

GEORGE C. MARSHALL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

COLLECTION SUMMARY SHEET

COLLECTION: Gordon (Lewis Coleman) Papers

ACCESSION NUMBER: 35#

DONOR: Mrs. Alfred F. (Mary Bell) Taylor

DATE OF GIFT: January 1972

SIZE: 38 pieces

INCLUSIVE DATES: April 23, 1918-Dec. 26, 1918

BIOGRAPHICAL AND SUBJECT SUMMARY:

Captain Gordon was born in Salem, Virginia in 1887 and was graduated from Washington and Lee University in 1908. Gordon became a career officer in the United States Army and served as Captain with the 4th U.S. Engineers, American Expeditionary Force, during WWI. He was stationed in France & Germany during 1918, and the collection consists of his descriptions of the daily life of a soldier .

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION AND ARRANGEMENT:

The collection is composed entirely of correspondence and is arranged chronologically.

RESTRICTIONS: none

LOCATION: vault-3rd floor- minor collections file cabinet

COLLECTION REGISTER AVAILABLE: Calendar

LEWIS C. GORDON PAPERS

- April 23, 1918 Lewis C. Gordon, Camp Merritt, N.J. to Mrs. E. C. Gordon, St. Louis. F-1
- Describes Camp Merritt, the embarkation camp, and the trip there; envelope.
- A.L.S.
- May 23, 1918 Lewis C. Gordon, France to Mrs. E. C. Gordon. F-2
- Describes travel to France; discusses life in French peasant homes and devotion of French to Catholicism; tells of difficulties in receiving mail and money.
- A.L.S.
- July 3, 1918 Lewis C. Gordon to Fern [Mrs. Lewis C. Gordon.] F-3
- Remembers when they were both in Lexington; declares his love for her and hopes for marriage; states his feeling that he will come out of the war alive; mentions that the regiment is short of horses; explains deletion of regimental designations due to censorship regulations.
- A.L.S.
- July 8-9, 1918 Lewis C. Gordon to Mrs. E. C. Gordon. F-4
- Tells of letters he has received; mentions Lt. McLelland and Lt. Massie (both VMI, 1916) and 26 VMI men with Marines at front; describes billet; describes moves army makes and places passed through; mentions Major Tucker (regimental chief medical officer, graduate of Johns Hopkins) and Lt. Belden (also Johns Hopkins grad), also mentions Capt. Lohmeyer (VMI, 1916).
- T.L.c.
- July 26, 1918 Lewis C. Gordon to Rev. E. C. Gordon. F-5
- Tells of camp in deserted village; mentions Capt. Lohmeyer (VMI, 1916) as being wounded and gassed; describes his humiliation and regret that he hasn't seen any real action;

describes village and camp (best one had in France); remarks that things are very calm and peaceful at moment; envelope.

A.L.S.

August 20, 1918

Lewis C. Gordon, France to Mrs. E. C. Gordon.

F-6

Describes camp and trip there by train; Gordon bossed whole job as presiding officer; tells of him injuring himself and refusing to go to hospital; meditates on chances for a captaincy for himself; tells of shock of seeing normal human life (i.e. civilians, women and children) again; emphasizes his readiness to go to the line again whenever he is called.

A.L.S.

September 16, 1918

Lewis C. Gordon, "Another Bois" to Rev. E.C. Gordon.

F-7

Asks family to refrain from publishing any letters that he writes to them; tells of his individual accountability for anything getting into print; mentions fact others get away with it but he could be punished severely; describes forbidden enclosures in private correspondence.

A.L.S.

September 29, 1918

Lewis C. Gordon to Rev. E.C. Gordon.

F-8

Tells of big battle that took place on his birthday (September 26th); mentions his promotion to captain and charge of his company; describes hardships of war; indicates American superiority and effectiveness in pushing Germans back.

A.L.S.

October 24, 1918

Lewis C. Gordon, Out of the Line to Rev. E.C. Gordon.

F-9

Describes new camp site; tells of his meeting with his brother, Capt. Frank N. Gordon; describes deprivations of French due to German occupancy; describes his duties as head of billeting party; gives

scale of tariffs for billeting soldiers; pages missing.

A.L.

December 11, 1918

Lewis C. Gordon, Bell, Province of Rhine, Kingdom of Prussia, Germany to Rev. E. C. Gordon.

F-10

Tells of advancement of army toward Rhine; mentions his desire to see more of Europe; describes his room and surroundings in Bell; describes the army's status as occupying troops under the terms of the armistice; mentions fact that the rules are strict and being enforced; mentions Major General Howze, Commanding General of the 3rd Division; pages missing.

A.L.

December 26, 1918

Lewis C. Gordon, Dungenheim, Germany, Rhennish Province, Kingdom of Prussia to Mrs. E. C. Gordon.

F-11

Describes strangeness of being an officer of a victorious army in the land of the enemy on Christmas Day; describes war as an enriching experience for him; feels his presence in German house during Christmas must be annoying and obnoxious; describes home and people where he is billeted and what Christmas was like in that situation; describes army of occupation's conduct as being dignified, sober and courteous; mentions his brother's division is near; states Prussianism is not dead yet and is difficult to eradicate; sees ample material for another German army; predicts Germany will begin move for expansion again.

A.L.S.