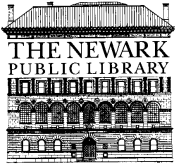


Henry G. Francisco Papers 1917-2016



Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center
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Title: Henry G. Francisco Papers

Dates: 1917-2016 [bulk 1917-1919]

Location: Main and Offsite

Extent: .83 linear feet (1 Hollinger box and 2 oversize boxes)

Processed: Thomas Ankner, January 2017

Formats: Correspondence, Maps, Clippings, Posters, Membership cards, Certificates, Photographic prints, Negatives, Medals, Crosses, Metalwork.

Abstract: This collection consists of papers related to the World War I military service of late Newark resident Henry G. Francisco.

Provenance: Gift of Lucinda Francisco VanDine (Francisco's daughter), August 2016.

Restrictions on Access

Access Restrictions

There are no access restrictions on this collection.

Photocopying of materials is limited and no materials may be photocopied without permission from library staff.

Use Restrictions

Researchers wishing to publish, reproduce, or reprint materials from this collection must obtain permission.

Preferred Citation

Henry G. Francisco Papers, Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center, Newark Public Library.

Scope and Content

Henry G. Francisco (1892-1983) was born and raised in Newark. He enlisted in the Army in May 1917, and served as a private in the United States Medical Corps, 1st Division, 28th Infantry (1917-1919).

The collection consists of material related to his military service. It includes correspondence between Francisco and his family, official correspondence, a diary of his experiences during the war, maps, clippings, photos, medals, dog tags, and other artifacts, including a bullet that wounded him in October 1918.

Processing Note

The materials were not organized in any way when they were received. They were divided into series based on format (correspondence, maps, photos, artifacts, etc.). A poster, a large newspaper excerpt, and several artifacts are kept offsite in oversize boxes.

Biographical Note

Henry Gillespie Francisco (1892-1983), a graduate of Newark Academy, was born and raised in Newark. His father, J. H. Francisco, was a partner in Francisco and Barkhorn, Surveyors, Conveyancers, and Real Estate Agents, whose office was located at the Heath Building, 777-779 Broad St. Francisco and Barkhorn were "both natives of New Jersey [and] prominent citizens of Newark." His mother Lucy, nee Gillespie, was also a native of New Jersey. At some point before 1917, J. H. Francisco died.

At the time of his enlistment, in May 1917, Henry Francisco lived at 462 Ridge St. in Newark with his widowed mother and his younger sister Helen (b. ca. 1897). Francisco served as a private in the United States Medical Corps., 1st Division, 28th Infantry (1917-1919) during World War I. On October 4, 1918, Francisco was "severely wounded in action" at Exermont, France, during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, when he was shot and the lower lobe of his lung was punctured. On November 14th, while still unable to sit up or use his left arm, Francisco was sent south to the Hotel Ruhl in Vichy-Les-Bains for further recuperation. He never returned to combat. On Christmas Day, he embarked on his journey back to the United States, and was mustered out of the army in February 1919. In 1921 he joined the Lt. Jeff Feigl Post, no. 247, of the American Legion, which had headquarters in the Hotel Biltmore, New York.

Francisco's address in 1925 was 50 Second St., Newark, but by the 1930s he was back on Ridge St., living with his mother, sister, and his sister's family. He lived in Newark until at least the late 1940s. He was living in Bloomfield on November 16, 1950, the day he married Margaret Eleanor Johnson in Brooklyn, NY. His only child, Lucinda, was born on May 11, 1952.

He later moved with his family to Bloomsbury, NJ, in Hunterdon County, where he was self-employed in the real estate and antiques businesses. He died in Bloomsbury in 1983.

During World War I, his sister, Helen Francisco, volunteered at Fort Dix, where she prepared surgical supplies and served in the canteen. During this time, she met her future husband. By the end of the war, Helen was employed by E. T. Carrington, a jewelry firm at 7 Maiden Lane in New York.

Helen and Frederick C. Noyes (b. ca. 1889) were married in 1919. They raised their three children in the family home on Ridge St., where they lived until at least 1951. Noyes, originally from Montclair, NJ, was a Lieutenant and later a Captain in the United States Army (1917-1919). Before the war Noyes worked for Coronet Phosphate Co. in New York (1909-1917); from 1919 until at least 1935, he was secretary of the Phosphate Export Association.

Series Descriptions

Series I: Correspondence

This series contains five folders of correspondence to Francisco and his mother. The first three folders are correspondence to Francisco from his mother, his sister, and a woman named

Bertha Squires. A fourth folder contains correspondence to Francisco in French; all but one of these letters are signed "Simone." A fifth folder of correspondence contains official communications to Francisco's mother from the U.S. military.

Series II: Clippings [box 1]

This series consists of a single folder of clippings about World War I. The clippings span the 20th century, with the latest dated 1992.

Series III: Photos [box 1]

This series has two folders. The first folder features photos and a negative taken during World War I. The second folder has a World War I-era portrait of Francisco in his uniform, as well as two photos of Francisco's grave taken in 2016 by his son-in-law.

Series IV: Books [box 1]

This series is divided into two folders. One folder contains a small diary Francisco kept during the war, as well as excerpts from the diary written on a yellow legal pad. The second folder contains "A Prayer Book for the Public and Private Use of Our Soldiers and Sailors," a small book prepared by the Bishop White Prayer Book Society in Philadelphia and distributed by the War Commission in New York City.

Series V. Artifacts [box 2: offsite]

There are five artifacts kept in an oversize box offsite: Francisco's dog tags, a service medal, a metal horseshoe of unknown origin, a crucifix he carried during the war, and the bullet that led to the end of Francisco's service in the war.

Series VI. Maps [map drawer]

Several maps are kept in a drawer in a map case in the file room of the Main Library. Most of the maps accompanied a book removed from the collection.

Series VII. Miscellaneous [box 1 and box 3: offsite]

This series consists of seven folders in box 1, as well as an oversize box that is kept offsite. One folder contains a certificate from the Association of Army and Navy Stores. Another contains documents from military service organizations. A third folder contains a blank application for the Purple Heart, as well as an undated clipping that mentions Francisco's injury in October 1918. A fourth contains papers related to Francisco's "adjusted service certificate," applied for between 1925 and 1937. Other folders contain a railroad ticket and Pennsylvania Railroad timetable, documents related to Francisco's military registration in 1917, and his honorable discharge papers and enlistment record.

The oversize box kept offsite contains two items: a poster noting that Francisco "served with honor" in the war, and a portion of the front section of a Stars and Stripes newspaper dated April 26, 1918.

Access Points

Subject Names:

Francisco, Henry G.
Francisco, Lucy Gillespie
Francisco, Helen
Squires, Bertha
"Simone"

Subject Topics:

World War, 1914-1918

Newark, N.J. – History
 Mother of Soldiers – New Jersey – Newark
 United States – Army – Medical Service Corps

Document Types:

Correspondence
 Photographs
 Clippings
 Maps
 Newspapers
 Posters
 Certificates

Separated Material

History of the First Division During the World War, 1917-1919. Compiled and published by the Society of the First Division. 1st ed. Philadelphia, PA: John C. Winston Co., 1922.

Container List

Series I: Correspondence			
Box	Folder	Folder contents	Date
1	1	Letters between Francisco and his sister, Helen.	1918-1919
1	2	Letters between Francisco and his mother.	1918
1	3	Letters from Bertha Squires.	1918-1922
1	4	Letters in French, most signed "Simone."	1918-1919
1	5	Communications from U.S. military to Francisco's mother	1917-1919
Series II: Clippings			
Box	Folder	Folder contents	Date
1	6	Clippings about World War I	1917-1992
Series III: Photos			
Box	Folder	Folder contents	Date
1	7	Photos taken during World War I	1917-1918
1	8	Photos of Francisco and his grave	1917-2016
Series IV: Books			
Box	Folder	Folder contents	Date
1	9	Diary Francisco kept during the war, plus a partial transcript	1917-1918
1	10	<i>A Prayer Book for Soldiers and Sailors</i>	1917?
Series V: Artifacts			
Box	Item description		Date
OV-3	Francisco's dog tags		1917
OV-3	Two service medals		1917-1918
OV-3	Bullet that injured Francisco in October 1918		1918
OV-3	Metal crucifix		

OV-3	Horseshoe		
Series VI: Maps			
Location	Item description		Date
Map case	Sheet maps showing military movements during World War I		1922
Series VII: Miscellaneous			
Box	Folder	Folder Contents	Date
1	11	Certificate from Army & Navy Stores	1924
1	12	Documents related to military service organizations	1918-1922
1	13	Blank Purple Heart application and clipping about his injury	
1	14	Adjusted service certificate	1925-1937
1	15	Pennsylvania Railroad ticket and timetable	1918-1919
1	16	Documents related to Francisco's military registration	1917
1	17	Honorable discharge and enlistment record	1919-1920
OV-2	Poster featuring Columbia and WWI soldier (with Francisco's name)		
OV-2	Portion of front page of Stars & Stripes newspaper, April 26, 1918		1918