



Edward Leo Welter Papers (R0312)

Collection Number: R0312

Collection Title: Edward Leo Welter Papers

Dates: 1918-1919

Creator: Welter, Edward Leo, 1894-1975

Abstract: The Edward Leo Welter Papers contain a photocopy of a diary of overseas service by a native of Kelso, Scott County, Missouri, and an enlisted member of Company F, 110th Engineers, 35th Division, U.S. Army. Welter served in France along the Somme River and in the Vosges Mountains, was part of the reserve during the St. Mihiel offensive, and came under fire during the Meuse-Argonne offensive.

Collection Size: 0.01 cubic foot
(1 folder)

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-Rolla](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at rolla@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Edward Leo Welter Papers* (R0312); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Doris Smith and Laverne Rosenquist on April 20, 1988 (Accession No. RA0406).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Edward Leo Welter Papers can be found in the following collections:

Frank R Schoppenhorst (R0134)

Processed by: Processed by John Bradbury, July 1, 1988. Revised by Donovan Mefford, June 3, 2021.

Biographical Note:

Edward L. Welter was born in Kelso, Missouri. He attended St. Augustine Catholic Church and school, and was employed by the Kelso Milling Corporation when the United States entered World War I. He had been married only three weeks to Caroline Pfefferkorn when he was inducted into the U.S. Army. Welter trained at Camp Funston, Kansas, and Fort Sill, Oklahoma, where he was assigned to the 110th Engineers.

The 110th Engineers were shipped to France as part of the 35th Division. Arriving at Brest on May 10, 1918, the engineers spent the first month in France in a quiet sector along the Somme River. They were transferred to the Vosges Mountains sector in July. The engineers were part of the reserve force during the St. Mihiel offensive and followed in support of the infantry in the drive through the Argonne Forest, the last major thrust of the war. Although they were pinned under fire for two days in the Argonne, the men were more commonly occupied by repairing roads, rebuilding collapsed trenches, and stringing barbed wire. The unit camped near St. Mihiel after the armistice was signed. The unit left for the seaport at Brest in February 1919, and sailed for New York on April 11, 1919. The men landed at Hoboken, New Jersey, on April 19.

Welter returned to the Kelso Mill after he left the army. He became manager in 1919, and sole owner in 1937. He retired in 1959 and lived in Kelso until his death in 1975.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged in its original order.

Scope and Content Note:

Welter's diary of military service begins on May 10, 1918, when the 110th Engineers landed in France. The brief entries record the unit's transfers from one sector to another, observations on life in the trenches, and a brief description of Welter's baptism of fire in the Argonne Forest. The diary continues through April 22, 1919. The last entries are followed by copies of miscellaneous patriotic verse and army ballads.

Container List:

Box 001 f. 1 Diary, 1918-1919

Index:

Index Term	Folder
Argonne, Battle of the, 1918	1
France--History--1914-1940	1
Saint-Mihiel (France), Battle of, 1918	1

Index Term	Folder
United States. Army. Engineers, 110th	1
United States. Army. Infantry Division, 35th	1
United States. Army--History--World War, 1914-1918	1
Welter, Edward Leo, 1894-1975	1
World War, 1914-1918--Campaigns--France	1