

Collection Summary

ID Number: MSS 253

Title: Raymond Frederick Diekmann Chrysler Wartime Collection

Extent: 2 Boxes

Span Dates: 1940s

Language: English

Geographic Location: Indiana

Abstract: The Raymond Frederick Diekmann Chrysler Wartime Collection consists of photographs and other items about the Chrysler plant in Evansville, Indiana, mostly dealing with its role in producing ordnance for World War II from 1942 to 1945.

Historical Notes: Diekmann (1913-1993) was the owner of Rajo's gun shop, but earlier oversaw plant security at the Chrysler plant/the Evansville Ordnance plant. The Chrysler plant was located at 1625 North Garvin Street in Evansville, Indiana. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the Army Ordnance Department asked Chrysler if the Evansville plant could produce vast amounts of .45 automatic ammunition to supply the war effort. Chrysler President Kaufman Keller replied that they could. Keller's confidence in the Evansville plant's abilities paid off. Between 1942 and 1944, the Evansville Ordnance Plant produced more than 3.26 billion cartridges – about 96% of all the .45 automatic ammunition produced for all the armed forces. In addition to the ammunition, the Evansville Ordnance Plant rebuilt 1,600 Sherman tanks and 4,000 military trucks. Plymouth car production resumed after World War II. However, the Evansville plant was not finished with military contracts. In the early 1950s, during the Korean War, the plant retooled and dedicated about a third of its space and manpower to building 60-foot aluminum hulls for UF-1 Grumman Albatross air-sea rescue planes for the Navy and Coast Guard. The plant closed in 1959. **Sources:** [Raymond Frederick Diekmann](#)

Selected Search Terms

Keywords: Military History, Local History, World War II

Administrative Information

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Photographs [001-050]	1942-1945	Box 1, Folder 1	RL 3027
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