

Gettysburg College
Musselman
Library
special collections

Guide to MS-232:
Edward A. Frederick Papers



Gettysburg College, Musselman Library
Special Collections and College Archives

Joy Zanghi, Class of 2021
September 2018

MS-232: Edward A. Frederick Papers

Processed by Joy Zanghi, Class of 2021
September 2018

Size

1 box, 0.33 cubic feet

Location

Special Collections

Dates

Inclusive: 1917-1919
Bulk: 1918

Provenance

Items in this collection were donated to Special Collections by Edward M. Frederick, son of Edward A. Frederick, in September 2018.

Biographical Note

Edward Arnold Frederick was born on August 19, 1892 in Baltimore, Maryland. Edward Frederick was the son of Frederick E. Frederick, and Anna A. Frederick. One of four children, Edward had two younger sisters, Edna L. Frederick and Leila H. Frederick, and one younger brother, Harry G. Frederick. Frederick served in the United States military from 1917-1919. He began his service as a private and he later trained with and served in Flight D 216 Aero Squadron in 1917 before becoming part of the 172nd Aero Squadron in 1918. He served overseas in WWI from July 6, 1918 until April 4, 1919. While overseas, Frederick spent time in the U.K and France with the 172nd Aero Squadron. At the time of his enlistment, Edward Frederick worked as an electrician in Baltimore. After World War I, Frederick worked as a proprietor in the battery service before working as a car mechanic later in his life. Edward A. Frederick married at the age of 30 to Anna Quinn, a native of Maryland. The two lived in Baltimore where they raised three children, Mary E. Frederick, Betty A. Frederick, and Edward M. Frederick. Edward A. Frederick died in Baltimore on October 25, 1956 at the age of 64. He was survived by and all three of his children and his wife, Anna, who died in 1961.

Historical Note

WWI served as a time of rapid and impressive development of the air service. The Aero Squadrons in WWI played an important role throughout England and France for the purposes of bombing, pursuit,

and surveillance¹. The rapid improvement of Aero Squadrons, training, and aircraft production during WWI later eventually led to the development of the modern United States Air Force. Despite his training, Frederick and the 172nd Aero Squadron were never a part of any major air operations while overseas.

Scope and Content Note

This collection is a small collection mostly comprised of postcards written by Edward A. Frederick to his family. The postcards follow Frederick from his training with the Aero Squadron in San Antonio Texas at Kelly Field to his service overseas in the UK and France. The collection also contains photographs, a newspaper clipping, and a ring and pins from the US Aero Squadron. Overall, the postcards and the collection as a whole do not provide much insight or detail about the life of a soldier during WWI.

Subjects

World War I

United States Aero Squadrons

Series Description

This collection is divided into three Series. **Series 1:** Postcards, **Series 2:** Photographs, **Series 3:** Artifacts.

Box List

Box 1

1-0 Finding aid, donor note, and transcripts

Series 1: Postcards

1-1 Postcards

- 18 postcards written by Edward A. Frederick to his family in Baltimore throughout 1918
- 1 souvenir postcard sent from Camp Meade, Maryland

Series 2: Photographs

1-2 Photographs

- 4"x6" Photograph – Edward Arnold Frederick (middle) – France – ca. 1918-1919
- 8"x10" Photograph – 172nd Football Team – Lt. Chas H. Thompson (Waynesboro, PA), Sgt. Maj. W. A. P. Miller, Sgt. Finck, Sgt. Gandnew, Sgt. Brigley (New York), Pt. R. Keyes (Alaska), Sgt. Gray (Oklahoma), Pt. G. Keyes (Alaska), Sgt. T. C. Bennet (Boston), Cpt. Crider, Cpt. McCal, Sgt. Biede (Ireland, Kentucky), Pt. Hotchkiss (Kansas), Cpt. Smith, Cpt.

¹ Bert Frandsen, "The Birth of American Airpower in World War I: Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the US Entry into the 'Great War'" *Air & Space Power Journal* 31no. 3 (2017): 60-73.

Higgins (Indiana), Sgt. Leslie (Indiana), Sgt. Martin (Arkansas), Pt. Gilneath – France – January 9, 1919

- Panoramic Photo – 216th Aero Service Squadron – Kelly Field, Texas – March 1918
- Panoramic Photo – 172nd Aero Squadron – Back from France
- 6 Undated 5"x3" Photographs
- 4 ½"x3 ½" Photograph – At Base Hospital 69 – Savenay, France – December 1, 1918

Series 3: Artifacts

1-3 Artifacts

- Baltimore Sun Clipping April 19, 1918
- WWI Victory Medal (in smaller box)
- 2 lapel pins/badges US & Aero Squadron (in smaller box)
- Aero Squadron Ring (sterling & enamel) (in smaller box)

Related Collections

MS-131: Bair-Kohler-Berger Family at 339 Carlisle Street

MS-103: Jes Jerry Jensen World War I Letters

MS-003: The Papers of Amos E. Taylor, Class of 1915

MS-155: The Lt. Francis M. Tompkins WWI Scrapbooks

MS-032: The Letters of the Toomey Family During WWI MS – 153 Fritz Draper Hurd Papers, Class of 1916

Contact Information

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