

Yale University Library
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Guide to the Collection of material relating to World War I

OSB MSS 173



by Jessica Tai and Leigh Golden

June 2019

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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CALL NUMBER: OSB MSS 173

TITLE: Collection of material relating to World War I

DATES: 1893-2004

BULK DATES: 1914–1918

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 20.75 linear feet (22 boxes) + 1 broadside

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY:

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.ww1>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.ww1>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Box 13 (born digital): Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Collection Contents

Series I: Diaries and sketchbooks, 1893-1978

11.33 linear feet (11 boxes) + 1 broadside

This series contains diaries as well as field message books, log books and sketchbooks. Material is primarily created by British service members during the war years while serving in Belgium, Egypt, France, Palestine, and other locations.

Material is arranged alphabetically by author's last name.

b. 1	Allen, (Sergeant) B. <i>Diary. Being the Record of Scenes and Events in connection with the Campaign of the 2/5th Battalion Durham Light Infantry in Macedonia, Bulgaria and Armenia</i>	1916 October 30-1919 October 18
b. 1	Anonymous diary. " <i>Diary of Great War sailor aboard HMS Vengeance</i> "	1914 August 3-1915 February 5
b. 1	Anonymous diary. " <i>Leo's Account of the 1914 War</i> "	1914 August-1915 February 26
b. 1	Barnes, (Sapper) John George. <i>Diary of Great War Soldier. Sapper John George Barnes, 2nd Division, 5th Brigade, 2nd signallers company</i> Includes Sapper Barnes' medals: Victory Medal (UK & Commonwealth), British War Medal and Order of the British Empire (MBE).	1917 November 3-1919 Jan 1
b. 1	Beatson, (Corporal) James Nichol. <i>Diary including the Second Battle of Ypres</i>	1915 February 25-December 7
b. 1	Body, (Major) Edward Upton. <i>Diary of Great War Soldier Major Edward Upton Body MC, 130th Battery XL R.F.A</i>	1917 February 20-1917 December 31
b. 1	Bruce, (Lieutenant) Ralph S. <i>Field Message book, D. Company, 7th Northumberland Fusiliers</i>	1918
b. 1	Budenteig, (Captain) C.J. <i>Field Message Book, 520th (London) Field Co Royal Engineers</i>	circa 1918
b. 1	Costobadie (Lieutenant) H.P. <i>Diary of the 1914 Campaign including the Retreat from Mons</i>	1914 August 14- November 4
b. 1	German Navy (Kaiserliche Marine). <i>U-boat Log Book. U-53 under the command of Kapitänleutnant Otto von Schrader</i> Kapitänleutnant Otto von Schrader commanded U-53, a Type U 51 ocean-going diesel-powered torpedo attack boat, from 18 Aug 1918 to 29 Nov 1918.	1918 September 1-November 6
b. 1	Gilbert, (Private) H.R. <i>Sketchbook. Palestine and Egypt</i>	1917-1919
b. 2	Gray, Arthur. <i>Diary in France, 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters</i>	1915 December 11 -1916 April 30
b. 2	Hargreaves, (Lieutenant) L.R. <i>Typed Diary of Great War Soldier. Lieutenant Hargreaves Irish Guards</i>	1915 February

b. 2	Henderson, (Sapper) Alfred. <i>Diaries</i> 3 Folders	1914-1919
b. 2	Hill, (Sergeant) Arthur. <i>Eleven diaries. First hand account of the Battle of Jutland</i> 7 Folders	1894 July-1916 September 12
b. 3	Hill, (Sergeant) Arthur. <i>Eleven diaries. First hand account of the Battle of Jutland</i> 4 Folders	1916 June 25 - 1918 May
b. 3	Howard (Private). <i>Diary including entries on the fall of Jerusalem</i>	1916
b. 3	Hutchinson, (Private) Walter. <i>Diary, including eyewitness account of the first day of the Battle of the Somme</i> Includes Private Hutchinson's Military Medal (MM), the decoration's ribbon, and two photographs of Hutchinson in uniform. Also included is a 9 carat gold half-hunter pocket watch, inscribed on the inside back with: " <i>The Great War, Presented to Walter Hutchinson by the Conisborough Heroes Committee in recognition of his winning the M.M., Oct 5, 1917.</i> "	1916 June 21-July 7
b. 3	Jefferies, (Gunner) Alfred. <i>Diary of Great War Soldier</i>	1915 August 11-1918 October 2
b. 3	Jefferies, (Gunner) Alfred. <i>Medals</i> Includes Gunner Jefferies' Victory Medal (UK & Commonwealth) and British War Medal.	circa 1919
b. 3	Meeks, (Private) Ernest. <i>Y.M.C.A. pocket New Testament bible</i>	1917 May
b. 3	Meeks, (Private) Ernest. <i>Diary fragment</i>	circa 1917-1919
b. 3	Meeks, (Private) Ernest. <i>Copy of extracts from 1916-1918 War diaries</i>	undated
b. 3	Meeks, (Private) Ernest. <i>Pocket Diary</i>	1917 January 8-1917 December 31
b. 3	Melmer, Walther. <i>German Diary</i>	circa 1914
b. 3	Merritt, J. <i>Field Message Book, 193 Siege Battery Royal Field Artillery</i>	1918 June 2-28
b. 4	Middlemas, Harry P. <i>Diary of Great War Wireless Operator</i>	1917 August-1918 December
b. 4	Moore, (Staff Sergeant) James <i>Diaries.</i>	1915-1918
b. 4	Nixon, (Private) S.J. <i>Diary of Great War Soldier Private S.J. Nixon of the 51st Notts and Derby Regiment</i>	1918 January 1- September 19
b. 4	Pease, Mary C. <i>Diary relating to Mary C. Pease (Voluntary Aid Detachment)</i>	1917 January 1-12
b. 4	Peto, (Sergeant) John. <i>Field Message Book. Army Book 152</i>	1915 May 9-1918 July 19
b. 4	Read, (Sergeant) H.S. <i>Field Message Book, 151 Company ASC (Army Service Corps), Regiment No. S4 / 064694</i>	1918 September 30

b. 17	Roberts, (Lance Corporal) Herbert papers <i>6 Folders</i>	1893-circa 1960s
b. 4	Rutherford, (Captain) Denis. <i>Field Message Book</i> , 18th Lancashire Fusiliers	1918 September 24-October 4
b. 4	Shields, (Private) Hugh J.S. <i>War Diary</i> Published diary of Hugh J.S. Shields, printed by J.C. and A.T. Sawtell, Yeovil Road, Sherborne.	1914 August 12-October 25
b. 4	Smith, (Captain) Sydney Philip papers Captain Sydney Philip Smith died on 6 April 1918 while flying a Sopwith Camel, North East of Villers Bretonneux. He was the 76th victim of Manfred Albrecht Freiherr von Richthofen (2 May 1892 – 21 April 1918), the Red Baron. Contains three volumes which include Captain Smith's flying log-books, correspondence to his parents, military papers, assorted wartime photographs and memorial documents, including a letter of condolence from Buckingham Palace.	circa 1910s-1934
b. 10	Todd, (Lieutenant) James Dowell. <i>Archive of manuscript material and ephemera</i> , 13th Battalion, Prince of Wales Own West Yorkshire Regiment Contains Lieutenant Todd's diaries, his regimental lapel badges with a medal for the Burma campaign, correspondence, numerous photographs, Lieutenant Todd's campaign medals (which include his Victory Medal and British War Medal, his swagger stick, a clipping of Todd's obituary and various other material.	
b. 4	Tooley, (Sergeant) Thomas Edward. <i>Pocket New Testament and Medals</i> <i>2 Folders</i> Includes Sergeant Tooley's medals: Victory Medal with Oak Leaf (UK & Commonwealth), British War Medal (in bronze), and 1914-15 Star.	1915, 1919
b. 4	Weissenborn, Hellmuth. <i>Sketchbook of the Eastern Front</i>	1917

Series II: Correspondence, 1910-2004*2.42 linear feet (3 boxes)*

Includes letters and postcards from various correspondents during and after the war years. Correspondents includes members of the British Army, Royal Navy, and other British government positions. Material related to the correspondents, such as photographs, clippings, and other material is included.

Material is arranged alphabetically by the author's last name, or by correspondence title.

b. 4	Campbell, (Major) A. <i>A Collection of papers, 2/3rd Scottish Horse</i>	1918
b. 5	Franks, (Lance Corporal) Leslie B. Includes a dog tag, hospital postcard, and other correspondence.	1916
b. 5	<i>Handwritten signals intercepted by wireless telegraphy</i> Contains transcription of signals intercepted between the Commander-in Chief of the Grand Fleet and the German High Seas Fleet (Hochseeflotte) Command, regarding the surrender of the latter.	1918 November 16
b. 5	HM Government. <i>Communiqués from the start of the Great War including German cavalry movement on the Belgian Frontier</i>	1914 August 11-September 3
b. 5	Letter Case, London Rifle Brigade, "L.R.B. France"	1914
b. 5	Propoganda Postcards	1914-1915
b. 5	Sanderson, (Captain) J.V. <i>Letter to his wife, Royal Field Artillery</i>	1916 March 21
b. 5	Short, (Lieutenant) Leslie. <i>Archive of letters written mainly from the front 4 Folders</i>	1915-1916
b. 5	Sproule, (Major) Harry Hutton, OC. <i>Nine letters to Mrs. Ashe in London from Western Front and Mesopotamia, "C" Squadron 4th Cavalry, Indian Army</i>	1915-1916
b. 5	Temperley, (Captain) C.E. <i>Thirty four letters to Mumpty</i>	1915 June-October
b. 5	Thornton, (Lieutenant) George. <i>Fifteen letters detailing Lt. Thornton's death, Guards 16th Heavy Brigade</i>	1918 May-1919 January
b. 5	Tooley, (Sergeant) Thomas Edward. <i>Letter to the BBC</i>	1963 July 14

Series III: Scrapbooks and photographs, 1905-1925

8.42 linear feet (8 boxes)

Material in this series includes scrapbooks, photographs, postcard collections and autograph albums. Content includes photographs of servicepeople, aerial photographs, and signatures from British Colonels, Captains, Privates, and Sergeants.

Material is arranged alphabetically by album creator or title.

b. 5	[Anonymous]. <i>A Great War Autograph Book</i>	circa 1914-1918
b. 14	Association of Former Members of the Bavarian Field Artillery No. 5. <i>Kriegsbilder</i> , photo album	1914-1915
b. 5	Autograph album. <i>Assembled by the crew of HMS Illustrious with an original drawing by William Heath Robinson</i>	1914-1918
b. 5	Autograph album. <i>First World War Commanders and 29 others</i> Signatures include Winston Churchill, Ernst Shackleton and various military commanders.	circa 1919
b. 6	Autograph album. <i>First World War Generals including Field Marshal The Earl Haig</i>	circa 1925
b. 6	<i>Fliegerbilder aus dem Krieg</i> , German photo-reconnaissance of the Somme region from various Flieger Abteilungen (Flier Detachments), photo album	1916
b. 6	" <i>Germans on the Western Front</i> ", photograph collection	circa 1916-1918
b. 20	Harvey, (Captain) Henry. <i>Photo album of the Western Front</i> . Includes twelve photographs of various German aircraft, including an in situ photograph of the wreckage of the Red Baron's (Manfred Albrecht Freiherr von Richthofen) last Fokker Dr.I triplane, serial number 425/17.	1917-1918
b. 6	Harvey, (Lieutenant) W.F.J., MC. DCM. <i>Personal Autograph Album of the WWI RFC Ace</i> .	1905-1920
b. 12	Jessel, (Colonel) Sir Herbert. <i>An Album of material relating to Colonel Sir Herbert Jessel</i> Includes typed and handwritten letters, photographs, invitations, military passes, memorial cards, newspaper cuttings and other material.	1914-1923
b. 6	Heaton, (Nurse) Annie. <i>A personalised autograph book, inscribed by 165 wounded allied soldiers with comments, poems, and sketches</i>	1914-1917
b. 6	Meeks, (Private) Ernest. <i>Postcard album</i> .	1917-1918
b. 6	Pease, Cyril. <i>Correspondence, photographs, drawings and ephemera relating to Ambulance Driver Cyril Pease (Red Cross and RNSA)</i>	1915-1919
b. 7	Ritch, A.H. <i>Photo postcard album from A H Ritch 54 Batt AIF to F. Bryant Queens R. W Surrey in remembrance of days spent in captivity in Erfurt, Germany</i>	circa 1914
b. 7	Tooley, (Sergeant) Thomas Edward. <i>Photograph and postcard collection</i>	circa 1916
b. 7	Wright, J.S. <i>Postcards and souvenir photographs of the great air raids on England</i> Contains postcards from J.S. Wright to his wife, as well as a booklet regarding the 1916 Zeppelin raids on Southern England.	1916

Series IV: Maps, publications, and other material, 1909-1956

4.67 linear feet (4 boxes) + 1 broadside

Material is arranged alphabetically by author or title.

b. 9	Allan, M.F. <i>Princess Mary Christmas 1914 Brass Gift Box</i> Includes a Christmas Card, unopened pipe tobacco and cigarettes, and a "Silver Bullet" pencil.	1914
b. 7	Fischer, (Generalmajor) Eberhard. <i>Lesen des Luftbildes</i>	1938
b. 22	The Sarajevo Trial documents and State Attorney's appeal against the verdict	1914
b. 22	Union Jack Club Calendar Includes an invitation to the twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Marriage of King George V and Queen Mary, July 6 1918. Signed by W.R. Inge, Sandhurst.	1919
b. 22	Zeppelin L 15 cloth fragment Commanded by Kapitänleutnant Joachim Breithaupt, Zeppelin L15 received a direct hit from the anti-aircraft gun at Purfleet, Essex on the 31st March 1916. Attacked again by Second Lieutenant Alfred de Bathe Brandon RFC, 19 RA Sqn (Hainault Farm), in a BE 2C, the air ship eventually became too heavy and crashed in the sea off Margate at 00.15 on 1 April 1916.	1916 March

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

War correspondents
World War, 1914-1918
World War, 1914-1918 -- Belgium
World War, 1914-1918 -- France
World War, 1914-1918 -- Personal narrative,
English

Occupations

Soldiers -- Great Britain -- 20th Century

Genres / Formats

Born digital
Photographs
Sketchbooks

Names

Doyle, Arthur Conan, 1859-1930
Fisher, John Arbuthnot Fisher, Baron, 1841-1920
Haig, Douglas Haig, Earl, 1861-1928
Hankey, Maurice Pascal Alers Hankey, Baron,
1877-1963
Kitchener, Horatio Herbert Kitchener, Earl,
1850-1916
Law, Andrew Bonar, 1858-1923