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890

#1890

Cecil Roberts Gross.
Papers, 1918-1950.

Guide

Reading Room copy-

1890

- 1) please return NYCV85-A446
Gross, Cecil Roberts.
Papers, 1918-1950.
.2 cubic ft.

Summary: Forty-four letters from C.R. Gross to members of his family concerning his service with the American Expeditionary Forces during World War and afterward with the army of occupation in Luxembourg, including comments on army life, work in a 33rd Division field hospital, devastation caused by military operation in Lorraine and northeastern France, conditions on troop ships, reactions to the cessation of hostilities, the situation in France during the half year following the Armistice, his studies at the University of Paris, and related matters. Also included are three newspapers, eleven monographs on agricultural chemistry, postcards, and other printed items.

Indexes: Calendar.

Described in REPORT OF THE CURATOR AND ARCHIVIST, 1958-62,

Cite as: Cecil Roberts Gross. Papers, #1890. Department of Manuscripts and University Archives, Cornell University Libraries.

1. United States. Army. American Expeditionary Forces. 2. Universit_e de Paris--Students. 3. Agricultural chemistry. 4. Hospitals, Military. 5. World War, 1914-1918--France. 6. World War, 1914-1918--Luxembourg.

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Cecil Roberts Gross, 1892-1956. Papers, 1918-1950

1 2" box

World War I Letters, 1918-1919, 4 bond folders:

- March 14 and 15, 1918, Camp Logan, Houston, Texas, Gross to sister, re monthly salary, description of a day's work - pack carried, here and in France.
- July 2, 1918, little French town, G. to Mother and sister Lela - "letters are quite limited now;" learning French by association.
- July 15, 1918, France, G. to sister Edna - infrequency of receiving mail - dinner in a French home on July 14th.
- August 7, 1918, France, G. to sister Betty - Americans received cordially; well fed here; day spent in exercise; and class pay (increased) and allotment.
- August 26, 1918, France, G. to his mother, re his progress in French language.
- September 16, 1918, France, G. to sister Betty, "[have] quit standing around watching, and now in it;" don't stay long in one place - airplanes, and artillery or bombs, machine guns-often in doubt as to true facts - been acting as orderly in hospital - lately had several cases of men who'd eaten a shiny blackberry - men delirious - lasted a day or two
- September 18, 1918, France, G. to sister Lela, restriction on number of letters can write per wk. removed (# was restricted because own officers were doing the censoring- time element involved.) darkveil of secrecy over all troop movements had to discard all equip. etc., not absolutely necessary work of a field hospital - condition of area as result of fighting - these village[s] devoid of civilian life - rats around ruins - incr. in aerial activity on cloudless nights . . .
- October 9, 1918, France, G. to sister Lela, account of efforts "to better my condition" lately, been in charge of burials, long line of planes passed over today, dropping what appeared to be leaflets
- October 19, 1918, France, G. to sister (?), - French acquaintances - little change to spend \$ of late
- October 25, 1918, France, G. to his mother, - empty French village - restrictions as to taking photographs - necessity of making German's surrender unconditionally.
- October 27, 1918, France, to Edna, - Am. offensive launched on Sept. 26 in district W. of Meuse near Verdun - description of Verdun after the offensive
- October 30, 1918, France, G. to Lela, - been at a "rest camp" - we been cleaning up this village ca. 4 mos. of service followed by 7-10 day furlough far from the front - always great uncertainty as to future movements - rumors when at front desire among troops for peace but one to ensure no repetition of such a war incl. - certificate for the medal of Verdun
- November 6, 1918, France, G. to sister Betty, -re Verdun medal- speculation in ranks as to how long Germany will last - opinion of terms of the Armistice- AEF as mfg. false reports on its own acct.
- November 10, 1918, France, G. to Lela, - still operating hosp. in a back area-trip to area where large evacuation hospital situated- what necessary before a sentry satisfied.

Cecil Roberts Gross World War I Letters (con't)

- November 11, 1918, France, G. to his mother, - ringing of bells over end of hostilities - confidence of men that armistice would be signed (after heard of Foch's deadline announced the 9th) reactions to the end of hostilities (French more enthusiastic than Am.)
- November 18, 1918, France, G. to Betty - don't know where we are - things easy since hostilities ceased - trip to Commercy (souvenir stores there) - condition of St. Michel - Fr. woman expressed gratitude of her people that they were delivered by the Americans.
- November 18, 1918, France, G. to sister, - trip to Commercy: trenches, barbed wire entanglements, levelled villages - explored ruins of a village - large supplies of shells, grenades, flares, etc. still remaining
- November 24, 1918, Ambly, France, G. to his folks, - can now more freely discuss previous movements and experiments: a) crossed in camouflaged ships b) men "packed in" c) liner carried several 1000 soldiers; several 100 civilians and "Y" men; valuable cargo of ^{cooper} Cu, ^{silver} Ag, food, and mail d) ship in a convoy of 8 troop ships and small British cruiser, submarine chasers, dirigible balloon, hydroplanes (later 3 soon left us) e) had boat drills, etc. f) gun and bomb equipment of the 8 ships g) entertainment on board h) zigzagging course across ocean i) submarine chaser came to escort us to shore j) stopped for short while in England
- November 27, 1918, Ambly, France, G. to his folks, - a) rode trains across England b) stayed at camp in Southampton where Eng. soldiers recuperating c) boarded boat across channel after 3 days d) conditions in the boat (bad) e) stayed in L'Havre several days f) somewhat restricted there cause previous Am. soldiers had acted up
- December 18, 1918, Lorraine, France, G. to his folks, - been "en route" since Dec. 8. . . passed beyond German front - Germans lacked cloth-articles abandoned by Ger. when evacuated - ate with a French woman - they bitterly condemned Germans - hiked into Lorraine - French there welcomed us enthusiastically. People in Lorraine almost starved - (Ger. took all with them when left) - trip to Rumelange, Luxemburg (mining ^{iron} Fé-town) - like villages better as approach Germany - articles in shops expensive - saw blast furnaces
- December 21, 1918, Kruchten, Luxemburg, G. to his folks, - re type of food, - our division been frequently shunted from army to army- people here ~~seem~~ glad to have us - description of march and quarters
- December 23, 1918, Kruchten, Luxemburg, G. to his folks - from L'Havre (when 1st in Fr.) loaded into box cars to Charmay and then marched to Rougeux (there 9 wks.) - left in trucks for front - Aug. 23 - passed a camouflaged concentration camp for this division - country near front - Boche aerial activity - casualties handled by Field Hosp. #132 (esp. on Oct. 11 following drive commenced on Oct. 9) - Germans near took advantage of exposed position of our hospital bldgs. just W. of Verdun - feelings about "unrighteousness of war" - time in a suburb of Verdun, end of Oct.
- December 31, 1918, Kruchten, Luxemburg, G. to his folks - re trip to Diekirch, Luxemburg, troops there have it nice . . . - many in Luxemburg speak English - Luxemburg-German frontier now closed.

Cecil Roberts Gross World War I Letters (con't)

- January 4, 1919, Kruchten, Luxemburg, G. to his folks, - general - photo house in Diekirch can't get any film and paper from either U.S. or Germany because of closing of the frontiers.
- January 6, 1919, ibid, G. to Annie (friend of Lela's) - all having hard time understanding money values here now . . .
- January 9, 1919, ibid, G. to his folks, - trip to Vianden where there is an historical castle - train we took there old . . . - supper we had at a hotel - Luxemburg City presently closed to Am. soldiers; so is Treves. - value of francs in American dollars
- January 12, 1919, ibid, G. to sister Betty, - re conditions of a field hospital's housing role played, etc. - (theoretical course of wounded man from the front to the U.S.) - having things easy now - shops in Arlon, Belgium fairly well stocked
- February 4, 1919, ibid, G. to his mother (Mrs. M.G. Gross) - "card furnished to each soldier to notify his family of his present location and health."
- February 12, 1919, ibid, G. to sister Edna - trips to Clerveaux - people met there - castle (been used to quarter German soldiers at times during war and what they'd taken) - comparison of how French and Am. soldiers leave place they've been - have had no leave since in AEF
- February 13, 1919, Kruchten, Luxemburg, G. to his folks, - applied to take course in a British Univ.; cost arrangements
- February 27, 1919, Kruchten, Luxemburg, G. - postcard (picture of Clerveaux-1835) - our division to return to America in May
- March 13, 1919, Paris, G. to his folks, -have left the company - trip to Paris - traveling on French railroads a difficult matter - hotel conditions - Sgt. Carson took us thru rooms at Foreign Off. where Peace Conference being held (reporters not allowed in main room - where deliberations held) - walks in Paris, Louvre, etc. - am going to attend lecture courses and take courses at the Alliance Francaise and at Pasteur Institute - Attached - "American Commission to Negotiate Peace, Visitor's Pass"
- March 20, 1919, Paris, G. to his folks, - courses in French, Industrial Chemistry, biological chemistry, - will take course in bacteriology - pay amounts (including for school) can save \$, now, by eating at Red Cross huts and Y eating places - (Sorbonne University Detachment c/o Army Educational Commission)
- April 19, 1919, Paris, G. to Edna, - mail more rapid since Armistice - Red Cross canteens (type of food) - Army way behind in paying us commutations of rations - puppet shows and stamp
- April 29, 1919, Paris, G. to his folks, - 33rd division now on way to Brest - (I'm here) children playing in Luxemburg Gardens afternoons - French so open in their affection Sunday dinner at a French restaurant - boat race on Seine
- May 18, 1919, Marseille, G. to his mother - Sorbonne Detachment - # men and officers - pass arrangements - trip to Nice; decided to stay here at Marseille: small trip to Mediterranean - rue Cannebiere- Notre Dame de la Garde - took boat to Chateau d 'If (prison for German soldiers during war) - old cathedral - Palais-Longchamps

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Cecil Roberts Gross World War I Letters (con't)

comparison of attitude of Paris and Marseille toward American soldiers (Fuime controversy)

June 6, 1919, Paris, G. to his folks, - so enjoying stay in Paris - failure of Red Cross to adjust matter of my allotment - present "Metro" strike in Paris

June 21, 1919, Paris, G. to sister Lela - soon coming home - this is examination week - things seen in Paris - "Metro" strike over (posters all over requesting delay of strikes and labor agitation till after peace signed)

June 28, 1919, Paris, G. to his folks - exams over; received diploma from Alliance Francaise
Peace treaty signed today-all Paris gay (will be big demonstration and celebration tonight)

July 3, 1919, Brest, France, G. to sister Lela - re trip from Paris

July 4, 1919, Brest, France, G. to his mother - general - attached - Registration Coupon

July 7, 1919, Brest, France, G. to his folks - getting impatient to depart

July 8, 1919, Brest, France, G. to Edna, Postcard - leave tomorrow

July 8, 1919, Brest, France, G. to his folks, - general

Postcards

July 18, 1919, G. to Edna. Destination, Camp Milo; front, picture of Statue of Liberty and writing: "Well Done Men, America Greets You"

From Gross, - Front - picture of 2 puppets dancing

From Gross, - Front - view of Clerveaux incl.: L'Abbaye de St. Maurice, old castle, new church

From Gross, - L'Abbaye de St. Maurice

From Gross, - Front - view of water falls among trees; "Souvenir d'Echternach

From Gross, - Front - Viaduc de la ligne du Nord. Luxemburg

" " , - Front - Clerveaux - the new church

From Gross, - View of Echternach

" " Arlon, Belgium - La Gare - few soldiers quartered here (some Belgian and some Am. ones)

Typical pastoral scene of region now occupying; purchased in Arlon (stream, trees, hill)

Diekirch

Cecil Roberts Gross World War I Letters

Postcards (con't)

(snapshot) - 3 soldiers in front of room where 8 of us billeted (during war - Rougeux, France)

Luxemburg - Chateau Grand-Ducal Colmar-Berg (in color)

Kruchten Quartier de la Gare - writing - general

Card saying - "the ship on which I sailed has arrived safely overseas" (standard print) from Gross to Edna Gross.

Card to Lela from G. - giving address while with AEF in France

Newspapers, 3 issues

June 30, 1918, New York Herald, European Edition - newspaper headlines re Anti-German uprising in Ukraine and Victorious French troops

October 26, 1918, New York Herald, European Edition - newspaper article entitled, "American Gains Notable in Thirty Day's Offensive" Burr Price

November 29, 1918- "The Stars & Stripes" - the official newspaper of the A. E. F. (pub. in Fr.) entire paper

← Monographs

April, 1921 - Chemical Age Vol. 29, No. 4 by P. F. Nichols and C. R. Gross - "Methods of Preparing Vegetables for Dehydration" - based on experiments made with potatoes, carrots and cabbage (3 pp.) Plus Editorials on why U.S. entered the War, economic recuperation, and teacher's pay (1 p.)

September, 1925 - U.S. Dept. of Ag., Dept. Bulletin No. 1335 - P. F. Nichols, Ray Powers, C. R. Gross, and W. A. Noel - "Commercial Dehydration of Fruits and Vegetables" (40 pp.)

January 15, 1933, - (a reprint from "Industrial and Engineering Chemistry" vol. 5,) by C. R. Gross "Interference of Pyridine Derivatives in Arsenic Determination" (pp. 58-60)

August, 1933 - (A reprint from)"Journal of the Assoc. of Official Ag. Chemists," vol. XVI, No. 3 by C. R. Gross entitled "Sources of Error in the Gutzeit Method for the Determination of Arsenic" (pp. 398-403)

1933-34 - Proceedings Twenty-ninth Annual Meeting, Wash. State Horticultural Assoc. by Edwin Smith, A. Lloyd Ryall, C.R. Gross, R. H. Carter, C. W. Murray, V. E. Fahey entitled "The Removal of Lead, Arsenic and Dluorine Residues from Apples" (pp. 86-96)

May, 1934 - (reprinted from) "Journal of the Assoc. of Official Ag. Chemists" by C. R. Gross and C. M. Smith entitled "Colorimetric Method for Determination of Rotenone" (pp. 336-339)

Cecil Roberts Gross Papers

Monographs (con't)

September, 1934 - Univ. of Maryland Ag. Experiment Station, Bulletin No. 368.
Article entitled "Spray Residue Removal from Apples" (pp. 121-136), by
M. H. Haller, J. H. Beaumont, C. R. Gross, H. W. Rusk.

December, 1945 - (reprint from) Refrigerator Engineering, Vol. 50. Article by
C. R. Gross, R. M. Smock entitled, "Studies on Odor Elimination in Apple
Storage" (pp. 535-540)

1947 - (reprint from) "Am. Soc. for Horticultural Sc.", Vol. 49. "Effect of Some
Hormone Materials on the Respiration and Softening Rates of Apples" (pp. 67-77),
by R. M. Smock and C. R. Gross

1947 - (reprint from) "Food Industries," Vol. 19 (pp. 919-921, 1028, and 1030).
"Odor Sources in Egg Storage and Methods of Removal" (4 pp.) by C. R. Gross,
G. O. Hall, R. M. Smock

March, 1950 - Cornell Univ. Ag. Experimental Station, Memoir 297. "Studies on
Respiration of Apples" (47 pp.), by R. M. Smock, C. R. Gross

Miscellanea

October, 1930 - The Cornell Countryman - article entitled, "Former Student Notes -
Where They are After Fifteen Years." Includes paragraph on C. R. Gross (2 pp.)

March 1, 1945 - U. S. of Am. - Office of Sc. Research and Develop. - certificate
to C. R. Gross in appreciation of effective service - (during war)

Des. by J. Breilocks, May 1960.