Finding aid for the World War I photograph albums 6060

Finding aid prepared by Sue Luftschein
USC Libraries Special Collections
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2014 June
Title: World War I photograph albums
Collection number: 6060
Contributing Institution: USC Libraries Special Collections
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 4.58 linear ft. 5 boxes
Date: circa 1915-1918
Abstract: 5 photograph albums containing over 500 photographs and related ephemeral items. The first three albums were created by photojournalist Robert Sennecke and are propagandistic in nature, with images from the front showing officers, war heroes, weaponry, politicians, and soldiers; all images are accompanied by typewritten captions. Sennecke's albums contain a mounted identification slip from Sennecke's studio. The fourth album, created by a German grenadier, contains 210 photographs, many accompanied by extensive handwritten descriptions; it also includes some documents and letters, a small medals, and pieces of his uniform. The fifth album contains images depicting scenes of soldiers at work and at rest; urban and industrial scenes, including railways, sawmills, and factories; and locations such as Verdun, Somme, La Bassee, and Flanders. As a collection, the photograph albums provide a well-documented German perspective on World War I.

creator: Sennecke, Robert, 1885-1940

Biographical note
Robert Sennecke, who created three of the five albums, was a well known photojournalist in Germany during the 1920s. He was best known for his sports photography and ran a successful agency before succumbing to mental illness in the 1930s.

Preferred Citation
[Box/folder# or item name], World War I photograph albums, Collection no. 6060, Special Collections, USC Libraries, University of Southern California

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Conditions Governing Access
Advance notice required for access.

Acquisition
Purchased from F.A. Barnett Booksellers, April 19, 2014.

Scope and Content
5 photograph albums containing over 500 photographs and related ephemeral items. The first three albums were created by photojournalist Robert Sennecke and are propagandistic in nature, with images from the front showing officers, war heroes, weaponry, politicians, and soldiers; all images are accompanied by typewritten captions. Sennecke's albums contain a mounted identification slip from Sennecke's studio. The fourth album, created by a German grenadier, contains 210 photographs, many accompanied by extensive handwritten descriptions; it also includes some documents and letters, a small medals, and pieces of his uniform. The fifth album contains images depicting scenes of soldiers at work and at rest; urban and industrial scenes, including railways, sawmills, and factories; and locations such as Verdun, Somme, La Bassee, and Flanders.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Sennecke, Robert, 1885-1940 -- Archives
Photograph albums
Soldiers--Germany--1914-1918--Photographs
World War, 1914-1918--Germany--Archival resources

Box 1-3  Robert Sennecke albums
Box 4  German grenadier album
Box 5  Soldiers album