

ROBERT J. FISCHER PAPERS

Introduction

The Robert J. Fischer Papers consist of personal notes, notebooks, messages, location reports and orders, German military documents, photographs, press bulletins and intelligence summaries. Also included are Australian intelligence summaries, propaganda - both German and English, German business bills and personal letters. The items, except for the German documents, relate to Fischer's tenure as an intelligence officer with the American forces during World War I; the German records deal with location reports and orders. The collection was donated by Fischer's daughter, Mrs. Ruth F. Katana of Traverse City, Michigan, in 1965.

The materials are divided into three groups: papers dealing with Fischer's activities with the U.S. Army, which include some personal items, such as written notes; U.S. military records, 1917-1919; and German military documents with some miscellaneous personal and business papers. The collection is arranged chronologically, according to series, in two boxes of eighteen and twenty-two folders, respectively. The maps and photographs have been separated from the collection.

There are no restrictions in the use of the collection.

Biographical Sketch

Robert J. Fischer began his involvement in World War I as an instructor at Camp (now Fort) Lee, Virginia, in 1916. He trained the 319th Infantry, 80th Division, and accompanied them to France in 1917, completing one tour of duty in the trenches with his men. In 1917-1918 he attended the Army Intelligence School at Longres, France, graduated, and was attached to the 33rd Division Headquarters as acting Division Line Intelligence officer, where he commanded all line intelligence units. Fischer participated in the battles of Amiens, Meuse-Argonne, Pannes-Troyon, the Somme, St. Mihiel, Verdun-Fromereville, Verdun Defensive Sector, and Flanders. In 1918, he was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action and received a divisional citation from General George Bell, Jr. Fischer's position with the Army of Occupation ended in May, 1919. Robert J. Fischer died in 1963, leaving a daughter, Ruth Fischer Katana.

Scope and Content Note

The Robert J. Fischer Papers consists of three main series: Personal and official records pertaining directly to Fischer and his activities with the U.S. Army in France during World War I as an Intelligence officer; official documents of the U.S. Army, with particular respect to the units Fischer served with; and official German military records and some personal items.

The portion of the collection dealing with Fischer personally contains three field notebooks and a small pad; requisition forms from Fischer and several reports, also initiated by Fischer. The notebooks contain elaborate sketches of fortifications, German weapons and ammunition; additionally, there are military essays written by Fischer on all manners of military activities from the proper method of "aeroplane" observation to the necessity for excellent intelligence gathering operations. One of the notebooks also contains regular entries detailing enemy activities observed by Fischer. Several messages of a "well-done" nature from Fischer's superiors to Fischer are also included.

The section of the collection dealing with official U.S. Army documents contains a large number of Intelligence Summaries, Messages, Press releases and translated propaganda. The intelligence summaries include location reports of U.S. units; the dates range from August 1918 to April 1919. A report on the Meuse-Argonne offensive is also included as is an Australian intelligence summary.

The third main series contains German location reports, weekly orders, war orders, messages, notes, administrative records and a grave map. Also included are personal items such as letters, an I.D., and bills; as are a newspaper and propaganda.

The papers have been arranged chronologically according to type. The photographs and maps have been separated from the collection and stored in appropriate locations. There are no restrictions in the use of the collection.

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Container List

<u>Box/Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	MILITARY PAPERS, 1917-1919.
1	Fischer notebook and pad.
2	Fischer field notebook.
3	Fischer correspondence notebook.
4	Fischer messages.
5	Fischer army forms and reports.
6	U.S. Intelligence summaries, August 1918.
7	" , August 1918-February 1919.
8	" , February-October 1919.
9	U.S. Intelligence summaries, notes, messages, commentaries, September 1918-February 1919.
10	U.S. Intelligence summaries, notes, messages, commentaries, February 1919.
11	U.S. Location reports, 33rd Division, July 1918.
12	U.S. Location reports, 33rd Division, August 1918.
13	U.S. Admin. records, commentaries, location reports, August 1918.
14	U.S. Admin. records, commentaries, location reports, December 1917-June 1918.
15	U.S. Admin. records, commentaries, location reports, October 1918-February 1919.
16	U.S. News bulletins, April 1919.
17	Australian Intelligence summaries, August 1918-September 1918.
18	U.S. Meuse-Argonne Offensive Report.
2	GERMAN PAPERS, 1915-1918.
1	German Divisional orders, January 1918.
2	" , February 1918.
3	" , February-March 1918.
4	" , April 1918.
5	" , May 1918.
6	" , June 1918.
7	German War orders, May-June 1915.
8	" , June-July 1915.
9	" , September 1915.
10	German Reports, Weekly, July/August 1917.
11	" , September 1917-January 1918.
12	" , January-March 1918.
13	German Admin. Records, January-April 1918.
14	" , April-May 1918.
15	German notes, messages, orders, February-July 1917.
16	German military messages.
17	German newspaper, 1918.
18	German grave map.
19	German I.D. and foreign postal card.
20	German Order, Propaganda.
21	German Bills, business letters.
22	German letters, personal.