

J. O. Humphreys Civil War diary transcriptionMS.0517

J. O. Humphreys Civil War diary transcription
1864 April-July

Title Statement

J. O. Humphreys Civil War diary transcriptionMS.0517

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 2025-04-09 17:51:23 -0400.

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

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MS.0517

Unit ID

/repositories/3/resources/774

Unit Date

1864 April-July

Language

English .

Creator

Humphreys, J. O.

Extent

1 items

Physical Location

The diary pages are physically located in the VMI Corps of Cadets Order Book dated January 1862 to May 1864.

Repository

Virginia Military Institute Archives

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

There are no restrictions

Conditions Governing Use

Manuscript collections in the VMI Archives are made available for educational and research use. The VMI Archives should be cited as the source. The user assumes all responsibility for identifying and satisfying any copyright holders. Materials from our collections may not be redistributed, published or reproduced without permission from the VMI Archives. Contact the VMI Archives for additional information.

Biographical / Historical

J. O. Humphreys served with the 1st Independent Ohio Infantry Regiment during the Civil War. He was mortally wounded at Petersburg, Virginia.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of a digital transcription of J. O. Humphreys' Civil War diary (April-July 1864). Private Humphreys was among the Union soldiers who briefly occupied Lexington, Virginia in June 1864, an event known locally as Hunter's Raid. The Union forces, led by General David Hunter, destroyed several VMI buildings, as well as much of the cadet library and laboratory equipment.

An unknown Union officer discovered the Order Book for the VMI Corps of Cadets, (containing administrative details of cadet life from January 17, 1862 to May 7, 1864) and it eventually came into Humphreys' possession. He used the empty pages in the back of the volume to record an account of his unit's activities and described the the events at VMI and Lexington in his entry on June 12.

Humphreys was subsequently mortally wounded at Petersburg, Virginia. Before he died, he gave the Order Book to his best friend, Private Harvey Rhodes. The book was cherished by Rhodes, who settled in Indiana after the War. When Rhodes died, the book was inherited by his son. The original Order Book, now including the diary, was returned to VMI in the 1970s, more than one hundred years after its disappearance.

Keywords

Virginia Military Institute—Civil War, 1861-1865

Hunter's Raid—Virginia—Lexington

Lexington (Va.)—History—Civil War, 1861-1865

Diaries

Shenandoah Valley Campaign, 1864 (May-August)—Personal narratives

United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865—Personal narratives—Union

Online Access

The transcription of this diary is available online.

Description of Subordinate Components

Civil War diary transcription

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5786

Unit Date 1864 April-July

Creator Humphreys, J. O.

Keywords

Diaries

Lexington (Va.)—History—Civil War, 1861-1865

Hunter's Raid—Virginia—Lexington

Shenandoah Valley Campaign, 1864 (May-August)—Personal narratives

United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865—Personal narratives—Union

Virginia Military Institute—Civil War, 1861-1865