BACKGROUND: The free-floating form subdivision –Personal narratives is used under names of events and wars for collective and individual eyewitness reports and/or autobiographical accounts of these events and wars. For instructions on assigning headings to diaries and journals, see C 1538. For instructions on assigning headings to personal correspondence, see C 1480.

1. General rule. Use the subdivision –Personal narratives under names of individual events or wars.

If the work being cataloged covers a particular event such as a battle which is part of a larger conflict, assign the heading for the specific event subdivided by –Personal narratives.

2. National or ethnic qualifier. When used under names of wars, battles, etc., qualify the subdivision –Personal narratives by a national or ethnic qualifier to bring out the nationality or ethnic background of the narrator(s) account(s), for example, World War, 1939-1945—Personal narratives, American. Omit the national or ethnic qualifier if it would cause redundancy within the heading. Example:

   651 #1 $a United States $x History $y Revolution, 1775-1783 $v Personal narratives.
   651 #1 $a United States $x History $y Revolution, 1775-1783 $v Personal narratives, British.

   [not 651 #1 $a United States $x History $y Revolution, 1775-1783 $v Personal narratives, American.]

Under names of events not associated with a war or military conflict, omit the national or ethnic qualifier.

3. Assignment of subject headings.

   a. Name heading for the person. For individual personal narratives, assign the name of the author of the work as a subject heading.

   Title: A Confederate girl: the diary of Carrie Berry, 1864
   600 11 $a Berry, Carrie, $d 1854-1921 $v Diaries.
   651 #1 $a United States $x History $y Civil War, 1861-1865 $v Personal narratives.

   b. [Classes of persons]. If an individual personal narrative contains at least 50% autobiographical information, treat it as a biography following the provisions of C 1330. If the work is an eyewitness report containing less than 50% autobiographical details, do not treat it as a biography.
3. Assignment of subject headings. (Continued)

c. [Other subject headings]. Assign other subject headings as appropriate to the work being cataloged.

4. Order of headings.

a. Narratives that include personal information about the author. If an individual personal narrative contains a significant amount of personal information regarding the author, assign the name of the author as the first subject heading.

   Title: A daughter’s gift of love : a Holocaust memoir.
   600 01 $a Birger, Trudi.
   650 #1 $a Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) $v Personal narratives.
   650 #1 $a Jews $v Biography.
   650 #1 $a Women $v Biography.

b. Narratives with little personal account about the author. If the narrative is essentially an eyewitness account of what happened with little personal information about the author, assign the name of the war or event as the first subject heading; assign the name of the author as an additional subject heading.

   Title: The year of the buzz bomb : a journal of London, 1944.
   651 #1 $a London (England) $x History $y Bombardment, 1944 $v Personal narratives, American.
   600 #1 $a [name of author] $v Diaries.
   650 #1 $a World War, 1939-1945 $England $z London.