

C Garrett, Ruby Dwight (1882-1968), Papers, c. 1910-1968
2558 1.6 linear feet, and 1 reel of microfilm

MICROFILM

PARTIALLY DIGITIZED in World War I collection

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

INTRODUCTION

The Dwight Ruby Garrett collection contains papers and photographs of Garrett, a Kansas City, MO, lawyer. Garrett commanded the 117th Field Signal Battalion, 42nd (Rainbow) Division, U.S. Army, American Expeditionary Force. The collection concentrates on his World War I and postwar veterans activities. The clipping scrapbook is on microfilm.

DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Alma M. Garrett on 29 July 1968 (Accession No. WUNP3771).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Ruby Dwight Garrett, the son of Mary Ellen (Phillips) and the Reverend John Newton Garrett, was born 22 July 1882, in Alamance County, North Carolina. Garrett attended Yadkin College, then served in the U.S. Army from 1902 to 1905.

In 1908 Garrett received his law degree from Kansas City University and was admitted to the Missouri bar. He was a practicing attorney in Kansas City, serving as assistant prosecuting attorney, 1910-1911. Garrett served for ten years as general counsel for the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce and was a member-at-large of the city council, 1931-1940.

Concurrent with his law practice, Garrett was a captain in the Missouri National Guard Signal Troops, 1909-1916, with service on the Mexican border. In 1917 he returned to regular Army service with the 42nd (Rainbow) Division, American Expeditionary Force, as chief signal officer. Garrett attained the rank of colonel and was awarded the Purple Heart and the French Croix de Guerre with Palm. He returned to civilian life in 1919 after service across Europe and with the Army of Occupation in Germany.

Garrett was an organizer, incorporator, and member of the American Legion. He was also a member of the United States Signal Corps Association, the Reserve Officers Association, the Disabled American Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Rainbow Division Veterans Association of Missouri. In 1959 Garrett received the Army Exceptional Civilian Service Award.

Garrett was an active member of several Kansas City social clubs and civic organizations. He was a Mason, a Democrat, and a Unitarian.

In 1909 Ruby D. Garrett married Alma Marie Ahlfeldt (-1971). They were the parents of one son, Ruby D., Jr., and two daughters, Rachel (Mrs. C. Weber, Jr.) and Bonnie. Ruby D. Garrett died in 1968.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection concentrates on the U.S. Army, 42nd (Rainbow) Division during and after World War I. As the chief signal officer of the Rainbow Division, Garrett saw action at Luneville, Baccarat, the Esperance-Souain sectors, and Champagne. The Rainbow Division was in the defensive action at Champagne-Marne and Aisne-Marne, the offensive action at St. Mihiel, Essey, Pannes, Meuse-Argonne, and Sedan. Garrett was also with the Army of Occupation in Germany from November 1918 until April 1919.

The extensive photograph collection reflects the action seen by Garrett and the division. Also portrayed are the quiet times between fighting. Soldiers and officers are shown at parade and review, as tourists, marching, and moving materiel. Photographs depict ruined towns, churches, vineyards, and motored vehicles. Bunkers, trenches, underground communication lines, artillery emplacements, and fortifications were photographed from many angles, indicating construction and use. Changes in technology were documented by photographs of gas masks in use, air ships, airplanes, horses, mules, trains, trucks, automobiles, and armored vehicles which evolved into tanks.

The correspondence is similarly concerned with World War I and the 42nd (Rainbow) Division. Rosters and casualty lists note soldiers' homes, next-of-kin, and type and cause of injury or death. Garrett's postwar involvement with organizing the American Legion and with Rainbow Division reunions is documented.

The primary weaknesses of the collection are the limited identification and dating of many photographs and the lack of family correspondence.

FOLDER LIST

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|----------|---|
| f. 1-24 | Correspondence, Speeches, and Bulletins |
| f. 1 | Correspondence, 1918-1919. |
| f. 2 | Garrett for Governor materials, n.d. Includes a biography and correspondence. |
| f. 3-4 | Correspondence, 1960s. |
| f. 5-6 | Rainbow Division. History, programs, and booklets. |
| f. 7 | Rainbow Division. Rosters and casualty lists for the 117th Ammunition Train, 42nd Division, American Expeditionary Force. The information begins in 1917 with updates to 1941, indicating date of death and burial place. |
| f. 8 | Rainbow Division. Photographs of reunion meetings. |
| f. 9 | Rainbow Division. Contains division history, anecdotes, and vignettes of individual soldiers. |
| f. 10-14 | Rainbow Division. Casualty list for the 117th Field Signal Battalion and rosters for 1917, 1919 and 1940. |
| f. 15 | "Memorial Address on the Life and Character of William P. Borland," who died in France in 1919. Includes photographs. |
| f. 16-17 | Speeches with a military theme, 1916, 1931, 1943, 1950, and n.d. |

- f. 18 Correspondence with Douglas MacArthur, 1947-1963.
- f. 19 Correspondence with Wilber M. Brucker, secretary of the army, 1960.
- f. 20 "Champagne Hour." A 1936 radio program in which General Henri J.E. Gouraud, Commander, 4th French Army, World War I, participated.
- f. 21 "Rainbow Hour." Radio program outline and speeches for 22 February 1936.
- f. 22 Kansas City Law School. Speeches and historical information.
- f. 23 "40 Years Ago Club." Program materials for 1955-1956, including a speech by Garrett.
- f. 24 Maps, World War I.
- f. 25-70 Photographs, World War I. U.S. Army Signal Corps photographs and Garrett's personal photographs of World War I. Subjects include troops, officers, towns and villages, encampments, communications, armaments, battlefields, and transport by horse, mule, train, motor vehicles, and air. A very comprehensive collection covering the war from France to Germany, 1917-1919. The scope and content note gives detailed information on locations of action seen by Garrett and the Rainbow Division. Many of the photographs are not fully identified by date or place. **[DIGITIZED]**
- f. 70 Scrapbook Photographs. Photographs removed from clipping scrapbook after filming.
- Reel 1 Scrapbook. Scrapbook of news clippings from and about World War I and the Rainbow Division. This scrapbook was microfilmed for preservation. After filming the photographs were removed and placed in folder 70.

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