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H88-0239.50. Polar Bear Oral History Project.

Records, 1910-1991 (bulk, 1977-1979). 3.50 linear ft. **PARTIALLY RESTRICTED**

Abstract

Records of an oral history project done with local veterans of the American Expeditionary Force, North Russia, 1918-1919 ("Polar Bears"). The collection also contains general background materials pertaining to the Polar Bears. Includes audiotape cassettes and interview transcripts for Levi Bartels, Walter Bushaw (**RESTRICTED**), Cleo Merritt Colburn, Charles W. Grace, Russell W. Hershberger, Radus H. Kemperman, Frederick M. Kooyers, Alfred M. Larsen, Floyd Lewis, Rudolph Marxer, George Petropolous, Martin Rotman, James Siplon, Albert J. Slagh, and John Volkers (**RESTRICTED**). Collection also includes articles, bibliographies, diaries, clippings, photographs, microfilm and a book. (Digital)

Accession No.: H88-0239.5
Provenance: Polar Bear Oral History Project
Donor: Hope College History Department
Photographs: 24 images
Processed by: Craig Wright, February 1991
Catherine Jung, April 2007

History

The Polar Bear Oral History Project documents the American intervention in the Russian Civil War from the viewpoints of local survivors of the American Expeditionary Force, North Russia, 1918-1919. Since these men participated in actions in the Archangel region, there are no materials in the collection which pertain to American activities in the Far East near Vladivostok. American forces involved in this conflict were known as "polar bears."

The project was supervised by Dr. G. Larry Penrose of the History Department. Three students, Nancy Johnson, Deborah Lenning and Glen Johnson, interviewed fifteen veterans of the 339th Infantry Regiment and 310th Engineers Regiment from the summer of 1977 to the fall of 1979.

Scope and Content

The Polar Bear Oral History Project records consist of materials from 1910 to 1985, the bulk of which document the project itself and cover the years 1977 to 1979. Included are interview transcripts, cassette tapes, articles, bibliographies, diaries, clippings, photographs, microfilm and a book. The folders have been arranged alphabetically by topical headings.

Note: legal releases were not obtained from veterans Walter Bushaw and John Volkers. Their materials are **RESTRICTED**.

Container List

Box 1

The American Sentinel, Newspaper, 1918-1919 (copies) (see Box 2)

Articles, 1926-1991

Anderson, Godfrey. "The Polar Bears," 1982

Bak, Richard. "Michigan's War on Bolshevism," 1983

Doolen, Richard M. "Michigan's Polar Bears: The American Expedition to North Russia," 1965

General Headquarters, Armies, Army Corps, Services of Supply, and Separate Forces. "Order of Battle of the United States Land Forces in the World War, American Expeditionary Forces," 1937

Loewenstein, Karl. "American Intervention in Northern Russia: The Impressions of the American Soldier," 1991 (student paper)

MacMorland, Major General Edward E. "Our First War with the Russians," 1951

Moore, Lieutenant Colonel Joel R. "The North Russian Expedition: The 85th Division's Participation," 1926

Wisconsin Magazine of History, vol. 62, no. 3, 1979

Feist, Joe Michael, ed. "Railways and Politics: The Russian Diary of George Gibbs, 1917"

Feist, Joe Michael, ed. "A Wisconsin Man in the Russian Railway Service Corps: Letters of Fayette W. Keeler, 1918-1919"

Goldhurst, Richard. "Steadying Efforts: The War at Archangel, 1918-1919"

Bibliographies, n.d., 1967-1983

Book, *Michigan Polar Bears*, 1965 (Digital)

Clark, Roger Sherman, n.d., 1919 (copies - originals at the Bentley Historical Library)

Clippings, n. d., 1919, 1922, 1938, 1941, 1949, 1976, 1985

Correspondence, 1977-1979

Diaries, 1918-1919

Anonymous, Company E, 1918-1919

Arkins, Edwin L., Company C, 1918-1919

Siplon, James, Company I, 1918-1919

General Information, n.d., 1918-1920

History of the American Expedition Fighting the Bolsheviki: Campaigning in North Russia 1918-1919, The. Moore, Mead and Jahns, 1920

Letter, 1950

Interviews, 1977-1979

[Bartels, Levi](#), 1978

Bushaw, Walter, 1977 (**RESTRICTED**)

[Colburn, Cleo Merritt](#), 1977

[Grace, Charles W.](#), 1977 (1 image)

[Hershberger, Russell W.](#), 1977 (1 image)

[Kemperman, Radus H.](#), 1977

[Kooyers, Frederick M.](#), 1977 (1 image)

[Larsen, Alfred M.](#), 1977 (1 image)

[Lewis, Floyd](#), 1977

[Marxer, Rudolph](#), 1977

[Petropolous, George](#), 1977

- [Rotman, Martin](#), 1978
[Siplon, James](#), 1977 (1 image)
[Slagh, Albert J.](#), Rough Draft, 1978
Volkers, John, 1978 (**RESTRICTED**)
- Maps, n.d. (see Box 2)
Photographs, n.d., 1910, 1918, 1977 (19 images)
Polar Bear Association, 1940-1977
 General, n.d., 1977
 Membership list, n.d.
 Programs, 1940-1962
Audiotape Cassettes/Digital, 1977-1978
[Bartels, Levi](#), 6/12/78
[Colburn, Cleo](#), 6/17/77
[Grace, Charles](#), 6/14/77 (2 tapes)
[Hershberger, Russell](#), 6/20/77
[Kemperman, Radus](#), 6/23/77
[Kooyers, Fred](#), 6/8/77
[Larsen, Alfred](#), 6/13/77 (2 tapes)
[Lewis, Floyd](#), 6/29/77 (2 tapes)
[Lewis, Floyd](#), 7/11/77
[Marxer, Rudolph](#), 6/16/77 (2 tapes)
[Rotman, Martin](#), 6/13/78
[Siplon, James](#), 6/29/77, 7/6/77 (3 tapes)
[Slagh, Albert J.](#), 6/12/78
- Microfilm, "U.S. Army A.E.F. Expedition in North Russia 1918-1919," vols. 1-3
Photograph, "Camp Custer, Michigan," 1917 (oversize)

Box 2

- The American Sentinel*, Newspaper, 1918-1919 (copies)
Maps, n.d.