

**S0084 Irwin, Virginia (1908-1980),
Collection, 1934-1963
1000+ Index Cards**

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

The annotated index cards, from the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* Reference Library, cover articles published by or about Virginia Irwin from 1934-1963. Most of the cards document her feature articles for the "Everyday" section of the *Post* and range from national political conventions to the annual get-together of the hoboes of America. In 1944 she was accredited as a war correspondent to cover the European front. Her biggest newspaper coup came in April 1945 when she was one of three Americans to enter Berlin ahead of the American Military Forces and was able to send back eyewitness accounts of the siege.

Virginia Irwin was born June 29, 1908 in Quincy, Illinois. She joined the *Post-Dispatch* in 1932 as a file clerk in the reference department but within a year was made food editor. In 1934 she became a feature writer. When the newspaper refused to send her to Europe as a war correspondent, she took a year's leave of absence to go to England to do public relations work for the American Red Cross. Shortly before D-Day in 1944, the *Post-Dispatch* accredited her as a war correspondent and Irwin covered the allied war effort in England, France, Germany, Belgium and Holland.

On April 27, 1945, she and fellow correspondent Andrew Tully of the Boston *Traveller* persuaded their army jeep driver to take them to Berlin. Both wrote eyewitness accounts of their entrance into Berlin before it fell to the Russians. The Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force discredited them for making the unauthorized trip and ordered their return to the United States. Later they were reaccredited and cited for meritorious service. On her return from war time service--which she recounted in a series of memoirs dubbed "from D-Day to Bidet". Irwin was assigned to the *Post-Dispatch's* New York bureau. She returned to St. Louis in 1960 as a writer for the "Everyday" section and retired in 1963 to Webb City, Missouri. She died August 19, 1980.

INDEX

Irwin, Virginia
St. Louis Post-Dispatch
Tully, Andrew
Women--Authors
World War II