [earning the Iron Ring].

2. Photographs. – 1934.

W-117: Graduation photograph, Civil Engineering.

Individual portraits, together with a photograph of the Broadway bridge and College of Engineering crest.

Individuals identified: J. Missler, KW Wilsinson, DS Kirkbride, JA Logan, VA Dallin, KC Graham, GA Silver, DT Willis, PL Graham, HM Lawson, DA Forbes, AE Adlam.

3. Memorabilia. – 1934. – See box 2

Mug, individualized for each graduate; made by the Ceramics Department for the Engineering Society. This mug has been personalized with “D.T.” as a graduate of 1934.

Series 3: Military Service.

1. Certificates. – 1942, 1945. – 2 folders.

Folder 1:

George VI. – 8 August 1942. – see O/S Q-7

Appointment of DT Willis as an Officer of the Canadian Army.

Folder 2:

Certificate of Military Qualification, 7 November 1942;

Certificate of Service, and retirement from Canadian Army (Active), 3 December 1945.

2. Photographs. – nd, 1942.

Unnumbered: Portrait in dress uniform. – see O/S Q7

Ashley & Crippen photographers; in 17x 13” presentation folder.

W-102: CETC – Officer’s Training Course. – 19 August 1942.

Group photograph, Petawawa, ON.

Individuals identified: DT Willis; Geo Grase; Don McGugan; Fred Woods; Larry Kingston; Ron Peck; Bob Wilson; ? Kline; Bob Gundy; Chas DeWolfe; ? Dufton; Eric Sorensen; Jim Alexander; Wilf Shulman; Bill Brown; Chas Blakeman; Cog Coughlin; Geo H?; ? Marcray; Tom Clarke; ? Archambault; G. Baug; Jack Leitch; D. Piers; Bill Chilman; Alex Millen; L. Tenis; Pete Freler; Cliff Denn; Andre McDean; Capt Dusty Miller; Bob Eddy; Geo Warner; ? McCloskey.

W-118: CTAA Platoon #1 – Officer’s Training Course. – May 1942.

Group photograph; Brockville. Willis is first on right, middle row.

3. Record of Service. – 1941-1944.

Including promotions, courses attended, service, medical classification, hospitalization, protective inoculations, and vaccinations.