

∞ The Ward M. Canaday Center ∞
for Special Collections
The University of Toledo

Finding Aid

➤ **Herbert M. White Papers, 1916-1974** ◀

MSS-096

Size: 1 linear foot

Provenance: The Herbert M. White Papers were donated to the University of Toledo Libraries in 1993 by his daughter, Virginia White Oram of Austin, Texas.

Access: open

Collection Summary: Collection consists of personal diaries, photographs, hand-drawn maps, and correspondence between White and his family during World War I. The collection provides an excellent account of the life of an American soldier serving on the Western Front during the first world war.

Subjects: [War, Soldiers, and Veterans](#)

Related Collections:

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Completed by: Jamie L. Wraight, September 1993; Addition by Kim Brownlee, August 2009; last updated: June 2014.

Introduction

**Herbert M. White
Papers, 1916-1974**

Herbert H. White of Youngstown, Ohio entered the United States Army in 1917. After a brief period of training at Camp Perry, Ohio he was sent to France as a Wagoner in Co. B. Ammunition Train. While there, he served as an ammunition truck driver, and took part in many well-known battles such as the Meuse-Argonne offensive of September 1918. When World War I ended in November 1918, White finished his tour of duty in Europe and returned to the United States in 1919. The collection consists of personal diaries, photographs, hand-drawn maps and correspondence between White and his family while he was in Europe. White's collection of papers presents an engineer's point-of-view into the war, and his letters and diaries provide a well-written account of what life was like for an American soldier serving on the Western Front during the First World War.

There are no restrictions on the use of, or access to, this collection.

Biographical Sketch

Herbert H. White was born in 1897 in Youngstown, Ohio. In the fall of 1916 White enrolled as a freshman at Case-Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. In May 1917, he entered the U.S Army as a volunteer and was assigned to Company B. Ammunition Train as an ammunition truck driver. It was in this capacity that he saw action in several important battles on the Western Front during the last year of World War I.

After the war, White returned to the United States and took up residence in Toledo, Ohio in 1924. Upon his return to civilian life, he became a bridge engineer for the Ohio Highway Department. In 1951 he was a member of an eight-man committee formed in order to protest plans to bring the Ohio Turnpike through Maumee, Perrysburg and the upriver estate section.

He was married and was the father of four children.

White died on April 1, 1974 in Toledo, Ohio.

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Scope and Content Note

The Herbert M. White papers consist of several different kinds of material, including correspondence, personal diaries, drawings and maps, photographs, personal artifacts, and miscellaneous items.

The correspondence consists of a large amount of correspondence between White and his family and covers the years 1918-1919. Also included in the correspondence is a copy of a letter from King George V welcoming American troops to France.

The personal diaries contained in the collection cover his year at Case-Western Reserve University (1917), his experience while fighting on the Western Front (1918), and his return to the U.S. (1919).

The collection also contains a drawing entitled "A Thrilling Episode" and a hand-drawn map of White's travels throughout France and Western Europe.

Included also are photographs taken at Case-Western Reserve University (1916), and his basic training at Camp Perry, Ohio (1917).

Some of the personal artifacts in the collection include White's dogtag and a medal from his service with the U.S. army.

In addition, miscellaneous items are comprised of his army discharge certificate, permission slips for leaves of absence, membership cards and instruction sheets to troops, etc.

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Folder List

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Series</u>	<u>Item Description</u>
1	1	Correspondence	Letters to Family Members (1918-1919)
1	2		Copy of Letter from "George R.I." (King George V), Windsor Castle, Apr. 1918
1	3	Diaries	Case -Western Reserve University, 1917
1	4		War Experience, 1918
1	5		Trip Home (Arrival in Toledo)
1	6	Legal Document	Discharge from U.S. Army, 1919
1	7	Maps	Western Front (Clipped from The Daily Mail, 1918)
1	8		Travels of H.M. White, 1918, and WWI maps (on CD)
1	9	Drawing	"A Thrilling Episode," n.d.
1	10	Printed Material	Leave of Absence Permission Slip, 1918
1	11		Permission Slip to Visit Dunkirk, France, 1918
1	12		"Instructions for Troops" (Brest, France), 1919
1	13		Membership Cards, 1972-1974
1	14		Instructions For Use of German Hand Grenades, n.d.
1	15	Photographs	1916-1917
1	16	Artifacts	"My Military Discharge" (cloth), n.d.
1	17		Dogtag, n.d.
1	18		Victory Medal (Ypres-Lys, Meuse-Argonne Defensive Sector), n.d.
1	19	Miscellaneous	Postcard With Mauser Automatic Bullet Holes, n.d.