

**Finding Aid to the Martha's Vineyard Museum  
Record Unit 300**

**World War I Collection, 1914-1919**

By Julia Novakovic

**Descriptive Summary**

**Repository:** Martha's Vineyard Museum

**Call No.**

**Title:** World War I Collection, 1914-1919

**Creator:** various

**Quantity:** 1 cubic foot

**Abstract:** This collection of World War I Era material (1914- 1919), contains personal papers, propaganda booklets, government publications for civilians during war-time, newspaper articles, and lists of men from Martha's Vineyard who served their country during the First World War.

**Administrative Information**

**Acquisition Information:** The World War I Collection was acquired by the Martha's Vineyard Museum in \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_.

**Processing Information:** Julia Novakovic

**Access Restrictions:** none

**Use Restrictions:** none

**Preferred Citation for Publication:** Martha's Vineyard Museum, World War I Collection, 1914-1919, Record Unit 300.

**Index Terms**

- World War I
- United States Army
- American Red Cross
- Veterans
- Massachusetts Committee on Public Safety
- Official Bulletin*, 1917-1919
- Howland, Dudley C.
- Norris, Reginald
- McIver, General George W.

**Series and Subseries Arrangement**

Series I: Veterans' Papers

Series II: Massachusetts Committee on Public Safety

Series III: Federal Government Agencies

Subseries A: United States Army  
Subseries B: United States Department of Agriculture  
Subseries C: United States Food Administration  
Subseries D: War Savings Service  
Subseries E: American Red Cross  
Series IV: State and Regional Newspapers  
Series V: Allied Forces War Publications  
    Subseries A: Propaganda Booklets  
    Subseries B: Federal Government Newspapers  
Series VI: Miscellaneous

### **Historical Note:**

This collection of World War I material ranges from personal papers to newspaper clippings to ephemera from national and governmental organizations. The materials were obtained by the Dukes County Historical Society [later the Martha's Vineyard Historical Society] throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Scope and Content Note:**

The World War I Collection [1914-1919] is an artificial collection made up from many different donors over the years. While some of the items were already grouped together, such as the *Official Bulletin* newspapers printed by the U.S. Government, other materials were gathered from various other archival compilations. The 1 cubic foot of items in this record unit includes personal papers, memos from state committees, and tips for civilians during war-time.

There are many photocopies of newspaper clippings, many taken from Islanders' scrapbooks of that era. The series on "Publications" has many booklets on different topics, including American patriotism, the British Empire, and information on the Germans. Also, lists of Island men who served in the First World War as well as those wounded or killed are also included in this collection, courtesy of the Massachusetts National Guard Military Archives.

### **Series Descriptions**

#### **Series I: Veterans' Papers**

This Series contains a personal record of military exercises, a letter home from France two weeks after the armistice, memoirs of a brigadier general, and lists of the WWI veterans from Martha's Vineyard.

Box 1 of 2

Folder 1: Reginald Norris, Personal Manuscript of Military Exercises, 1918.

Folder 2: Dudley C. Howland, "Dad's Christmas Letter," 25 November 1918.

Folder 3: General George W. McIver, Memoirs and Family History.

Folder 4: List of WWI Veterans from Martha's Vineyard, from Massachusetts National Guard Military Archives.

## **Series II: Massachusetts Committee on Public Safety**

This Series contains correspondence and membership lists of the Massachusetts Committee on Public Safety in Dukes County, as well as papers of the subcommittee on recruitment.

Box 1 of 2

Folder 5: Massachusetts Committee on Public Safety in Dukes County, official correspondence and membership, 1917-1918.

Folder 6: Massachusetts Committee on Public Safety in Dukes County, Committee on Recruiting papers and lists, 1917-1918.

## **Series III: Federal Government Agencies**

### **Subseries A: United States Army**

This Subseries contains a poster of the different ranks of service uniforms and decorations in the U.S. Army and Navy. Also of note is the official dictionary given to English-speaking soldiers in France.

Box 1 of 2

Folder 7: United States Army, Uniforms Poster, 1917, and Uniform Receipt.

Folder 8: *The Soldier's Service Dictionary of English and French Terms*, published by Funk & Wagnalls for the U.S. Army, 1917.

### **Subseries B: United States Department of Agriculture**

This Subseries contains information to civilians helping the war effort; pamphlets include "An Appeal to Women," a list of tips for food preservation, and a certificate of inspection.

Box 1 of 2

Folder 9: United States Department of Agriculture Publications, 1917-1918.

### **Subseries C: United States Food Administration**

This Subseries contains information to civilians helping the war effort; pamphlets include rationing guidelines and "Uses of Corn Meal." Also within this section is a "Home Card" to be placed in a window and a General Bulletin from the President in 1917.

Box 1 of 2

Folder 10: United States Food Administration Publications, 1917-1918.

### **Subseries D: War Savings Service**

This Subseries contains a pledge card to buy War Savings Stamps, a bookmark, and a window pennant from the W.S.S.

Box 1 of 2

Folder 11: War Savings Service Pledge and Rewards, 1918.

### **Subseries E: American Red Cross**

This Subseries contains assorted materials from the Red Cross, including informational pamphlets, a pledge list, window decals, service flags, and newspaper articles about the Red Cross on Martha's Vineyard.

Box 1 of 2

Folder 12: American Red Cross, Assorted Material, 1915-1919.

### **Series V: State and Regional Newspapers**

This Series contains primary source articles from newspapers around Massachusetts and the Vineyard. Most of these are photocopies of clippings from scrapbooks in the MVM archives. Several articles are on the German U-Boat bombings that hit a fleet of fishing ships on the New England coast in August 1918. There is also a complete color-edition of the August 9, 1914 *New York Herald* which declares the battle-lines in Europe, and an "Abstinence Society" bulletin of war information.

Box 1 of 2

Folder 13: Massachusetts State Newspaper Clippings, 1917-1920.

Folder 14: Massachusetts Total Abstinence Society Bulletin, December 1917.

Folder 15: *New York Herald*, 9 August 1914, "With a World in Arms Many Nations Form Battle Fronts For Conflicts that Will Change the Maps of Europe."

### **Series V: Allied Forces War Publications**

#### **Subseries A: Propaganda Booklets**

This Subseries contains booklets on America, the British Empire, and the German Empire. The American booklets are about patriotism, the meanings of Stars of Service, the symbolism and etiquette of the United States flag, and reasons why America chose to fight during the Great War. The British booklets are about years in London during the war and specific officers. The German booklets are propaganda printed by the British about the evils of that empire.

Box 1 of 2

Folder 16: Booklets, on America and Patriotism, 1916-1919.

Folder 17: Booklets, on British Empire, 1917-1918.

Folder 18: Booklets, on German Empire, 1917-1918.

#### **Subseries B: Federal Government Newspapers**

This Subseries contains the *Official Bulletin*, a daily newspaper published by the United States Government during the First World War. It gave updates on news from Europe as well as lists of wounded, killed, missing, or decorated American soldiers.

Box 2 of 2

Folder 1: *Official Bulletin*, 26 October – 28 November 1917.  
Folder 2: *Official Bulletin*, 1 December – 15 December 1918.  
Folder 3: *Official Bulletin*, 19 December – 31 December 1918.  
Folder 4: *Official Bulletin*, 2 January – 15 January, 1918.  
Folder 5: *Official Bulletin*, 16 January – 30 January, 1918.

### **Series VI: Miscellaneous**

This Series contains additional materials related to World War I.

Box 2 of 2

Folder 6: Certificates to Mrs. Evelyn Adams from the Council of National Defense, 1918.

Folder 7: Copy of “Community Songbook” of Patriotic Songs.