



University Libraries Special Collections & University Archives

Willburt E. Kinsley Papers

Collection Summary

Title:	Willburt E. Kinsley Papers
Call Number:	MS 92-17
Size:	0.75 linear feet
Acquisition:	Purchased from Charles Apfelbaum
Processed by:	KJC, 1992; JEF, 11-2-1998; MN, 10-2008; MN, 11-2015
Restrictions:	None

Literary Rights

Literary rights were not granted to Wichita State University. When permission is granted to examine manuscripts, it is not an authorization to publish them. Manuscripts cannot be used for publication without regard for common law literary rights, copyright laws and the laws of libel. It is the responsibility of the researcher and his/her publisher to obtain permission to publish. Scholars and students who eventually plan to have their work published are urged to make inquiry regarding overall restrictions on publication before initial research.

Content Note

The Willburt E. Kinsley Papers contains documents, photographs and negatives relating to Kinsley's military service in World War I and World War II. Several official documents concern Kinsley's World War I Distinguished Service Cross and his discharge. His World War I pilot log book provides some detail on training and military missions in 1917 and 1918.

The bulk of the collection is comprised by negatives of images taken by Kinsley in which he documents locations, people and activities in France of the 90th Squadron, American Expeditionary Forces (A.E.F.), United States Air Service, during World War I. The images show aircraft, landing fields, airport structures, barracks, drill grounds and fellow soldiers. Specific locations in France include Cazaux, Béthelainville, Paris, Verdun, Pannes, Souilly, Belrain, Brest, Saint-Mihiel, Angers, Nancy, Issoudun, Toul, Colombey-les-Belles, Château-Thierry and Ourches. Several images of Paris show the Place de la Concorde. There also are images from Kinsley's time spent in training at Gerstner Field in Louisiana and at liberty in New York. Specific locations in the United States include Kinder, Louisiana; Amagansett, New York; Lake Keuka in Keuka Park, New York; and Brooklyn, New York. Two images show the Statue of Liberty. Aircraft shown include Nieuport, Sopwith Camel, Spad, Caproni bomber, Salmson and airplanes with Liberty motors that Kinsley describes as "Liberty" or "Liberties." His squadron's "Lucky 7" dice emblem is visible on several aircraft. Named persons in the images are Jim Bovard, Hayden, William Lowe, Percy Hart, Grier, Lake, Carver, Lockwood, Dr. Livingston, Mellon, Cargill, Brown, Maurer, Dogan, Foddy, Bandy, Cunliffe, Smith and Kinsley. Men

identified only by nickname are "Trapper" and "Big Dick." Four different, unidentified women are in several photographs.

Biography

Willburt E. Kinsley was born September 12, 1891, and lived in Winchester, Massachusetts. Kinsley served in both World War I and World War II, retiring from the military in 1953. Prior to World War II, he was an executive at a furniture manufacturer. He died June 10, 1975, in Winchester.

Kinsley began his military career as a private first class in the 90th Aero Squadron, American Expeditionary Forces, in late 1917. Prior to his overseas duty, Kinsley trained in the Aviation Section at Gerstner Field, Lake Charter, Louisiana, for two months. Then he spent time at Cornell Ground School at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. Kinsley spent several months overseas in World War I, where he encountered eleven combats, was shot down once and was given official credit for two German fighter craft kills. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for valor in the line of duty.

During World War II, Kinsley served as a Lt. Colonel in the 36th Station Complement Squadron. He was stationed in Normandy, Northern France, the Rhineland and Central Europe. He was decorated with the European African Middle Eastern Medal, the American Service Medal, the World War II Victory Medal and the American Defense Medal.

Detailed Description: Series Listing

Series 1	Box 1 FF 1-5	Military Documents
Series 2	Box 1 FF 6-Box 2	Images

Detailed Description: Box and Folder Listing

Series 1 – Military Documents

Box 1	FF 1	Pilot's Book (December 18, 1917-February 15, 1918: logs time in air, type of plane and engine, and brief detail of work; 2 November 2, 1917-May 15, 1918: engaged in practice sessions; May 26, 1918-December 24, 1918: engaged in combat, liaison, and reconnaissance)
Box 1	FF 2	War Department booklet of awards and Distinguished Service Crosses, January 21, 1919; copy of certification of Distinguished Service Cross; copy of letter recommending Kinsley and William Lowe for the Distinguished Service Cross.
Box 1	FF 3	Copy of service papers, September 17, 1941-April 30, 1946; original and copy of military record and report of separation; original and copy of Honorable discharge paper, April 1, 1953; copies of Separation Qualification Record.
Box 1	FF 4	Military Identification Pass; A.R.C. Club for Officers card; Third Annual Reunion of the 90th Aero Squadron, November 14, 1925.

Box 1	FF 5	Order forms for the <i>History of the Ninetieth Aero Squadron</i> ; envelopes; letter concerning publisher cost overruns, September 18, 1920.
-------	------	---

Series 2 – Images

Box 1	FF 6	Photograph of Kinsley in World War I uniform (8 x 10); photograph of Kinsley standing on steps (1.5 x 2).
-------	------	---

Box 1	FF 7	Wallet-type negative albums labeled "1-100" and "100-200." The negatives originally contained in the albums are in Box 2. Brief subject descriptions were handwritten by Kinsley on the numerical subject pages in each album.
-------	------	--

Box 2		Negatives from albums in Box 1 FF 7. Image descriptions and order taken from Kinsley's handwritten numerical indexes in the negative albums. Bracketed words and phrases were added for clarification, and known misspellings were corrected. File folders (FF) 1-104 contain the contents of album "1-100" and FFs 105-203 contain the contents of album "100-200." Eleven additional images were with the numbered and described images, and they were placed at the end of each album (10 in first album, 1 in second). Six images described in the numerical list of the first album are missing: 11, P. P. Jones in Nieuport, Cazaux; 28, "Wotang," 90th "mascot," Ourches; 30-32, Major Anderson's Breguet wreck at Ourches (3 images); and 40, Percy Hart in Liberty.
-------	--	--

Box 2	FF 1	1. Robertson's wreck at Cazaux
-------	------	--------------------------------

Box 2	FF 2	2. Robertson's wreck at Cazaux
-------	------	--------------------------------

Box 2	FF 3	3. Robertson's wreck at Cazaux
-------	------	--------------------------------

Box 2	FF 4	4. Robertson's wreck at Cazaux
-------	------	--------------------------------

Box 2	FF 5	5. Sopwith Camel at Cazaux
-------	------	----------------------------

Box 2	FF 6	6. J. Cat wreck at Cazaux
-------	------	---------------------------

Box 2	FF 7	7. J. Cat wreck at Cazaux
-------	------	---------------------------

Box 2	FF 8	8. French general at Cazaux
-------	------	-----------------------------

Box 2	FF 9	9. Nieuport diving on American airfield, Cazaux
-------	------	---

Box 2	FF 10	10. French general at Cazaux
-------	-------	------------------------------

Box 2	FF 11	12. Nieuports at Cazaux
-------	-------	-------------------------

Box 2	FF 12	13. Flying boat in air, Cazaux
-------	-------	--------------------------------

Box 2	FF 13	14. Hydroplane taking off, Cazaux
-------	-------	-----------------------------------

Box 2	FF 14	15. Bimotor "hydro" [hydroplane] on dock, Cazaux
-------	-------	--

Box 2	FF 15	16. Flying boat on dock, Cazaux
Box 2	FF 16	17. Hydroplane hangars, Cazaux
Box 2	FF 17	18. Motorboats at pier, Cazaux
Box 2	FF 18	19. Hydroplane taking off, Cazaux
Box 2	FF 19	20. Flying boat being towed in, Cazaux
Box 2	FF 20	21. Flying boat approaching dock, Cazaux
Box 2	FF 21	22. Armurrire [Armory], Cazaux
Box 2	FF 22	23. Liberty rear view at Ourches
Box 2	FF 23	24. Swimming pool of 90 th [Squadron], Ourches
Box 2	FF 24	25. Liberty near front view, Ourches
Box 2	FF 25	26. Liberty near view of fuselage at Ourches
Box 2	FF 26	27. Hayden in observer's seat of Liberty at Ourches
Box 2	FF 27	29. [William] "Submarine" Lowe, Ourches
Box 2	FF 28	33. Fourteen Liberties [in] first formation to go over lines
Box 2	FF 29	34. Start of the first Liberty to go over
Box 2	FF 30	35. Observer Hart in Liberty
Box 2	FF 31	36. Front view of 14 Liberties
Box 2	FF 32	37. Side view of first five Liberties
Box 2	FF 33	38. #20 Salmson crashed on field
Box 2	FF 34	39. Caproni bomber
Box 2	FF 35	41. Marine [William Lowe], Olgar and Alice
Box 2	FF 36	42. Olgar and Alice
Box 2	FF 37	43. Toul from the air
Box 2	FF 38	44. Air photo
Box 2	FF 39	45. Lt. Bovard and his plane
Box 2	FF 40	46. Lt. Kinsley and his plane
Box 2	FF 41	47. German second line trenches, Toul sector
Box 2	FF 42	48. No Man's land, St. Mihiel Drive
Box 2	FF 43	49. No Man's Land near Pannes
Box 2	FF 44	50. French [artillery] piece in action (155 [mm caliber] Short)
Box 2	FF 45	51. German pillbox [concrete bunker], rear view
Box 2	FF 46	52. German pillbox [concrete bunker], close front view

Box 2	FF 47	53. German pillbox [concrete bunker], distant front view
Box 2	FF 48	54. Béthelainville
Box 2	FF 49	55. French outpost, Verdun
Box 2	FF 50	56. Camouflaged battery, Verdun
Box 2	FF 51	57. Camouflaged battery position
Box 2	FF 52	58. Big Dick, Grier and Lake
Box 2	FF 53	59. Enlisted men, 90th
Box 2	FF 54	60. Photographer and lighting truck
Box 2	FF 55	61. Kinsley's cot at Béthelainville
Box 2	FF 56	62. Jim Bovard reading
Box 2	FF 57	63. Crew's quarters in hangar
Box 2	FF 58	64. Headquarters building, Béthelainville
Box 2	FF 59	65. No. 1 of Béthelainville field
Box 2	FF 60	66. No. 2 of Béthelainville field
Box 2	FF 61	67. No. 3 of Béthelainville field
Box 2	FF 62	68. Camouflaged road
Box 2	FF 63	69. Truck taking away Pat's wreck [airplane]
Box 2	FF 64	70. Interior of barracks at Béthelainville
Box 2	FF 65	71. Big Dick and Carver
Box 2	FF 66	72. Judge, our mascot [dog]
Box 2	FF 67	73. Officers' barracks, Souilly
Box 2	FF 68	74. Men's mess, Souilly
Box 2	FF 69	75. Marine [William Lowe] at operation office, Souilly
Box 2	FF 70	76. Hayden, Big Dick and Lockwood
Box 2	FF 71	77. Wreck of Sopwith Camel
Box 2	FF 72	78. Wreck of Sopwith Camel, Souilly
Box 2	FF 73	79. Officers' quarters, Belrain
Box 2	FF 74	80. Officers' quarters, Belrain
Box 2	FF 75	81. Dr. Livingston's dog
Box 2	FF 76	82. Dr. Livingston's dog on stove
Box 2	FF 77	83. Dr. Livingston and his dog
Box 2	FF 78	84. Barbed wire entanglements

Box 2	FF 79	85. Kinsley crawling through wire
Box 2	FF 80	86. Interior of church at Béthelainville
Box 2	FF 81	87. Place de la Concorde, Paris
Box 2	FF 82	88. Place de la Concorde, Paris, showing monument
Box 2	FF 83	89. Place de la Concorde, Paris, showing fountain
Box 2	FF 84	90. Place de la Concorde, Paris, looking west
Box 2	FF 85	91. Railroad station at Château-Thierry
Box 2	FF 86	92. Hangar blown down at Béthelainville
Box 2	FF 87	93. Commanding officer's quarters at Belrain
Box 2	FF 88	94. Belrain 1
Box 2	FF 89	95. Belrain 2
Box 2	FF 90	96. Belrain 3
Box 2	FF 91	97. Belrain 1
Box 2	FF 92	98. Belrain 2
Box 2	FF 93	99. Belrain 3
Box 2	FF 94	100. Quarters of Foster and Kinsley, Béthelainville
Box 2	FF 95	[Woman seated on bench on dock, Alley's Inn in background, Lake Keuka, Keuka Park, New York] (additional image in album not recorded on numerical listing; same subject shown in Box 2 FFs 95-98)
Box 2	FF 96	[Woman holding a flower standing behind bench on dock, Alley's Inn, Lake Keuka, Keuka Park, New York] (additional image in album not recorded on numerical listing; same subject shown in Box 2 FFs 95-98)
Box 2	FF 97	[Woman in bathing suit standing on dock, Alley's Inn, Lake Keuka, Keuka Park, New York] (additional image in album not recorded on numerical listing; same subject shown in Box 2 FFs 95-98)
Box 2	FF 98	[Woman in bathing suit seated in a rowboat, Lake Keuka, Keuka Park, New York] (additional image in album not recorded on numerical listing; same subject shown in Box 2 FFs 95-98)
Box 2	FF 99	[Kinsley on dock, Alley's Inn, Lake Keuka, Keuka Park, New York] (additional image in album not recorded on numerical listing)
Box 2	FF 100	[Kinsley in bathing suit at bottom of stairway, Alley's Inn, Lake Keuka, Keuka Park, New York] (additional image in album not recorded on numerical listing)

Box 2	FF 101	[Woman seated on pilings by water's edge, Lake Keuka, Keuka Park, New York] (additional image in album not recorded on numerical listing; same subject shown in Box 2 FFs 101, 102, 203)
Box 2	FF 102	[Woman in bathing suit seated on back of rowboat with legs in water, Lake Keuka, Keuka Park, New York] (additional image in album not recorded on numerical listing; same subject shown in Box 2 FFs 101, 102, 203)
Box 2	FF 103	[Woman seated on grass, dock in background with three people on bench, Alley's Inn, Lake Keuka, Keuka Park, New York] (additional image in album not recorded on numerical listing)
Box 2	FF 104	[Bench on dock, Alley's Inn, Lake Keuka, Keuka Park, New York] (additional image in album not recorded on numerical listing)
Box 2	FF 105	1. Rear view, commanding officer's quarters, Béthelainville
Box 2	FF 106	2. Starboard side bow, La France [SS France]
Box 2	FF 107	3. Bow view, La France [SS France]
Box 2	FF 108	4. Stern starboard view
Box 2	FF 109	5. Stern view showing wake
Box 2	FF 110	6. Smoke stacks
Box 2	FF 111	7. George Mellon and gang
Box 2	FF 112	8. Wireless tower at Brest
Box 2	FF 113	9. Brest Harbor
Box 2	FF 114	10. Brest Harbor
Box 2	FF 115	11. Brest Harbor
Box 2	FF 116	12. Breakwater, Brest
Box 2	FF 117	13. French cruiser, Brest
Box 2	FF 118	14. U.S. battleship
Box 2	FF 119	15. Angers barracks 1
Box 2	FF 120	16. Angers barracks 2
Box 2	FF 121	17. Angers barracks 3
Box 2	FF 122	18. Drill ground, Angers
Box 2	FF 123	19. Angers city
Box 2	FF 124	20. House, Angers
Box 2	FF 125	21. Statue of Liberty

Box 2	FF 126	22. Statue of Liberty
Box 2	FF 127	23. Bird Park, Nancy
Box 2	FF 128	24. Main court [Place Stanislas], Nancy
Box 2	FF 129	25. Main arch [Arc de Triomphe by Héré], Nancy
Box 2	FF 130	26. Scene looking through arch [toward Place de la Carriere], Nancy
Box 2	FF 131	27. Municipal building [along Place Stanislas], Nancy
Box 2	FF 132	28. Cargill and Brown
Box 2	FF 133	29. Drill ground, Angers
Box 2	FF 134	30. Day I [Kinsley] left for home
Box 2	FF 135	31. Sgt. Cargill
Box 2	FF 136	32. Colombey-les-Belles
Box 2	FF 137	33. Colombey-les-Belles
Box 2	FF 138	34. Toul station
Box 2	FF 139	35. Captured guns, Paris
Box 2	FF 140	36. Moi [Kinsley] at Colombey-les-Belles
Box 2	FF 141	37. Maurer at Colombey-les-Belles
Box 2	FF 142	38. Hangars and field at Colombey-les-Belles
Box 2	FF 143	39. Hangars and field at Colombey-les-Belles
Box 2	FF 144	40. The old wood pile, Belrain
Box 2	FF 145	41. Typical French dog, Colombey-les-Belles
Box 2	FF 146	42. Canal and barge
Box 2	FF 147	43. "B" Flight [Kinsley's flight group]
Box 2	FF 148	44. Bill Maurer
Box 2	FF 149	45. Schoelkoff Hall 1
Box 2	FF 150	46. Schoelkoff Hall 2
Box 2	FF 151	47. Schoelkoff Hall 3
Box 2	FF 152	48. Schoelkoff Hall 4
Box 2	FF 153	49. New armory
Box 2	FF 154	50. Old armory 1
Box 2	FF 155	51. Old armory 2
Box 2	FF 156	52. Hydroplane, rear view, Cazaux
Box 2	FF 157	53. Sopwith [Camel] #23, Cazaux

Box 2	FF 158	54. Five plane formation, Cazaux
Box 2	FF 159	55. Four plane formation, Cazaux
Box 2	FF 160	56. Nieuport diving, Cazaux
Box 2	FF 161	57. Kinsley in Nieuport, Cazaux
Box 2	FF 162	58. Kinsley in front of Nieuport, Cazaux
Box 2	FF 163	59. Spad, Cazaux
Box 2	FF 164	60. Barracks at Cazaux
Box 2	FF 165	61. Dogan at Kinder, Louisiana
Box 2	FF 166	62. Dogan at Kinder, Louisiana
Box 2	FF 167	63. [Airplanes #] 1640 and 17 at Kinder, Louisiana
Box 2	FF 168	64. "Kin" [Kinsley] in #1640 at Kinder, Louisiana
Box 2	FF 169	65. "Trapper" and Hayden, Louisiana, at hose
Box 2	FF 170	66. Foddy waiting, Louisiana
Box 2	FF 171	67. "Kin" [Kinsley] sitting in front of barracks
Box 2	FF 172	68. Porch of barracks, Louisiana
Box 2	FF 173	69. Cunliffe sitting on porch
Box 2	FF 174	70. Porch near view
Box 2	FF 175	71. Porch from street
Box 2	FF 176	72. Dogan and [unidentified] at hydrant
Box 2	FF 177	73. [Airplane #] 1575 on line, Louisiana
Box 2	FF 178	74. View of field, Louisiana
Box 2	FF 179	75. Bandy by truck, Louisiana
Box 2	FF 180	76. Field showing starting line
Box 2	FF 181	77. Bunch on field and snake
Box 2	FF 182	78. Smithie on truck, Louisiana
Box 2	FF 183	79. Dogan standing by truck
Box 2	FF 184	80. Ourches Field, France
Box 2	FF 185	81. Ourches Field from air
Box 2	FF 186	82. Railroad from air
Box 2	FF 187	83. Village of Ourches from air
Box 2	FF 188	84. Barracks field at Issoudun
Box 2	FF 189	85. Road scene from Ourches barracks

Box 2	FF 190	86. Dogan and George, field at Issoudun
Box 2	FF 191	87. Three of us [Dogan, Kinsley and George], field at Issoudun
Box 2	FF 192	88. Dogan in Spad, Ourches
Box 2	FF 193	89. George and me [Kinsley], Brooklyn [New York]
Box 2	FF 194	90. "Kin" [Kinsley] in G. Baxter's backyard
Box 2	FF 195	91. George shooting dice at Amagansett [New York]
Box 2	FF 196	92. G. [George] and "Chan" in sun parlor
Box 2	FF 197	93. George in sun parlor
Box 2	FF 198	94. "Kin" [Kinsley] in sun parlor
Box 2	FF 199	95. "Kin" [Kinsley] by bath house
Box 2	FF 200	96. Country Club, Hampton
Box 2	FF 201	97. Blimp at tennis courts
Box 2	FF 202	98. Miss dingbat on porch
Box 2	FF 203	[Woman standing by front of car] (additional image in album not recorded on numerical listing; same subject shown in Box 2 FFs 101, 102, 203)

For information, please contact us at:
[Special Collections and University Archives](#)
Wichita State University Libraries
1845 Fairmount, Wichita, KS 67260-0068
E-mail: specialcollections@wichita.edu
Telephone: 316-978-3590