

# PRITZKER MILITARY MUSEUM & LIBRARY

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## SSgt. Walter R. Jager Collection

**Creator:** Walter Jager  
**Dates:** 1917-1983  
**Quantity:** 0.5 linear feet, 1 document box and 1 small flat box  
**Identification:** PMML Item# 320783, OCLC # 232609625, Call# PAPERS 00022  
**Citation:** [Document Title]. The SSgt. Walter R. Jager Collection, [Box #, Folder #], Pritzker Military Museum & Library, Chicago, IL.  
**Language:** English  
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## Biographical Note

Walter R. Jager was born to John and Mary (Huxley) Jager on April 15, 1892 in Northampton, MA. After childhood on a nearby dairy farm, Jager enlisted in the US Army on August 1, 1917 at Fort Slocum, NY. Eventually, Jager rose to Staff Sergeant with the 94<sup>th</sup> Aero Squadron. His responsibilities included mechanical and provisional supplies and salvaging damaged planes. Jager was cited for involvement in many of the major Allied actions of the summer and fall of 1918, including the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, the St. Mihiel Offensive, and the Battle of Verdun. In addition to the World War I Victory Medal, Jager received the Croix de Guerre with Palm for these actions.

Jager was discharged from the Army at Hatch Field, NY on June 24, 1919. He returned to his family's farm outside of Northampton which went on to operate for many years. He also worked as a conductor and motorman for the Northampton Street Railway Co. for 35 years until retirement. Upon retirement, SSgt. Jager worked part-time for the city's Park department and at Sena's Apple Orchards. He was a member of American Legion Post 28, the Michael F. Curtin VFW No. 8006 and the Hampshire Franklin Hampden Agricultural Society. SSgt. Jager died June 13, 1983 after a long illness, and was buried with military honors at Spring Grove Cemetery in Northampton.

## Army Service Chronology:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event, Location</b>
August 1, 1917	Enlisted, For Slocum, NY
March, 1918	Rheims Sector
April-June, 1918	Toul Sector
July 1918	Champagne-Marne Offensive
September 1918	St. Mihiel Offensive
September 1918	Meuse-Argonne Offensive
October-November, 1918	Verdun Sector
November 1918-March 1919	3 <sup>rd</sup> Army, Army of Occupation, Coblenz, Germany
June 24, 1910	Discharged, Hatch Field, NY

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## Scope and Content of the Collection

This collection relates to the World War I experience of SSgt. Walter R. Jager. Items include photostatic copies of his enlistment and discharge papers, 26 wartime photographs, cablegrams and stationary, and four small notebooks holding Jager's handwritten journals and notes. Three journals consist of Jager's intermittent daily notes. The earliest entry is January 1917; entries for this notebook are generally one to three sentences and list only the most salient features of the day as experienced by Jager and his Army and childhood friend Raymond Burdick. The second journal begins in July 1918 and continues through April 1919. Each daily entry in this notebook is longer than the first notebook. Here Jager describes his daily actions during the height of America's involvement on the front through the end of the war and into the occupation of Germany. The third journal holds entries from late April through early May, and ends on the day Jager's unit departed for Le Mans, France. The fourth notebook, Notebook One in the arrangement, contains Jager's technical notes and drawings related to aerospace mechanics.

The photographs of the collection include portrait shots of Jager and his closest Army friends, snapshots and group photographs of his unit in France, and one color photograph of Jager in old age.

## Arrangement

This collection is arranged in two series, each housed in a separate box. Series One consists of five folders, arranged by type of record. Series Two consists of Jager's notebooks, beginning with his mechanical notes and continuing chronologically.

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## Related Collections

Davison Family Collection  
Robert T. Herz Collection  
Lt. Felix R. Zaugg Collection

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## Separations

Item Number	Description	Date	Location
	Four pocket enlisted man's olive drab wool tunic, with standup collar and US aviation collar discs		
	Olive drab overseas cap with small embroidered 1st Army patch.		
	Olive drab wool britches.		
	Brown leather aviation jerkin with six button front, olive drab flannel lining.		
	World War I Victory Medal with ribbon		
	Aluminum dog tags with original ribbon		
320783025	Portrait: "Most Sincerely, Samuel L. Rouse, Perry Missouri, USA	n.d.	Photographs Collection
32078026	Portrait: Rouse	n.d.	Photographs Collection
32078027	Portrait: Raymond Burdick	n.d.	Photographs Collection
32078028	Portrait: "Ray Burdick from Northhampton, Mass—war time buddy of Jager	n.d.	Photographs Collection
32078029	Snapshot: training camp (Kelly Field, San	n.d.	Photographs

	Antonio, TX)		Collection
32078030	Snapshot: "Sept. 17, 1917. 94th Aero Squadron in a drill..."	17-Sept-1917	Photographs Collection
32078031	Snapshot: "Sgt Jager, Kelly Field Texas, 1917"	1917	Photographs Collection
32078032	Snapshot: "The Cooks"	n.d.	Photographs Collection
32078033	Snapshot: "Gill Rouse, Howard Fauly, Jessie Pickler, Ralph Russell, Lonnes (?) Christensen, A. Omserenko (?)"	n.d.	Photographs Collection
32078034	Snapshot of group	n.d.	Photographs Collection
32078035	Snapshot: "Sgt. Talbert, Sgt. Clark, Sgt. W.R. Jager"	n.d.	Photographs Collection
32078036	Snapshot: unknown buildings	n.d.	Photographs Collection
32078037	Reproduction: photograph of grave of Lt. I.R. Curry, died August 18, 1918. 95th Aero Squadron	n.d.	Photographs Collection
32078038	Snapshot: unknown steamer ship (Committee of Welcome, New York?)	n.d.	Photographs Collection
32078039	Snapshot: unknown soldier on street	n.d.	Photographs Collection
32078040	Snapshot: unknown soldier getting haircut—"The trucks are the ones we kept our supplies and also had to sleep in one"	n.d.	Photographs Collection
32078041	Snapshot: "Burdick, Ross, Jager, Howard"	n.d.	Photographs Collection
32078042	Snapshot: Talley, Cass, Jager (signed)—"Would you photograph this photo on the front and return to me?..."	n.d.	Photographs Collection
32078043	Carte Postale: group with Jager	n.d.	Photographs Collection

32078044	Carte Postale: supply line	n.d.	Photographs Collection
32078045	Carte Postale: "Sgt 1st CI Walter Jager, Chief Supply Sgt; Cpl R Burdick, both from Northampton, Mass."	n.d.	Photographs Collection
32078046	Carte Postale: Jager sitting on window sill	n.d.	Photographs Collection
32078047	Carte Postale: group with Jager	n.d.	Photographs Collection
32078048	Caret Postale: "To Walter from Howard Fauly, R.I."	n.d.	Photographs Collection
32078049	Portrait: Major Raouel Luffberry –"I was Luffberry mechanic when he was shot down"	n.d.	Photographs Collection
32078050	Color snapshot: "To Bill Dion, from Walter Jager, 94th Aero Squadron"	n.d.	Photographs Collection

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## Key Subjects

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the Library's online catalog. Researchers interested in materials about related topics, persons, or places should search the catalog using these subject headings.

## Names

Jager, Walter

## Subjects

Aeronautics, Military -- History.

Air power -- History.

United States. Army. 94<sup>th</sup> Aero Squadron.

World War, 1914-1918 – Personal narratives.

World War, 1914-1918 – Aerial operations.

## **Detailed Description of the Collection**

### **Box One**

#### **1.2 Stationary and Passes**

Grand Hotel d'Austerlitz, Paris, December 1917

Leave Pass from Headquarters, 94<sup>th</sup> Aero Squadron for Paris, December 1917

Pass for the S.S. *Adriatic*

#### **1.3 Correspondence and Envelopes**

Money transfer receipt with envelope, for Mrs. Charles Jager from Walter Jager, Paris

Western Union Cablegram with envelope, from Edith Jager (Florence, MA) to Walter Jager (London), February 13, 1918: "Walter J. Jager Ninety Fourth Aero Squadron No Mail Worried, Love, Edith Jager"

Enveloped addressed to Mrs. Chas. W. Jager, Northampton, MA from Walter Jager, AEF "On Active Service," with mechanical notes on backside

#### **1.4 Service Records and Obituaries**

Enlistment Record, August 1, 1917

Discharge Certificate, June 24, 1919

Obituary for Walter Jager, *The Morning Union* (Springfield, MA), June 14, 1983

Obituary for Walter Jager, June 14, 1983 (source unknown)

#### **1.5 Unknown Writing**

"Requiescat" by "an American chaplain upon his return from the burial of an American soldier in France," two pages typewritten

Poem: "The Kaiser's Dream," by Anonymous, n.d., one page typewritten

Poems: "Only a Volunteer" and "Answer" by Anonymous, n.d., one page typewritten

### **Box Two: Journals and Notebooks**

#### **2.1 Mechanical Training Notes**

#### **2.2 Journal, entries from January-December 1917**

#### **2.3 Journal, entries from July 29, 1918-April 11, 1919**

#### **2.4 Journal entries from April 8-May 3, 1919**