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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title: Roy Gilbert Conley Papers
Identifier: NMAH.AC.0851
Date: ca. 1914-1960.
Extent: 6 Cubic feet (2 boxes)
Creator: Conley, Roy Gilbert
Language: English
Summary: The collection documents the life of Seaman 2nd class Roy Conley, particularly his experiences during World War 1.

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition
The collection was donated to the Archives Center by Ms. Barbara Murray, Mr. Conley's grand niece.

Processing Information
Processed by Frank R. Jenkins (volunteer), April 30, 2004; supervised by Vanessa Broussard Simmons, archivist.

Preferred Citation

Restrictions on Access
Collection open for research on site by appointment. Unprotected photographs must be handled with gloves.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction
Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply.

Biographical Note
Roy Gilbert Conley was born in 1899. He lived most of his life in Detroit, Michigan. Conley served in the U.S. Navy from January, 1918 until September, 1919. After basic training at Camp Decatur in Great Lakes,
Illinois, he was assigned to a dirigible unit in Paimboeuf, France. He served again during World War II in Port Huron, Michigan as a member of the Coast Guard Reserve. Mr. Conley died in 1963.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists primarily of photographs documenting Conley’s experiences as a seaman in World War I. War images include battlefields, trenches, weaponry, and damage to villages and cities. Other photographs are of family members and pictures that Conley took later in life as he traveled throughout Europe and the United States as a tourist. Personal papers consist of identification information and a few military documents. There is also a scrapbook containing photographs collected during World War I, photographs of family members and images of the United States and Europe.

Series 1, Personal Papers, 1918-1945, includes documents relating to Conley’s World War I and World War II service and family photographs. There is a Naval Aviator's logbook which he used as a scrapbook and which contains photographs, postcards, newspaper clippings and other items accrued in France in World War I. A scrapbook containing photographs collected during World War I, photographs of family members, images of the United States and Europe and personal papers is also included among the materials.

Series 2, World War I, 1918-1919, consists of photographs of World War I battle scenes, including German bodies, a gas attack, tank warfare, artillery pieces and wrecked airplanes. Also included are photographs of the damage done to countryside and towns by aerial and artillery bombardment.

Series 3, Post World War I, 1919, undated, contains sightseeing and other photographs Conley collected after World War I. Scenes of Paris and other European locations, New York and Kentucky are included.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into three series.

Series 1: Personal Papers, 1918-1945
Series 2: World War I, 1918-1919
Series 3: Post World War I, 1919, undated

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:
  Seamen -- 1910-1920
  War -- World War I artillery
  War -- World War I soldiers
  War -- World War I trenches
  World War, 1914-1918
Types of Materials:
Photographs -- 1900-1950
Scrapbooks -- 1900-1950
### Container Listing

**Series 1: Personal Papers, 1918-1945**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 1</th>
<th>Military documents, undated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 2</td>
<td>Papers and photographs, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 3</td>
<td>Scrapbook, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 4</td>
<td>Photograph, undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Series 2: World War I, 1918-1919

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 2, Folder 1</th>
<th>Aerial photographs, undated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 2</td>
<td>Battle scenes, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 3</td>
<td>Bomb and artillery damage photographs, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 4</td>
<td>Personnel photographs, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 4</td>
<td>Photographs, World War I military personnel, undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### Series 3: Post World War I, 1919

| Box 2, Folder 5 | Ship photographs, undated |
| Box 2, Folder 6 | Sightseeing photographs, Europe, undated |
| Box 2, Folder 7 | Sightseeing photographs, Kentucky, undated |
| Box 2, Folder 8-9 | Sightseeing photographs, Kentucky (Lincoln), undated |
| Box 2, Folder 10 | Sightseeing photographs, miscellaneous, undated |
| Box 2, Folder 11 | Sightseeing photographs, New York, undated |
| Box 2, Folder 12 | Sightseeing photographs, Paris, France, undated |
| Box 2, Folder 13 | Sightseeing photographs, statues, undated |
| Box 2, Folder 14 | Sightseeing photographs, United States, undated |

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