O.T. Coleman Papers  
(C0976)

Collection Number: C0976

Collection Title: O.T. Coleman Papers

Dates: 1917-1960

Creator: Coleman, Otis Turner, 1891-1965

Abstract: The papers of O.T. Coleman contain his World War I correspondence from Camp Funston, Kansas; England; France; and Germany. The collection also includes clippings and pictorial images regarding World War I and Coleman's diaries as a soil extension agent for the University of Missouri.

Collection Size: 0.4 cubic feet  
(13 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia. If you would like more information, please contact us at columbia@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See Rights & Reproductions on the Society’s website for more information and about reproductions and permission to publish.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] O.T. Coleman Papers (C0976); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Otis Turner Coleman on September 27, 1962 (Accession No. CA3515).

Processed by: Processed by a State Historical Society of Missouri staff member, date unknown. Finding aid revised by Nicholas Raya, July 25, 2022.

Biographical Note:
Otis Turner Coleman, a native of Lakenan, Missouri, joined the United States Army in late 1917. He was stationed at Camp Funston, Kansas, where he received basic training with the 354th Infantry, 89th Division. He rose to the rank of Battalion Sergeant of Company "C" before being discharged in 1919. Coleman fought in France and Germany towards the end of World War I. He received the Purple Heart in 1943 for being gassed during a battle near Flirey, France.

Around 1925 Coleman began working for the University of Missouri. He was an agent at Palmyra in Marion County for the University of Missouri Extension Service until 1928. Then he became a faculty member in the College of Agriculture in 1928 where he worked in the Soil Extension Service. He served in this position until near his death in 1965.

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged into the following two series:

Correspondence
Diaries

**Scope and Content Note:**

**Correspondence**

This series contains letters, dating from 1917 to 1919, that he wrote to his family during World War I from Camp Funston, Kansas; England; France; and Germany. The correspondence explains training at Camp Funston, travel to England and France, battles in France and Germany, and life in general as a soldier during World War I. Coleman also describes his post war study at Clare College in England as part of a program funded by the United States Army. Also included are clippings and pictorial images regarding World War I.

**Diaries**

This series contains diaries from when Coleman worked for the Extension Service at the University of Missouri. The annual diaries contain brief information about his work, functions he attended, and sites he visited during his thirty-five-year career. There are also addresses, telephone numbers, and reminder notes in the diaries.

**Container List:**

**Correspondence**

f.1 Correspondence, 1917  
f.2 Correspondence, 1918  
f.3 Correspondence, 1919  
f.3a Clippings, 1943  
f.4 Photographs, c. 1918

**Diaries**

f.5 Diaries, 1925-1928  
f.6 Diaries, 1929-1932
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