

IRVING L. MORRIS

LETTERS AND PAPERS of a WORLD WAR I SOLDIER

ARCHIVE COLLECTION A20

Cape Ann Historical Association
27 Pleasant Street
Gloucester, MA 01930

0.5 linear feet
1 manuscript container

Accession # 2002.54
Processed 2003
By: Peter Brown
Supervising Archivist, Ellen Nelson

ACQUISITION Gift of Elizabeth Morris Sampson (daughter)

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Biography

Irving L. Morris was born in Gloucester, December 31, 1893, the son of Antone and Annie (Bates) Morris. He married Mary MacLean in 1926 and they had a son, Irving Jr. and a daughter Elizabeth. He worked for forty years at the First National Stores, retiring in 1959. His diary and letters describe the time he served with Company G, 104th Infantry Regiment of the famed Yankee (26th) Division. Morris participated in the battles of Bellau Woods, Chateau Thiery, St. Mihiel and the Meuse-Argonne. Mr. Morris was a charter member of the Lester S. Wass Post No. 3, American Legion, and remained active in veteran affairs, becoming the oldest of the "old timers" of the Gloucester branch. He was also a member of Gloucester Lodge No. 892 B.P.O. Elks and communicant at St. Ann Church. He died January 24, 1985.

Scope and Content

The diary, letters, commendations and other papers of World War I soldier Irving L. Morris were donated to the Cape Ann Historical Association by his daughter Elizabeth Morris Sampson.

Series description

The papers include numerous letters Mr. Morris sent to his family, his personal diary, commendation letters and a transcript of his diary typed by his son-in-law, Robert Sampson.

Container list

Box #1

Folder 1: Typed manuscript of diary. Photostats of letters sent home from France. Photograph.

Folder 2: Written copy of diary.

Original diary Sept. 26, 1917 – Sept. 25, 1918

Although the diary is printed Jan – Dec 1918 Mr. Hanscomb crossed out the day and year beginning Thursday Sept. 26, 1918 changing it to Weds Sept. 26, 1917. He continued to alter the day and year until Dec. 30. Then began at the beginning of the diary with Jan 1, 1918.

Folder 3: Original letters - Undated & 1917

Letter card with prints of Southampton, England, nd

To Irving from Gramma, nd

Father from Somewhere in France, nd

Father from Somewhere in England, nd (1918?)

Father from Somewhere in France, nd (incomplete)

Father from Somewhere in France, Jan. 7, 1917

Pa from Westfield, Sept. 17, 1917

Pa from YMCA Westfield, Sept. 23, 1917

Mother from YMCA France, Nov. 2, 1917

Father from Somewhere in France, Nov. 7, 1917

Father from Somewhere in France, Nov. 30, 1917

Girls & Boys from Camp Kelly, Dec. 23, 1917

Father from Somewhere in France, 1917 (bottom third missing)

Father from Somewhere in France Dec. 17, 1917 (incomplete)

Folder 4: Original letters 1918 - 1919

Father from Somewhere in France, Jan 22, 1918 (torn)

Father from Somewhere in France, Feb. 1, 1918

Pa from YMCA France, Feb. 24, 1918

Father, Mar. 29, 1918

Father from YMCA Apr. 30, 1918

Mother from Somewhere in France, May 12, 1918

Father from France, May 22, 1918

Postcard: Father from Somewhere in France, June 5, 1918

Father from YMCA, July 3, 1918

Mother from Somewhere in France, July 9, 1918

Father from YMCA, Aug. 18, 1918

Father from Somewhere in France, Sept. 19, 1918

Father from Somewhere in France, Oct. 17, 1918

Father from Somewhere in France, Nov. 4, 1918

Father from YMCA Nov. 23, 1918 (incomplete)

Father from YMCA, Nov. 23, 1918 (typewritten)

Father from Dammartin, France, Dec. 26, 1918

Father from Dammartin, France, Jan 8, 1919 (incomplete)

Father from Demmartin, France, Jan 14, 1919

Friend from Dammartin, France, Jan. 15, 1919
Father from Le Grand-Luce, Feb. 4, 1919
Father from Le Mans, France, Mar. 1, 1919
Father from Le Grand-Luce, 1919

Undated & incomplete pages of letters
Empty envelopes

Folder 5:

Commendations.
Honoring the service of Irving L. Morris May 16, 1919
Xerox copy of same.

Misc.

Card of Miss Trixie E. Boot, Southampton, UK
Special Orders – Permission to travel, Feb. 14, 1919
Leave slip Feb. 16, 1919
Hotel registration card, Bordeaux, France, 2/17-2/28/1919
2 cards YMCA Hotel des Americains, Feb. 17 & 27, 1919
Theatre Pass 2/28/1919
Permission to be absent for 3 days, Apr. 16, 1919
Sheet of Bread Vouchers
Historical Data concerning the 26th Division American E.F.
Newspaper clipping Sept. 14, 1918 – Letter from Morris to his mother
Program – Concert in Honor of the Veterans of the World War
WU Telegram, 3/19 Will arrive Boston Friday
USA Insurance Certificate, 1917
YMCA pamphlet
Small booklet (partial) containing: list of letters written & received;
misc notes inc. Names & addresses
Citizen Seaman's Identification Card, issued Dec. 9, 1919 (photo ID)
2 newspaper clippings about Mr. Morris
Mr. Morris' obit
Booklet *Apremont Day*, 104th US Infnatry Reunion Dinner, Cambridge, 1923

Photos

5 small photos of 103rd in France 918
Irving Morris (?) with goat, July 25, 1917