

## The Military-

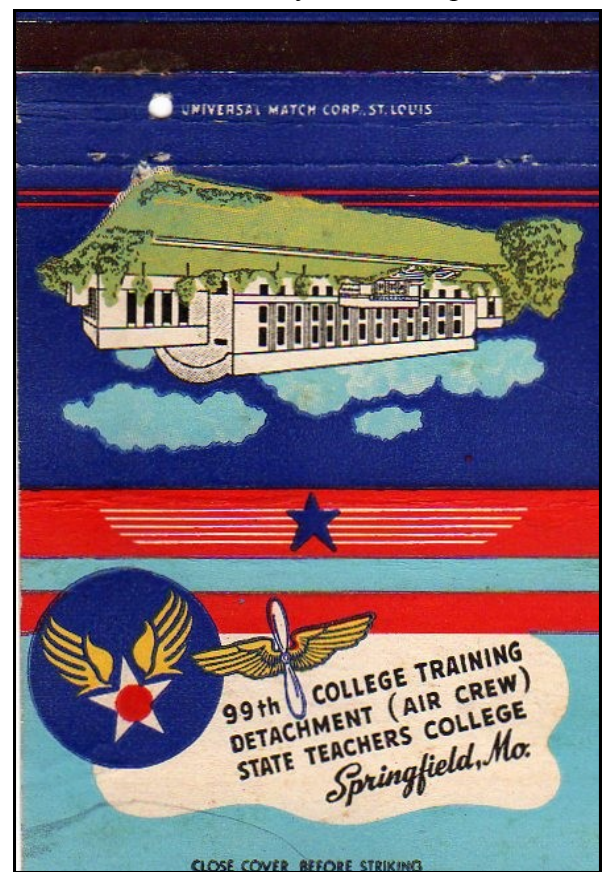
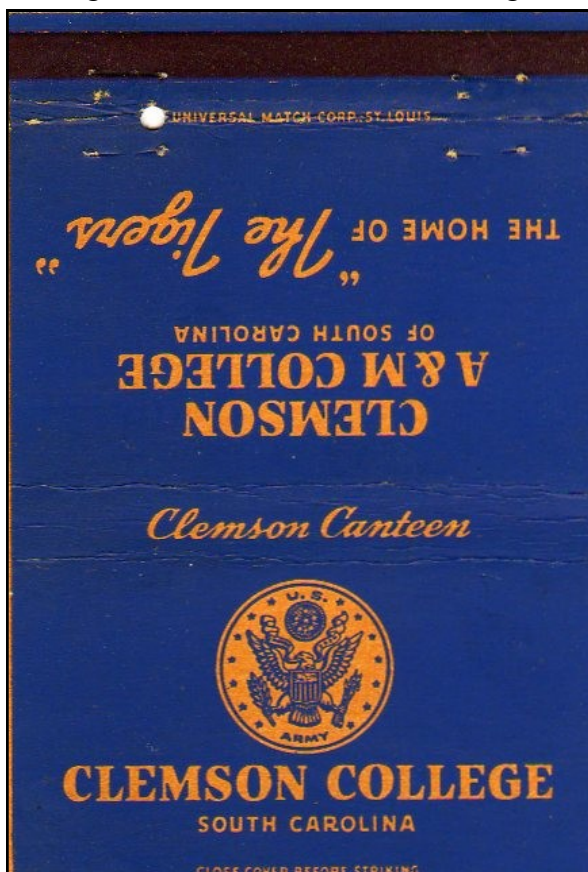
Isn't it a sad commentary on the state of our values and our society in general that, where once the military were welcomed on college campuses, the military is now shunned? (although it's nowhere near as bad as it was in the 1960s). In the space of a few short years, the military went from being seen as heroes to war criminals. That's a whole 'nother discussion, but...

Our World War II era Military matchcovers show us a different society--a society where the military was respected, and patriotism was not just a peculiarity of the elderly. But, that's always been one of the attractions of matchcovers--they show history: bygone eras and bygone values...much to our appreciation...and dismay.

During World War II, there was a close relationship between the military and the nation's colleges and universities, both working as a team to meet the needs of the national crisis. The military not only needed their swelling numbers of personnel trained in various fields, but they also needed as many better-educated personnel as they could find. What better location for both than the country's college and university campuses?

Those campuses, on the other hand, were not yet the bastions of liberalism and seething discontent that they were later to become. Then, they worked hand-in-hand with the military. Of course, the Military represented the government, and the government was always a major source of grants and other funding for such higher institutions of learning. It would be a gross disservice to all concerned, however, to minimize the simple feelings of patriotism involved.

In light of recent wars--Vietnam, Afghanistan, etc--where much of the country has been split on



## Collegiate Connection!

being supportive, it's often more difficult for younger people to really understand that this wasn't the case in World War II. There were conscientious objectors and anti-war people, but when the United States was attacked by the Japanese on December 7th, 1941, the latter groups all but disappeared, and the country wasn't divided; it was united. Businesses put patriotic slogans on their matchbooks and displayed "Buy War Bonds" and such posters in their windows. The country came together in conservation and other domestic war time projects. Women flooded into the work force as the men went off to war. Rosie the Riveter was born, and Hollywood stars went off to join the service. They were different times.

There are currently 85 different listed Military covers that are College/University conjunctives, but that includes the issues from Military colleges such as Annapolis and West Point. Most are 20-strikes, but many of these covers are those wonderful old Universal 40-strikes, as pictured here. They weren't slick, as today's covers are, but they usually featured great art work--nostalgic scenes--patriotic slogans...different times.

Broken down by branches, I don't see any for the Marines; most are from the Army and Navy. Not surprising since they're the two largest service branches.

There aren't Fancies here, but there are at least a few sets from what I've seen, but, again, the attraction here is the art work and the history...which are considerable. Hopefully, in the years to come, I'll be lucky enough to come across more than the 85 I know of. Each one is a gem; each one is part of our heritage.

