



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Meyer Later World War I Collection

NMAH.AC.1140

Eric Behm

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Meyer Later World War I Collection
Date:	1917-1919
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1140
Creator:	Later, Meyer, 1895-1984
Extent:	1 Cubic foot (3 boxes)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Collection consists of correspondence, photographs, and artifacts documenting Meyer Later, a World War I veteran who served with the United States Army in France between September, 1918 and April, 1919.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Collection donated by Stephanie Later, November, 2008.

Processing Information

Processed by Eric Behm, intern, March 2011; supervised by Vanessa Broussard-Simmons, archivist, 2011.

Preferred Citation

Meyer Later World War I Collection, 1917-1919, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Restrictions

The collection is open for research use.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Meyer Later was born on August 12, 1895, in Hartford, Connecticut. He grew up in a family of six brothers and three sisters and was known by family and friends as a charming and comical individual. He was educated in Hartford, Connecticut and was drafted into the United States Army in 1918 during World War I. He served between the fall of 1918 and the spring of 1919. During the war, Later was stationed in northern and eastern France including Dijon, Fromereville, and Buzancy. After the war, Later worked with his father

and six brothers at the Morris Packing Company, the family's meat packing business in Hartford. Later died in New York, New York in 1984.

Scope and Contents

Series 1, Personal Correspondence, 1917-1919, consists of Later's personal letters to his family, his brother Abe, and his brother-in-law Bob North dating from January, 1917 to April, 1919. Most of the letters detail his endeavors in areas of eastern France, including Dijon, Paris, and Buzancy. Also included is Later's discharge letter addressed from Commander-in-Chief John J. Pershing.

Series 2, Photographs, 1919, contains six photographs taken in various areas of France of Later and other soldiers. One photograph documents Later with other soldiers in Fromereville, France dated January 31, 1919. Another is a group photograph taken in Dijon, France dated May 8, 1919.

Series 3, United States Army Materials, 1918-1919, consists of the pay record book and an Army leave permit related to Later's service in the United States Army.

Series 4, Memorabilia, 1919, contains one silver dog tag with Later's first and last name and a seven digit serial number. Also included are four silk-embroidered handkerchiefs from Paris in 1919.

Arrangement

The collection is organized into four series.

Series 1, Personal Correspondence, 1918-1919

Series 2, Photographs, 1919

Series 3, United States Army Materials, 1918

Series 4, Memorabilia, 1917-1919

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements

Gloves must be worn when handling unprotected photographs and negatives.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Soldiers -- World War, 1914-1918
United States Army
World War, 1914-1918

Types of Materials:

Account books
Correspondence -- 1910-1920
Memorabilia -- 20th century
Photographs -- 1910-1920
Postards -- 1910-1920
Postcards -- 1900-1950

Names:

"Brother Al"
Later, Abe
North, Bob

Places:

Connecticut
France -- 1910-1920

Container Listing

Series 1: Personal Correspondence, 1917 January-1919 April

Box 1, Folder 1

[Image\(s\)](#)

[To Abe Later : letter,], April 30, 1919

2 Items (Ink on paper.; approx. 4-1/34" x 2-3/4".)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

Author: Later, Meyer, 1895-1984

Language: English.

Notes: AC1140-0000001a (AC Scan No.: p. 1)

AC1140-0000001b (AC Scan No.: p. 2)

Letter to brother Abe on two sheets of Y.M.C.A. stationery, from
Dijon, France.

Meyer Later World War I Memorabilia

Names: Later, Abe

United States. Army. American Expeditionary Forces

YMCA. National Council of the Young Men's Christian

Associations of the United States of America

Topic: World War, 1914-1918 -- Personal narratives, American

Place: Dijon (France)

Genre/Form: Correspondence -- 1910-1920

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Series 2: Photographs, circa 1919

Box 1, Folder 2
[Image\(s\)](#)

[\[Meyer Later : black-and-white photoprint\], \[1919.\]](#)

1 Item (Silver gelatin on paper.; approx. 2-3/4" x 1-3/4".)

Author: Later, Meyer, 1895-1984

Language: English.

Notes: AC1140-000002 (AC Scan No.)

Full-length photograph of Meyer Later in uniform.

Meyer Later World War I Memorabilia

Names: United States. Army. American Expeditionary Forces

Topic: Military uniforms

World War, 1914-1918 -- France

Place: Dijon (France)

Genre/Form: Photographs -- 1910-1920 -- Black-and-white photoprints --
Silver gelatin

[\[Self-portrait of Meyer Later : black-and-white photoprint\], \[1919.\]](#)

1 Item (Silver gelatin on paper.; approx. 1-3/4" x 1-5/8".)

Author: Later, Meyer, 1895-1984

Language: English.

Notes: AC1140-000003 (AC Scan No.)

Bust portrait of Meyer Later in uniform, sepia-toned.

Meyer Later World War I Memorabilia

Names: United States. Army. American Expeditionary Forces

Topic: Military uniforms

World War, 1914-1918 -- France

Place: Dijon (France)

Genre/Form: Toning (photography)
Photographs -- 1910-1920 -- Black-and-white photoprints --
Silver gelatin

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Series 3: United States Army Materials, 1918-1919

Box 1, Folder 3

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Series 4: Memorabilia, 1917-1919

Box 2 Handkerchiefs, 1919

Box 3 Dog tag, circa 1917-1919

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