Potter, Edward E.; Papers ua802.002

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M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives
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Summary Information

Repository: M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives
Title: Edward E. Potter Papers
ID: ua802.002
Date [inclusive]: 1918-1966
Physical Description: 0.17 cubic ft.
Physical Location: The materials are located onsite in the department.
Language of the Material: English.
Abstract: Papers of World War I pilot and State College for Teachers student. Potter died in a plane crash Paris, France.

Preferred Citation

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

Identification of specific item, series, box, folder, Edward E. Potter Papers, 1918-1966. M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University at Albany, State University of New York (hereafter referred to as the Potter Papers).

Biographical History

Edward Eldred Potter was born in Windfall, NY, September 3, 1891, the son of Rose E. Potter. He was the youngest of four children in a poor, rural family. He lived in upstate New York until he was eleven, at which point he moved to Ontario, Canada, for five years. He returned to the United States to attend the Plattsburg Normal High School. He had many interests, including outdoor sports, theater, and poetry. He held a variety of jobs to support himself while in high school and in college.

He began studies at Union College after receiving a scholarship. However, he left Union after only a few months to enter the New York State College for Teachers. He aspired to becoming a school superintendent.

Potter enlisted in the army in May, 1917, after the United States had officially been at war for one month. He was sent to the officer's training school at Madison Barracks, NY, where he decided to train for
aviation service. He entered the Aviation Ground School in Ithaca, NY, in August, 1917. He was sent to France in October, 1917, where he continued his aviation training. He was eventually commissioned as pilot-aviator.

While completing his training, Potter was chosen as one in fifteen pilots to participate in an emergency ferrying mission which transported new planes to various parts of France and England. He died while completing one of the transports when his plane crashed in Orly Field, near Paris, on August 1, 1918. The crash resulted from a flat turn Potter made to avoid hitting men on the ground while landing. Since Potter understood that the chances of surviving a flat turn were minimal, he has been honored as knowingly risking his own life in order to save the lives of others. He is buried in the American war cemetery in Suresnes, France.

The information contained in the biographical sketch was taken from "The Memoirs of Edward Eldred Potter", written by Potter's sister, Cordella Rose Potter Lackey. The Memoirs were presented to the Edward E. Potter Club on or around May 27, 1935.

Scope and Contents

The Edward Eldred Potter Papers contain correspondence from Potter to his mother, Rose E. Potter, discussing his military service. Rose E. Potter and Cordella Potter Lackey, Potter's sister, both received correspondence related to Edward Potter's death and to the establishment of a club in his name at the New York State College for Teachers. The series also contains family photographs, certificates of honor and discharge from the armed forces, and "The Memoirs of Edward Eldred Potter", written by Cordella Potter Lackey. The Edward Eldred Potter Papers is part of the Alumni Memorabilia Collection.

Arrangement of the Collection

The collection has no series, arranged chronologically.
Administrative Information

Publication Statement
M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

Revision Description
Revised by Marla Krauss Converted to EAD Encoded in EAD by Gregory Wiedeman 1996 July 18 2015 December 2015

Processing Information

Access
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Acquisition Information
These records were transferred to the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives, University Libraries, University at Albany, by the Alumni Association in 1989. The Potter Papers appear to have been donated to the Edward E. Potter Club by Cordelia Potter Lackey in 1935.
Controlled Access Headings

- Military and Armed Conflict
- World War I
- World War I--Aviation
- UAlbany Faculty & Alumni Papers
- Potter, Edward E. (1891-1918)
- Lackey, Cordella Rose Potter

Collection Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certificate of Death with Honor from United States Army, 1920 February 26</td>
<td>Box 1 (Edward E. Potter Papers) Folder 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correspondence of Cordella Potter Lackey (Edward's sister) with Captain J. F. McGough re. the circumstances of Potters death, and Lackey's involvement with and donations to the Edward E. Potter Club, 19191934-1936</td>
<td>Box 1 (Edward E. Potter Papers) Folder 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correspondence of Rose E. Potter (Edward's mother) with the State College for Teachers regarding Edward's honorary degree, the Aerial League of American and the American Legion re. honors for Edward, and re. the establishment of the Potter Club., 1918-19201934</td>
<td>Box 1 (Edward E. Potter Papers) Folder 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diploma of Honor of the Aerial League of America awarded to Edward E. Potter, 1919 February 26</td>
<td>Box 1 (Edward E. Potter Papers) Folder 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honorable Discharge from training camp, 1917 August 14</td>
<td>Box 1 (Edward E. Potter Papers) Folder 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honorable Discharge from United States Army, 1918 June 11</td>
<td>Box 1 (Edward E. Potter Papers) Folder 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Letter of Edward E. Potter to Family concerning Army ferrying service., 1918 June 28</td>
<td>Box 1 (Edward E. Potter Papers) Folder 7</td>
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<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>Letter of Edward E. Potter to Rose E. Potter concerning camp life in France, 1918 January 17</td>
<td>Edward E. Potter Papers)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newspaper Clippings announcing radio memorial for Edward E. Potter, 1935 November 13</td>
<td>Edward E. Potter Papers)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poems collected by Edward E. Potter, Undated</td>
<td>Edward E. Potter Papers)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photograph of Edward E. Potter in WW I uniform, Undated</td>
<td>Edward E. Potter Papers)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photographs of Edward E. Potter, his family, and his gravesite, Undated</td>
<td>Edward E. Potter Papers)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>War Mothers and Widows Official Certification of Identification, Rose E. Potter, 1930</td>
<td>Edward E. Potter Papers)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Army Certificate for E.E.Potter, &quot;...died with honor,&quot;, 1918 August 1</td>
<td>Edward E. Potter Papers)</td>
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