

Military Collection
State Archives of North Carolina

Harvey L. Teague Papers (WWI 64)

[World War I]

Collection Number: WWI 64

Title: Harvey L. Teague Papers

Dates: 1918-1919, undated

Creator: Harvey L. Teague

Abstract

The Harvey L. Teague Papers is composed of correspondence and a photograph documenting the World War I military service of Harvey L. Teague of Davidson County, North Carolina, from August 1918 to July 1919. Teague served in Company C, 56th Pioneer Infantry Regiment, 1st Army, U.S. Army. The bulk of the collection consists of letters written by Harvey Teague to his family members between August 1918 and July 1919. Teague discusses life in camp during basic training at Camp Wadsworth in South Carolina, including details on his basic training and information on other North Carolinians stationed with him in camp. While serving overseas in Europe, Teague discusses life in Belgium and Germany with the Army of Occupation, including while he was stationed in the towns of Athus, Belgium, and Neuenahr, Germany. The letters contain such information as Teague's explanation of the organization of his 56th Pioneer Infantry Regiment and how it operates within the Army of Occupation, and a recounting of a military review of the 56th Pioneer Infantry by General John J. Pershing. The majority of letters written by Harvey Teague in 1919 relate to life in Germany in the U.S. Army, as well as containing Teague's comments on updates from his family related to happenings around the Teague family farm in Davidson County, North Carolina.

Physical Description: 5 folders

Language(s): English

Repository

State Archives of North Carolina, 4614 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-4614

Restrictions on Access: There are no restrictions on accessing this collection.

Restrictions on Use: There are no restrictions on using this collection.

Preferred Citation

[Folder Numbers], Harvey L. Teague Papers, WWI 64, WWI Papers, Military Collection, State Archives of North Carolina, Raleigh, N.C.

Acquisition

The materials in this collection were received by the Military Collection at the State Archives of North Carolina from David B. Chiswell of Cary, North Carolina, in June 2006; the collection donation was completed in March 2007. Chiswell purchased the collection in order to donate it to the State Archives.

Processing Information

The materials in this collection were originally organized in folders based on format. The collection was reprocessed in order to separate the materials in the collection into smaller groups by format, to allow for better long-term preservation of the collection. Correspondence is arranged within folders chronologically based on the dates written on the letters or from the content of the letters, and based on who the author and recipients were. All envelopes were discarded after any necessary information was added in pencil to the letters. Envelopes with unique information or dates were photocopied and attached to each letter, using an acid-free plastic clip.

The first page of a letter dated August 21, 1918, was torn into two pieces; both pieces were placed in an acid-free archival plastic photograph sleeve to keep the pieces together. Two letters dated December 17 and 20, 1918, were written on paper with a pre-dated year of "1919," but Teague was back in the United States by December 1919. Therefore, the letters were actually written in December 1918. The year "1918" was added above the "1919" date in brackets with pencil on the letterhead for both these letters.

The photograph in the collection has been numbered with a soft HB No. 2 pencil on the back, according to the collection number, the folder number, and an individual image number. The photograph was housed in an acid-free archival polypropylene photograph sleeve, to allow researchers to be able to handle the photograph without damaging it and providing for better long-term preservation of the photograph. For example, the number "WWI 64.F5.1" should be interpreted as "WWI 64 collection, Folder 5, Photograph 1." The identification of this image has been created in the finding aid, but not written on the photograph itself.

Processed by: Matthew M. Peek, January 2017.

Arrangement: The collection is arranged in chronological order by format within the folders.

Biographical Note

Harvey Lee Teague was born on January 5, 1889, in the town of Wallburg in Davidson County, North Carolina, to Charles Henderson and Julia Angeline Stoner Teague. Harvey's father worked as a farmer by 1900 on the family's farm in Davidson County. By 1910, Harvey Teague was working on the farm with his father. When he registered for the draft for World War I in 1917, Teague was working as a full-time farmer on the family farm, helping to support his parents and two elderly aunts who had come to live with the Teague family. Harvey Teague was inducted into military service for World War I on August 5, 1918, in Davidson County, North Carolina. He went through basic training at Camp Wadsworth near Spartanburg, South Carolina, in August 1918.

Teague served during WWI in Company C, 56th Pioneer Infantry Regiment, 1st Army, U.S. Army, with the rank of Private for the duration of his service. The 56th Pioneer Infantry Regiment had an interesting history. It was originally formed from the National Guard unit the First Maine Heavy Artillery; later, it was redesignated as the 101st Trench Mortar Battery, part of the 26th Division that served with the 103rd Infantry Regiment. On February 9, 1918, the regiment became the 56th Pioneer Infantry Regiment. The 56th Pioneer Infantry was filled with draftees in August 1918, and departed for France. The regiment arrived in St. Nazaire on September 13, 1918, and was attached to the First Army. Due to the nature of the regiment's mission—which was acting in concert with infantry and engineers to clear obstacles and build hasty trails along the front lines of the war—it was broken up into companies and deployed across the Argonne Sector of France from October 2 to November 11, 1918. After the Armistice in November 1918, the 56th became part of the U.S. Army of Occupation, patrolling areas in the American Sector until May 25, 1919. The unit was stationed in Neuenahr, Germany. Harvey Teague served overseas in Europe from September 4, 1918, to June 25, 1919, and was honorably discharged on July 5, 1919.

By 1920, Harvey Teague had returned to live on his family's farm in Davidson County, and he took up farming full-time again. Teague remained a farmer in Davidson County for the rest of his life, supporting his aging parents. He would never marry. Harvey Teague died of pneumonia on November 15, 1962, and was buried in Abbotts Creek Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery in Wallburg, North Carolina.

[Historical information on the 56th Pioneer Infantry Regiment was taken from the Maine Army National Guard's WWI History webpage, at <http://www.me.ngb.army.mil/about/history/ww1.aspx>]

Scope and Content

The collection is composed of correspondence and a photograph documenting the World War I military service of Harvey L. Teague of Davidson County, North Carolina, from August 1918 to July 1919. Teague served in Company C, 56th Pioneer Infantry Regiment, 1st Army, U.S. Army. The bulk of the collection consists of letters written by Harvey Teague to his parents, sister, and other family members between August 1918 and July 1919. Teague discusses life in camp during basic training at Camp Wadsworth in South Carolina, including details on his basic training and

information on other North Carolinians stationed with him in camp. He discusses life in Belgium and Germany with the Army of Occupation, including while stationed in the towns of Athus, Belgium, and Neuenahr, Germany [believed to be the present-day town Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler].

In a letter from January 31, 1919, Teague explains the organization of his 56th Pioneer Infantry Regiment and how it operates within the Army of Occupation. In another letter in early 1919, he relates a military review of the 56th Pioneer Infantry by General John J. Pershing. The majority of letters written by Harvey Teague in 1919 relate to life in Germany in the U.S. Army, as well as containing Teague's comments on updates from his family related to happenings around the Teague family farm in Davidson County, North Carolina. The collection also contains an undated contact print from a negative of a photograph of three unidentified U.S. Army soldiers (with one believed to be Teague).

Subject Terms

Persons/Families

Teague, Harvey L. (Harvey Lee), 1889-1962

Places

Athus (Belgium)
Davidson County (N.C.)
Wallburg (N.C.)

Subject—Topical

Germany--History--Allied occupation, 1918-1930
United States. Army. Pioneer Infantry Regiment, 56th

Material Types

Correspondence
Photographs

Collection Inventory

| Folder | Description | Date |
|---------------|--------------------|---|
| 1 | Correspondence | August-September 1918, November-December 1918 |
| 2 | Correspondence | January-February 1919 |
| 3 | Correspondence | March-April 1919 |
| 4 | Correspondence | May-July 1919, November 1919 |
| 5 | Photograph | Undated |

WWI 64.F1.1: Contact print from a negative of a photograph of three unidentified U.S. Army soldiers sitting on a park bench at an unidentified location [Harvey L. Teague is believed to be one of the soldiers] (undated).