

A GUIDE TO THE ALFRED D. BARKSDALE COLLECTION, 1918-1919 MS.0465

Alfred D. Barksdale collection
1918-1919

Title Statement

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Publication Statement

Publisher: Virginia Military Institute Archives

VMI Archives
Preston Library
Lexington, VA 24450
Business Number: 540-464-7516
archives@vmi.edu
URL: <http://www.vmi.edu/archives>

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2026-07-13 07:00:53 -0400.

Language Usage: Description is written in: Undetermined, Code for undetermined script script.

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MS.0465

Unit ID

/repositories/3/resources/545

Unit Date

1918-1919

Language

English

Creator

Barksdale, Alfred D. (Alfred Dickinson), 1892-1972

Extent

8 items

Physical Location

Manuscripts stacks

Repository

Virginia Military Institute Archives

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

There are no restrictions

Preferred Citation

Alfred D. Barksdale collection, 1918-1919. MS 0465. VMI Archives, Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Virginia.

Biographical / Historical

Alfred Dickinson Barksdale was born in 1892 in Halifax, Virginia to Judge William Randolph Barksdale and Hallie Craddock. He graduated from VMI in 1911 and received a law degree from the University of Virginia in 1915. He practiced law in Lynchburg, Virginia, and in 1938 was appointed Judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit. In 1940 he became Judge of the United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia, retiring in 1957. Barksdale died in 1971 in Lynchburg.

Scope and Contents

The collection (eight items) documents the World War I United States Army career of Alfred D. Barksdale (VMI Class of 1911). A member of Company L, First Virginia Infantry, National Guard, Barksdale was called to active duty during the World War I. From 1917 to 1919 he served in France with M Company, 116th Infantry, 29th Division. This collection includes a letter (dated August 20, 1918) from Barksdale to his sister, written shortly after his arrival in France. He comments on the visit of General John J. Pershing to his regimental headquarters and other activities. Also included are three snapshots of Barksdale (circa 1918) and items relating to the award of the Croix de Guerre.

Keywords

Virginia Military Institute—Alumni—Biography
Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1911
World War, 1914-1918—Personal narratives
United States. Army—American Expeditionary Forces
United States. -- Army. -- Infantry Regiment, 116th
Military records
World War, 1914-1918
Correspondence
Pershing, John J. (John Joseph), 1860-1948

Online Access

A portion of this collection is available online

Description of Subordinate Components

Photographs, Alfred D. Barksdale

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5089

Unit Date circa 1918

Language English

Extent 3 items

Scope and Contents

Contains three black and white photographic prints. Two photographic prints are of Alfred D. Barksdale in uniform. One photographic print is of Alfred D. Barksdale who is wearing a white jump suit and crossing his arms. "MEXICO" in all capital letters is written below the photograph.

Keywords

Photographs

Letter to Fannie Poindexter Vaughan (Barksdale)**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/5082**Unit Date** 1918 August 20**Language** English**Creator** Barksdale, Alfred D. (Alfred Dickinson), 1892-1972**Scope and Contents**

This letter was written shortly after Barksdale's arrival in France. The letter regards the visit of General John J. Pershing to Alfred D. Barksdale's regimental headquarters and other activities.

Keywords

Correspondence

World War, 1914-1918—Personal narratives

Pershing, John J. (John Joseph), 1860-1948

Transcription

August 20, 1918

Dearest Fan, I am feeling very fine today – for two reasons. The first is that I am going back to command my company right away. When I got back from school last week I was transferred and assigned as personnel and statistical officer of our regiment. It is a pretty nice job but I didn't join this army to push a pen. Our old Colonel was ordered back to the rear last week and our Lt. Col. Is in command, so I asked him today if I couldn't go back to my company. He said he had already decided to send me back- that I was too good a man to waste in an officer. Maybe I didn't feel fine. The second reason is that no less a personage than Gen. Pershing was here this morning and after looking us over he told our Gen. & Lt. Col. That he wished to congratulate our regiment and brigade. The Lt. Col. Was tickled to death. He is fine and I think he will soon be promoted to Col. The Commander in Chief is wonderful looking – a perfect soldier. Anyone could recognize him from his pictures. I wasn't over 30 feet from him. He did not come into my office. If he had I reckon I would have fainted. Can you imagine how it would feel to command a million and a half men. It nearly gets my angora to command 250. I got your letter among the very first mail I got on this side. I always prize our letters very much but they always make me ashamed of myself. If I was one tenth as good as you think I am, I would be a wonder. You must be having quite a time directing all the war work your family is doing. You can't imagine the way these people work over here. I mean the way the women do manual labor. They drive horses, handle them, plow, cut grain, thresh and do everything about a farm. Last night I went over to the next village to a concert given by our band. There are two very attractive girls over there. In fact I arranged the concert for them chiefly. We sat out in their "jardin" with most wonderful moonlight. The flowers were beautiful too.

Their house is only about 7 kilometers from the front line but they laughed at me when I asked them if they weren't scared. We are between the Vosges and the Jura mountains and the country is beautiful. I wrote Father that I could see the alps but the French girls say that the mountains south of us are the Jura and that the Alps can only be seen in unusually clear weather. I was awfully disappointed not to get a chance to see you and your gang before I left.

I was so close that it seemed a shame. I felt real funny walking the gang-plank that Saturday afternoon with all of you so close and so completely ignorant of my movements. Just after I got aboard, the ferry boat (the 4 o'clock C & O) that Charles and I had crossed on the preceding afternoon passed real close to us. Well I must close and go to work. With lots of love to you and your whole gang, I am, Your loving little brother, Dick

Envelope**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/5090**Unit Date** 1919**Language** English**Scope and Contents**

Envelope with "Barksdale, Alfred D. Captain 116th Inf. Croix de Guerre with Palm Citation sent to MIS" printed on it.

Keywords

Correspondence

Citation Certification

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5084

Unit Date 1919 April 19

Language French

Scope and Contents

Citation Certification is written in French and regards Alfred D. Barksdale's Croix de Guerre with palm.

Keywords

Correspondence

Military decorations

Barksdale, Alfred D. (Alfred Dickinson), 1892-1972

Citation Certification translation

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5085

Unit Date 1919 April 19

Language English

Scope and Contents

Translation of the French Citation Certification that regards Alfred D. Barksdale's Croix de Guerre with palm.

Keywords

Correspondence

Military decorations

Barksdale, Alfred D. (Alfred Dickinson), 1892-1972

Registered mail envelope

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5086

Unit Date July 1919

Language English

Scope and Contents

Registered mail envelope addressed to Mr. William R. Barksdale from Adjutant General's Office.

Keywords

Correspondence

Letter from Adjutant General P. C. Harris to William R. Barksdale

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5083

Unit Date 1919 July 2

Language English

Scope and Contents

Letter regards Alfred D. Barksdale's Croix de Guerre with palm. Includes carbon copy of letter.

Keywords

Correspondence

Military decorations

Barksdale, Alfred D. (Alfred Dickinson), 1892-1972

Letter from Adjutant General of the Army to Alfred D. Barksdale

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5087

Unit Date 1919 October 20

Language English

Scope and Contents

Regards Alfred D. Barksdale's Croix de Guerre with palm.

Keywords

Correspondence

Military decorations

Barksdale, Alfred D. (Alfred Dickinson), 1892-1972