

PRITZKER MILITARY MUSEUM & LIBRARY

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Roy H. Wilson Collection

Creator: Roy Henry Wilson
Dates: 1918-1919
Quantity: 1 folder
Acquisition: Devin Hunter; 9/11/2008
Identification: PMML ID: 800252, OCLC: 259148916, Call Number: PAPERS 00033
Citation: [Document Title]. The Roy H. Wilson Collection, [Box #, Folder #], Pritzker Military Museum & Library, Chicago, IL.
Language: English
Finding Aid: A. Martinez, 2020

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Biographical Note

Roy Henry Wilson (1882-1966) was born near Peoria, Illinois and farmed in Kansas, Montana and Oklahoma Territory. In 1918, Wilson enlisted as a Private in the U.S. Army at Camp Funston, Kansas. After an initial assignment to the 28th U.S. Infantry at Fort McDowell on Angel Island near San Francisco, Wilson was transferred to Company H of the 31st Infantry Regiment. On April 5, 1918 the regiment embarked to Manila, where the reorganized regiment was to be based. Wilson, by then part of the regiment's new Machine Gun Company, left Manila with the regiment on August 14, 1918, bound for Vladivostok, Russia as part of the Allied mission to stabilize Russian ports in wake of the Bolshevik Revolution.

After strenuous drilling and occasional guarding of German, Austrian, and Turk prisoners, Wilson spent several days in the Allied Hospital's surgical ward for treatment of a rare hand disease. Wilson left Russia on December 4, 1918, for Manila and eventually arrived at San Francisco on January 17. After a short stay in an Army hospital, Wilson was discharged from the Army at Camp Funston on February 22, 1918 with the rank of Private First Class. Wilson returned to farming and moved to

rural Richland County, Montana where he lived most of the remainder of his life. Roy Wilson died in May 1966, and is buried in Enid, Oklahoma.

Scope and Content of the Collection

The bulk of the Wilson Journal covers the time between March 1918 and February 1919, during Wilson's deployment with the 31st Infantry to Siberia. The journal entries occur several times per week and recap the day's events. Wilson's attention is most focused on the daily life of Army training and transport, including posts in San Francisco, Manila, Guam and Vladivostok, Russia. Journal entries written aboard the US Army Transports Sherman and Thomas provide insight into the regiment's through the Pacific. The journal also provides detail on Wilson's shore leaves at Honolulu, Guam and Nagasaki, and a description of the Hospital Ward in Vladivostok. Throughout his journal, Wilson is primarily interested in describing local conditions and geography.

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Separations

Item ID	Call Number	Description	Location
702721	PHOTO 02513	Postcard of unknown soldier from the US Army 9th Infantry Regiment, ca. 1918	PHOTO Box 21

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.

Subjects

Soviet Union—History—Allied intervention, 1918-1920

Soviet Union—History—Revolution, 1917-1921—Participation, American

Soviet Union—History—Revolution, 1917-1921—Personal narratives, American.

Fort William McKinley (Philippines)—1918-1919
Russian Far East (Russia)—History—1917-1921
World War, 1914-1918—Personal narratives, American
World War, 1914-1918—Oklahoma
Vladivostok (Russia)—History

Container List

Box	Folder	Item ID #	Title	Dates
SM	1	800252001	3.5W x 6H" leather-bound notebook, approximately 90 pages	1918-1919