Inventory of the United States Army American Expeditionary Forces records

Finding aid prepared by Sarah Giffen West, 2006
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Title: United States Army American Expeditionary Forces records,
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Collection Number: XX546
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Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 4 manuscript boxes, 1 oversize folder (1.8 linear feet)
Abstract: Intelligence reports, news summaries, bulletins, orders, instructions, memoranda, proclamations, and
miscellany, relating to military operations of the American Expeditionary Forces in France and Siberia during World War I
and the Russian Revolution
Access
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Historical Note
American Expeditionary Force
The American Expeditionary Force (AEF) was the U.S. military force in Europe during World War I. Although a division
commanded by General John J. Pershing was sent to France in June 1917, most of the AEF was manned as a result of
passage of the Selective Service Act (40 Stat. 76) by the U.S. Congress on 18 May 1917, creating the Selective Service
System. The Act gave the president the power to draft soldiers. The system eventually inducted 2.8 million men of the total
3.6 million men who served in the military from September 1917 to November 1918.
American Expeditionary Force (Siberia)
In July 1918 President Woodrow Wilson decided to intervene in Russia and ordered eight thousand AEF troops to Siberia to
protect U.S. supplies along the Trans-Siberian railroad. Chaos and uncertainty prevailed in Russia at this time. The Russian
tsar had been overthrown by the revolution led by Alexander Kerensky in February-March 1917 (eventually to be ousted by
the Bolsheviks in November 1917), raising Wilson's hopes for democratizing Russia and spreading capitalism. After the fall
of the tsarist government the U.S. recognized the Russian Provisional Government, providing it with money and aid.
Commander of the U.S. forces in Siberia was Major General William S. Graves, a training officer in California. Graves' orders
(an aide memoir drafted by Wilson) instructed him to facilitate the safe exit of the forty-thousand-man Czech Legion from
Russia, guard the nearly $1 billion worth of American military equipment stored at Vladivostok and Murmansk, and help the
Russians organize their new government. The first troops arrived in Vladivostok in August 1918 and Graves followed in
September. Japan also sent seventy thousand troops to protect supplies and communication and destabilize the Russian
government as a means to acquire Siberian and Manchurian economic resources. Conditions were extremely chaotic along
the railroad as a result of the Russian civil war. An agreement to operate the railroad was reached by the Allied
governments participating in the Siberian intervention in November 1918. It was implemented in April 1919. Three
countries, Japan, the United States and China, were given a sector of the railroad to guard.
The end of World War I in November 1918 did not mean homecoming for the AEF forces in Siberia. Wilson wanted to pursue
a "wait and see" policy until the Paris peace conference concluded before deciding which of several Russian governments
to recognize and whether to withdraw the AEF from Vladivostok.
The AEF spent two years in Siberia hampered by larger Japanese and Cossack forces, unclear and incomplete instructions, and Graves' own commitment to strict political neutrality. The eventual defeat of White Army forces by the Bolshevik Red Army led to demands from the U.S. Congress for complete withdrawal of American troops. The AEF forces left Siberia beginning in March 1920; Graves left with the last troops on April 1, 1920. The American Expeditionary Force (Siberia) served under combat conditions longer than any force involved in World War I and was the first and only American military unit sent to Russian soil.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**
Siberia (Russia)--History--Revolution, 1917-1921.
Soviet Union--History--Allied intervention, 1918-1920.
World War, 1914-1918--Campaigns--France.

**Headquarters American Expeditionary Forces (Siberia). Intelligence Section**

**Official newspaper summaries**

**Box/Folder 1 : 1**

**May, 1919**

Scope and Contents note
Taken from Echo, Golos Primorya, Dalny Vostok, Dalnevostochnoe Obozrenie, Russian Daily News, Russky Economist, Vestnik Manchuria, Sviet (Svet), Golos Rodini, Amurskoe Slovo, and others. Also includes anti-Bolshevik poster drafts with handwritten edits, extract from an inquiry by French Captain F. E. Paris, Red Cross memorandum, overseas and local press reports from USS *Albany* and USS *Orleans*, and Field Censorship Regulations Memorandum No. 4

**Box/Folder 1 : 2**

**June, 1919**

**Box/Folder 1 : 3**

**July, 1919**

**Box/Folder 1 : 4**

**August, 1919**

**Box/Folder 1 : 5**

**September, 1919**

**Box/Folder 1 : 6**

**October, 1919**

**Box/Folder 1 : 7**

**November, 1919**

**Box/Folder 2 : 1**

**December, 1919**

Scope and Contents note
Taken from Svobodny Krai, Echo, Golos Rodini, Russky Economist, Dalnevostochnoe Obozrenie, Dalny Vostok, Osaka Asahi, Novi Put, and others. Also includes memorandum from the Japanese Publicity Bureau, Vladivostok, Siberia; The News Summary (F. W. French, publisher), Vladivostok memoranda; newspaper summaries from USS *Albany* and USS *South Dakota*; Note to the Diplomatic Representative of Japan in Siberia from the Temporary Government in the Far East; U.S. Naval Intelligence Office Newspaper Summary

**Box/Folder 2 : 2**

**January, 1920**

**Box/Folder 2 : 3**

**February, 1920**

**Box/Folder 2 : 4**

**March, 1920**

**Box/Folder 2 : 5**

**April-May, 1920**

**Headquarters American Expeditionary Forces (France)**

**Box/Folder 3 : 1**

“Questions for the Examination of Prisoners, etc.,” Army War College, Office of the Chief of Staff, U.S. War Department, 1917 September

Scope and Contents note
Includes Memorandum No. 34, Headquarters, 30th Division, 1919 February 19, and unidentified address by division commander
Box/Folder 3 : 2  Reports, bulletins, and brief histories of enemy divisions, Intelligence Section, General Staff, Headquarters, AEF
   Scope and Contents note
   Consists of intelligence reports on German army and positions

Box/Folder 3 : 3  "Instructions for the Intelligence Service of an Infantry Regiment," Office of the Chief of Staff, U.S. War Department, 1918
Box/Folder 3 : 4  "Instructions for Intelligence Duties, Second Army," Office of the Chief of Staff, U.S. War Department, 1916 September 20
Box/Folder 3 : 5  "Summary of Intelligence Reports (information about the enemy)," 2nd Section, General Staff, Headquarters, Second Army, AEF, 1918 October-November.
   Scope and Contents note
   Also contains 90th Division, AEF, Plan of Defense, handwritten and corresponding typed notes on enemy observations; U.S. Signal Corps telegram with instructions to cease all hostilities due to Armistice signing, 1918 November 11

Box/Folder 3 : 6  General information, Intelligence School, Third Army
Box/Folder 3 : 7  Bulletins, 2nd Section, General Staff, First Army Corps, AEF, 1918 May-August.
   Scope and Contents note
   Includes intelligence summaries and notes on recent fighting

Box/Folder 3 : 8  Memorandum, Headquarters, 29th Division, AEF, 1919 January 10
Box/Folder 3 : 9  "Summary of Intelligence," Headquarters, 92nd Division, AEF, 1918 September 1
Box/Folder 3 : 10 Charts and maps pertaining to AEF activities in Western Europe
   Scope and Contents note
   Includes AEF distinctive cloth insignia, enemy order of battle

Map case  Charts and maps pertaining to AEF activities in Western Europe (continued)
Box/Folder 4 : 1  Ration card and postcards
Box/Folder 4 : 2  Chart depicting silhouettes of common German planes
Box/Folder 4 : 3  AF and German telephone directories
Box/Folder 4 : 4  Post-surrender documents
Box/Folder 4 : 5  15 point map
Box/Folder 4 : 6  15 point map (continued)
Box/Folder 4 : 7  Summary of Information, 2nd Section, General Staff, General Headquarters, AEF, 1919 January 11
Box/Folder 4 : 8  Memoranda, 2nd Section, General Staff, General Headquarters, AEF
Box/Folder 4 : 9  Programme of Fourth of July fete
Box/Folder 4 : 10 War Department Circular No. 6, 1919 January 6
Box/Folder 4 : 11 Memoranda, Statistical Division
Box/Folder 4 : 12 "Second Course, 1918 March-June," Army General Staff College, AEF, 1918 May