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Jacobs, Leroy R. and Family Papers, 1912-1941

Source: Marian Coberly

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Size: 1/3 linear foot (1 box)

Guide Prepared by: Mike Ross (March 2001)

Biography/Background

Leroy R. Jacobs grew up in Birmingham, Alabama, graduated from Harvard University, and then worked for the *Birmingham News* until the United States entered World War I. In 1917, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant. A year later Jacobs went to Europe where he fought in the Second Battle of the Marne. After receiving treatment for an injury he sustained during the battle, Jacobs was granted an honorable discharge. He returned to Birmingham and worked as a reporter for the *Birmingham News* and the *Age-Herald*. Leroy Jacobs died in 1936.

Scope and Content

The bulk of this collection centers on Leroy R. Jacobs, specifically his participation in World War I, including letters (1917 to 1918), newspaper clippings, and military documents. The remainder of the collection relates to other members of the Jacobs family and consists of postcards, letters, and several unidentified photographs.

File Number

Description

1740.1.1

Telegraph. Anita to Leroy Jacobs, "My congratulations and all good wishes for everything bright," June 18, 1912.

- 1740.1.2 Correspondence, September - October 1917. Letters written by Leroy R. "Simon" Jacobs to his family from the Reserve Officers Training Camp in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He wrote of life at the training camp and his hopes of being commissioned as a captain.
- 1740.1.3 Correspondence, November - December 1917. Letters from Leroy "Simon" Jacobs to his family, in which he wrote of his disappointment at not being commissioned higher than second lieutenant and of his assignment to the 38th Infantry and life at Camp Greene in Charlotte, North Carolina.
- 1740.1.4 Orders from Fort Oglethorpe Training Camp, Georgia for Second Lieutenant Leroy R. Jacobs to report for active service to the 38th Infantry at Camp Greene, Charlotte, North Carolina, November 27, 1917.
- 1740.1.5 Letter from "The Michael Family" to Ben M. Jacobs extending congratulations for Leroy Jacobs' commission, December 10, 1917.
- 1740.1.6 Correspondence, January 1918. Letters from Leroy Jacobs to his family, in which he stated that he doubted he would get the chance to see action in Europe before the war ended.
- 1740.1.7 Correspondence, February - March 1918. Letters written by Leroy R. "Simon" Jacobs to his family prior to being sent to Europe and telegraphs from Ben M. Jacobs to his son Leroy M. Jacobs.
- 1740.1.8 Letter from Victor H. Hanson to Jake (Leroy R. Jacobs), in which Hanson, the publisher for the *Birmingham News*, assures Leroy Jacobs that he is welcome to continue working at the *News* upon his return from military service, March 4, 1918.
- 1740.1.9 Letter to Mr. Martin Egan, American Expeditionary Force, France recommending Leroy Jacobs for work at headquarters. States that Leroy Jacobs "is a chap of the very highest character. He is a graduate of

Harvard and has good Newspaper experience."
Signed "Chairmen", May 29, 1918.

- 1740.1.10 Letter from Leroy R. Jacobs to "Jim", in which Leroy wrote of the second battle of the Marne, his impressions of German soldiers, and his injury, July 27, 1918, France.
- 1740.1.11 Letter from Private Alexander MacLauren to Lieutenant Jacobs. MacLauren wrote of serving with Jacobs in France and the end of the war, December 8, 1918, France.
- 1740.1.12 Orders for Jacobs to report to St Aignan-Noyers "for the purpose of being returned to the U.S." November 19, 1918. Telegraph informing Ben M. Jacobs that Leroy Jacobs has been officially reported as being slightly wounded, December 3, 1918.
- 1740.1.13 Letter from Leroy R. Jacobs to his parents, in which he wrote that he was awaiting orders to be sent home, December 8, 1918.
- 1740.1.14 Newspaper clipping from the Birmingham News regarding Leroy Jacobs being wounded in action, undated.
- 1740.1.15 Excerpts from the war diary of the 389th Infantry Regiment, July 14, 1918 - July 18, 1918. Excerpts from the war diary of the 47th (German) Infantry Regiment, July 15, 1918 - July 16, 1918.
- 1740.1.16 Orders for departure for U.S., January 9, 1919. Orders for the honorable discharge of three lieutenants, including Leroy R. Jacobs, February 13, 1919.
- 1740.1.17 Certificate for the honorable discharge of Second Lieutenant Leroy R. Jacobs, February 13, 1919.
- 1740.1.18 Letter from Leroy R. Jacobs to the Quartermaster General, USA concerning a claim for lost baggage, February 24, 1919, Birmingham, AL.
- 1740.1.19 Letter from John J. Pershing addressed to "My Fellow Americans" thanking them for their service with the

American Expeditionary Forces, February 28, 1919,
France.

- 1740.1.20 Newspaper clipping regarding the first annual reunion of
the
Third (Marne) division to be held in Chicago,
Undated.
- 1740.1.21 Letters Walter E. Henley and William H. Manly of
Birmingham Trust and Savings Company offering
their condolences to the Jacobs family after the
death of Leroy Jacobs, December 19, 1936.
- 1740.1.22 Letter of condolence from Helen to "Aunt Bettie and
Pampy
Jakes." Bettie was the name of the mother of Leroy
Jacobs. Therefore, the "Roy", to whose death this
letter was a response, was likely Leroy Jacobs.
Undated.
- 1740.1.23 A check made out to Ben M. Jacobs for \$2.50, December 3,
1917.
- 1740.1.24 "Thanksgiving Greetings" telegraph from Frances
Youngblood to Mrs. Ben M. Jacobs, undated. New
Years telegraph from Mary to Mrs. Ben M. Jacobs,
undated.
- 1740.1.25 Birthday card to Miss Frances M. Jacobs, undated. Library
card of Frances M. Jacobs.
- 1740.1.26 Postcard from Frances to Miss Fannie Jacobs, 1937.
- 1740.1.27 Postcard from Frances to Mrs. Ben M. Jacobs, 1937,
Venice, Italy.
- 1740.1.28 Postcard from Frances to Miss Fannie Jacobs, 1937,
Venice, Italy.
- 1740.1.29 Unidentified portrait of a woman.
- 1740.1.30 Portrait of Fannie Jacobs at age eight.
- 1740.1.31 Unidentified photograph of a group of people, September 9,
1941.

- 1740.1.32 Unidentified photograph of two children playing.
- 1740.1.33 Unidentified photograph of woman and child.
- 1740.1.34 Unidentified photograph of a child playing.
- 1740.1.35 Unidentified photograph of a man and a woman.
- 1740.1.36 Photograph of J.C., Mae, Moe, Adele, Louis, Harvey, Authie, Harvey Jr., Dorothy, and Carol.