
Hope College

Abstract

Dierck Adelbert “Dutch” Strowenjans served during World War One as a mechanic with Company D of the 339th Infantry Regiment, 85th Division, American Expeditionary Forces in Russia (“Polar Bears”). The collection includes twenty-three letters from Strowenjans to his family and Lillian Bax while he was on a tour of duty in Russia.

Accession No.: H91-1122
Provenance: Delbert “Dutch” Strowenjans
Donor: Donald Strowenjans
Photographs: 2 images
Processed by: Craig G. Wright, September 1991

Biography

Dierck Adelbert “Dutch” Strowenjans was born March 4, 1891, in Holland, Michigan, to Dierck (Derk) and Trientje (Smit) Strowenjans.

During World War One he served as a mechanic with Company D of the 339th Infantry Regiment, 85th Division, American Expeditionary Forces in Russia (“Polar Bears”). After returning home, he married the former Lillian S. Bax and was employed as a contractor and home builder.

Strowenjans passed away in Holland on December 30, 1959, after a short illness.

Scope and Content

The collection includes twenty-three letters from Strowenjans to his family and Lillian Bax while he was on a tour of duty as a mechanic with Company D of the 339th Infantry Regiment, 85th Division, American Expeditionary Forces in Russia (“Polar Bears”). The letters are organized chronologically.

Container List

Biographical, 1939-1999
Correspondence, 1918-1919
   Photocopies of correspondence, 1918-1919
   Fort Custer to sister Dolores, July 9, 1918
   Somewhere on the Atlantic to Friends at Home, 1918
   Northern Russia to Friends, October 11, 1918
   Somewhere in Russia to Mam, Pap and Billie, November 25, 1918
   Northern Russia to Ma, Pa and Billie, December 21, 1918
   Somewhere on the Dvina, Northern Russia to sister Dora, December 21, 1918
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Somewhere in Russia to Ma, Pa and Kid (Miss Lillian S. Bax), December 25, 1918
Northern Russia to Sister and Mother, December 25, 1918
Dvina River Front, North Russia to Little Girl (Lillian Bax), February 24, 1919
Somewhere in Russia to Sister and Mother (includes letter to Delbert from Grace Middlehork at the U.S. Base Hospital #8, Savenay, France, n.d.), February 25, 1919
Somewhere in Russia to Lillie, March 13, 1919
Dvina River, Russia to Sister, March 13, 1919
Dvina (? censored) Front, Russia to Little Kid, March 25, 1919
Dvina River, Russia to Lillie, April 1, 1919
Shushinga, N. Russia to Sister and Mother, April 1, 1919
Northern Russia to Lillie, April 9, 1919
Somewhere in Russia to Little Girl, April 10, 1919
Dvina River, Russia to Sister Rusty (Dora) (includes sketch), April 17, 1919
Somewhere in Russia (yet) to Little Girl, May 9, 1919
Somewhere in Russia to Sister, May 17, 1919
Dvina Front to Little Girl, May 26, 1919
Dvina Front to Lillie, June 3, 1919
U.S.S. President Grant to Little Girl, July 11, 1919

Envelopes, 1919 (8 items)
Photographs, 1918 (2 images)
Polar Bear Association Christmas card, 1960