

Northrup, J. G. Papers

J. G. Northrup Papers
1917-1919

Title Statement

Northrup, J. G. PapersGuide to the J. G. Northrup Papers SC 01030

Author: Finding Aid Authors: Steven Bookman, University Archives Specialist.

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

SC 01030

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/2242

Unit Date

1917-1919

Language

English

Creator

Northrup, J. G.

Extent

0.01 Linear Foot

Repository

Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access:

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J. G. Northrup Papers, Special Collections Research Center, Swem Library, College of William and Mary.

Biographical / Historical

Biographical Information

http://scdbwiki.swem.wm.edu/wiki/index.php/J._G._Northrup

Administrative History:

Biographical Information:

Further information about this individual or organization may be available in the Special Collections Research Center Wiki: http://scdbwiki.swem.wm.edu/wiki/index.php/J._G._Northrup.

Administrative History:

Private J. G. Northrup was from North Bergen, New Jersey. In his diary entry for July 13, 1918, he wrote that "just a year ago left the lithograph [sic] business went to work in aviation [sic] field". He registered for the draft in June 1917, enlisted in February 1918, and was sent to Camp Dix, NJ, for training. His unit was shipped from Baltimore in May 1918. At the end of his diary, his unit was near Bordeaux, France, presumably waiting to be shipped home.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of a small bound diary and ten photographs. The diary was kept by Private J. G. Northrup, mainly while he was deployed in France in Company B, 303rd Engineers, 78th Division, American Expeditionary Forces, from June 1918 through May 1919. Company B supported troops during major engagements in the Saint-Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne offensives. Diary entries are brief, mentioning routine duties and events, as well as military activities Northrup participated in or witnessed, such as movement around France, caring for horses, retrieving supplies, fixing roads and building a bridge while under fire, seeing engineers and soldiers go "over the top", air raids, air battles, artillery fire, gas attacks, gas sickness, casualties, and destruction. The diary appears to have been written sometime after the actual events. For example, the entry for October 6, 1918, includes the following: "In going for water I met with an accident with the horse which I thought[t] would put him out for good but in a few weeks he became OK." The photographs are of unidentified people and places, but presumably most are of Private Northrup.

Related Materials:

<http://guides.swem.wm.edu/content.php?pid=251270> for the Armed Conflicts & the Military in the Special

Keywords

Diaries

Photographs

France--Description and travel--20th century

United States. Army. Corps of Engineers

World War, 1914-1918--France

Description of Subordinate Components

Diary and Photographs

Unit ID id262409

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/197815

Unit Date 1917-1919

Mixed Materials Small Collections Box 69 (Box)

Container 1 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Diary entries mention routine duties and events, as well as military activities Northrup participated in or witnessed, such as movement around France, caring for horses, retrieving supplies, fixing roads and building a bridge while under fire, seeing engineers and soldiers go "over the top", air raids, air battles, artillery fire, gas attacks, gas sickness, casualties, and destruction. Routine observations often involve weather conditions, sending and receiving mail, getting pay, camp conditions, availability of food, presence of "cooties", hiking distances, towns passed through or visited while in camp, availability of baths and clean clothing, meeting his friend WB, inspections, movies, getting deloused, playing ball, and some police and guard duty after the armistice. Personal medical issues mentioned include sunburn, seeing a doctor about his foot, back pain, an attack of "gas sick", and a sore throat. Private Northrup went on leave in Grenoble in February 1919. 3½ x 5½ in., cloth-bound, with a strap for carrying, approximately 115 leaves. Diary entries occupy one side only of 57 leaves. There also are numerous blank leaves, 16 pages of names; addresses, and four pages of what appear to be place names, mostly in France.