

Exhibit

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to do and didn't complain."

June Kissock, one of the memorabilia collectors, remembers that sense of togetherness, too. "You were a part of the war even as a child. The four freedoms (freedom of speech, freedom from fear, freedom of want, and freedom from hunger) were in every classroom."

People stateside contributed to the war effort, but the main players were the troops overseas. One local hero featured in the exhibit made his contribution in Italy.

Bruce Frye, an Army captain who served in Italy from 1944 to 1945, received a purple heart and three bronze stars for his service. He and his family moved to Fort Collins in 1952, and he lived here until his death in September 1993.

His daughter Jennifer Campbell recalls his vivid memories of the war and how he often cried when he retold them. One memory was of his company camping outside an Italian village to rest. His men became agitated and went into town, while Frye stayed behind. Every man that went into the village that night was killed.

"It was just a miracle he came home alive." She said her father was a wonderful man, loved and admired by his men and his fam-

ily. "He will always be my hero."

Another local WWII veteran who contributed to the exhibit is Ret. Col. Althea Williams. She moved to Fort Collins in 1932, and graduated from Fort Collins High School in 1938. A member of the Army Nurse Corps for 28 years, she served in WWII, Korea and Vietnam. She has received numerous medals, making her the most decorated woman in Fort Collins.

One of her most vivid memories about WWII is the comradery she developed with her corps. "The main thing that stands out is that my brothers, boyfriends, everybody, served. You went and didn't get out until the end," she said. "You didn't know how long you would serve, so you developed an esprit de corps." She said she made lasting friendships, and still talks to some of them today.

The exhibit shows a time when life was simpler than it is now. The 1940s were a time of both tradition and change, a time when everyone had soldiers to Sunday dinner and when women first left the home to join the workforce. Perhaps Rita Ralph, program chair for Friends of Gustafson Gallery said it best, "In those days it was clear who our enemies were."