Finding Aid for the Harrison C. Mower First World War correspondence 2014.163.w.r

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Center for American War Letters Archives
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Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: Center for American War Letters Archives
Title: Harrison C. Mower First World War correspondence
source: Smith, Michael C., Mr.
Identifier/Call Number: 2014.163.w.r
Physical Description: 1.38 Linear Feet (1.5 boxes, 1 small realia box)
Date (inclusive): 1916-1939
Abstract: This collection contains correspondence written to and from Lieutenant Colonel Harrison Curtis Mower, American Expeditionary Forces, during the first World War. There is also biographical documents, photographs, postcards, and realia from the Spanish-American War.

Storage Unit:
- Mower 1
- Storage Unit: 1-4
- Storage Unit: Mower 2
- Storage Unit: 5-7
- Storage Unit: Mower 3

Content Description
This collection contains correspondence written to and from Lieutenant Colonel Harrison Curtis Mower, AEF. The letters written by Mower were sent to his wife, Mabel, during his service in the First World War. The letters written to Mower were from friends and colleagues in the military from 1915-1939.

The collection also contains biographical documents about Mower and the 307th Engineers, numerous photographs and blank postcards, and an assortment of medals and insignia, some of which are from the Spanish-American War.

Inventory: 111 correspondence -- 6 newspaper clippings -- 11 various documents -- 69 photos -- 19 blank postcards -- 1 ribbon-- 38 Medals and Insignia (see Series 5 for details)

Biographical / Historical
Harrison C. Mower was in government service as a civil engineer, designing locks and dams. He was commissioned captain in the Engineer Reserves when the United States entered the First World War. Later that year he was promoted to the rank of major and in 1918 he was promoted to lieutenant colonel. He served in France as executive officer of the 307th Engineers, 82nd Division, participating in the Meuse Argonne offensive. Mower was a civil engineer by training and had been a senior manager in Panama during construction of the Panama Canal.

On a document dated May 9, 1939, it was written that Mower died on April 16, 1939 in his home on Balboa Island, California.

Immediate Source of Acquisition
Gift of Michael C. Smith

Arrangement
This collection is arranged by material type.

Conditions Governing Access
This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use
There are no restrictions on the use of this material except where previously copyrighted material is concerned. It is the responsibility of the researcher to obtain all permissions.

Preferred Citation
[Item title, Box number, Folder number], Harrison C. Mower First World War correspondence (2014.163.w.r), Center for American War Letters Archives, Chapman University, CA.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
World War, 1914-1918
Correspondence -- World War, 1914-1918
Spanish-American War, 1898
This series contains correspondence written by Lieutenant Colonel Harrison Curtis Mower, AEF, to his wife, Mabel, during his service in the First World War. In his letters, Mower writes about his daily routines and activities. He also inquires about Mabel's own routines and activities.

Series 2. Correspondence from various authors 1915-1939

This series contains correspondence written by various authors, most of whom are writing to Harrison C. Mower. Most of the letters' authors are friends and colleagues who also served in the military.

Series 3. Biographical documents

This series contains various documents about Harrison C. Mower and the 307th Engineers.

Series 4. Photographs and postcards

This series contains an assortment of Harrison C. Mower's photographs and blank postcards from the First World War. Subjects of the photographs include destroyed buildings and towns, bridges, dams, fellow soldiers, and battlefields. Some of the photographs have captions identifying the subjects of the photographs. One notable photograph is of Commander John J. Pershing, AEF.
Series 5. Medals, insignia, ribbon

Physical Description: .8 Linear Feet(1 folder, 1 small realia box)

Scope and Contents

This series contains a collection of medals, insignia, and a ribbon. The medals and insignia belonged to Harrison C. Mower. The ribbon belonged to Harrison C. Mower's father, Major S.C. Mower, MST (State Troops).

Inventory of medals and insignia: #1 - U.S. Army 202nd Air Defense Battalion Unit Crest (Arte Et Armis) #2 - Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, (MOLLUS), or simply as the Loyal Legion is a United States patriotic order, organized April 15, 1865, by officers of the Army, Navy, or Marine Corps of the United States who “had aided in maintaining the honor, integrity, and supremacy of the national movement” during the American Civil War. #3 - Former U.S. Marine Corps Rifle Marksmanship Badge. #4 - The badge is of bronze, made from cannons captured in battle during the Civil War, and is in a form of a five-pointed star, similar in design to the two hundred Medals of Honor, authorized by an act of Congress to be given to the soldiers and sailors most distinguished for meritorious and gallant conduct during the Civil War. #5 - Unknown Medal. Inscribed with "Id Fiet" #6 - Medal was issued by the state of Michigan to soldiers and sailors from the state who served in the Spanish American War and early Philippine American War. Text reads "WAR WITH SPAIN AND PHILIPPINE CAMPAIGN 1898 - 1900." The back shows a fascia with halberd and a laurel wreath surround the location for the veteran to have their name engraved. The text reads "THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN TO". #7 - Service ribbon for the Spanish-American War Service medal. It was awarded to members who performed garrison occupation duty in Cuba, following the close of the Spanish–American War #8 - Company L, 31st Michigan Volunteers Spanish-American War "H.C. Mower" #9 - 107th Cavalry Regiment, Ohio Army National Guard Medal (Facere Non Dicere) #10 - Medal for the Cuban Campaign (Medalla de la Campaña de Cuba), 1873. The medal was instituted on 27 June 1873 to be awarded to naval and military who participated in the Ten Years’ War (Guerra de los Diez Años) of 1868 to 1878 or the Little War (Guerra Chiquita) of 1879 to 1880 against insurgent Cuban forces seeking independence from Spain. #11 - Service ribbon bar. Order from left to right: Mexican Service Medal, Haitian Campaign Medal, and World War I Victory Medal #12 - American Society of Civil Engineers medal x2. Medals are dated Oct. 1913 #13 - U.S. Army 119th Field Artillery Unit Crest (Viam Praeparamus) #14 - Unknown Medal. Inscribed with "Juste et Fortiter" #15 - Service Blue Star Pin #16 - Medal for the 47th Annual Convention of the American Society of Civil Engineers #17 - Medal for the International Engineering Congress in San Fransico, 1915 for the American Society of Civil Engineers. #18 - U.S. Army Officer's Lapel Insignia (x2) #19 - U.S.N.A. Officer's Lapel Insignia (x2) #20 - Officer's Lapel with paper backing #21 - WWI US Army Officer collar badge U.S.R. #22 - US Army Collar Pin U.S. NA #23 - Unknown medal #24 - Insignia - Brass Hat, 1872 Infantry #25 - Lieutenant colonel rank insignia (x4) #26 - Assorted 19th century shank buttons