



Smithsonian

*National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center*

## Guide to the Roy Gilbert Conley Papers

NMAH.AC.0851

Frank R. Jenkins

2004

Archives Center, National Museum of American History

P.O. Box 37012

Suite 1100, MRC 601

Washington, D.C. 20013-7012

[archivescenter@si.edu](mailto:archivescenter@si.edu)

<https://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
Arrangement.....	2
Biographical/Historical note.....	1
Scope and Contents note.....	2
Names and Subjects .....	2
Container Listing .....	3
Series 1: Personal Papers, 1918-1945.....	3
Series 2: World War I, 1918-1919.....	4
Series 3: Post World War I, 1919.....	5

---

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
<b>Title:</b>	Roy Gilbert Conley Papers
<b>Date:</b>	ca. 1914-1960.
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAH.AC.0851
<b>Creator:</b>	Conley, Roy Gilbert
<b>Extent:</b>	6 Cubic feet (2 boxes)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	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

Roy Gilbert Conley Papers, circa 1914-1960, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

### 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
- Soldiers -- World War, 1914-1918
- World War, 1914-1918
- World War, 1914-1918 -- Artillery
- World War, 1914-1918 -- trenches

Types of Materials:

- Photographs -- 1900-1950
- Scrapbooks -- 1900-1950

---

## Container Listing

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

Box 1, Folder 1      Military documents, undated

Box 1, Folder 2      Papers and photographs, undated

Box 1, Folder 3      Scrapbook, undated

Box 1, Folder 4      Photograph, undated

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

## Series 2: World War I, 1918-1919

Box 2, Folder 1	Aerial photographs, undated
Box 2, Folder 2	Battle scenes, undated
Box 2, Folder 3	Bomb and artillery damage photographs, undated
Box 2, Folder 4	Personnel photographs, undated
Box 2, Folder 4	Photographs, World War I military personnel, undated

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

## 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

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*