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Colonel George Peek collection

Arkansas State University - Jonesboro

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Finding Aid of

COLONEL GEORGE PEEK COLLECTION

1873-1960

NEAD 018

Archives & Special Collections
Arkansas State University
Dean B. Ellis Library
P.O. Box 2040
State University, AR 72467
Phone Number: 870-972-2960
archives@astate.edu
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Summary Information

Compiled By: Meredith McFadden, 2010s; Matthew Mayton, 2023

Creator: Colonel George Peek

Date: 1873-1960

Physical Description: 1.67 linear feet. This collection consists of 16 folders and 500 envelopes in 4 document boxes.

Language: English

Abstract

Colonel George Peek was a prominent U.S. Army officer who served for 30 years in various capacities. This collection contains documents related to his period of active duty.

Acquisition

This collection was donated to the archives by the Arkansas State University Museum in 2013. Further additions to the collection are not expected.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Jennifer Hardin and Flora Smith.

Conditions Governing Access

This manuscript collection consists of physical materials. This collection has not been digitized. This collection is open for research use only in the Reading Room. It is not available for request through Interlibrary Loan. Please contact the archive via email (archives@astate.edu) at least a week in advance of your arrival to ensure the availability of the material.

Rights Statement

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Preferred Citation

Colonel George Peek Collection, Item Name and Date, Box and Folder Numbers, Archives and Special Collections, Dean B. Ellis Library, Arkansas State University.

Biographical Note

Colonel George Peek was born in Hampton, Virginia in 1887. He began his military life at Virginia Military Institute, graduating in 1907. Following graduation, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the coast artillery and served in artillery units in the Philippines, Hawaii, and Panama. Just before World War I he was commander of an army mine layer named General Scholfield, which sailed the Atlantic from the Canal Zone to Portland, Maine. During World War I he served as a major and later lieutenant colonel in the American Expeditionary Force in France. He was later transferred to Coblenz, Germany during the occupation where he served as Assistant Chief of Staff of the Army of Occupation and served as a special

envoy to Luxembourg. He returned to the United States in 1923 to command several artillery battalions in different camps including Hattiesburg, Mississippi; Paris, Tennessee; Jacksonville, Florida; and Owensboro, Kentucky. He was a commander of the First Field Artillery School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and finally became the executive officer of the school. He served as an instructor for the National Guard, and in the early years of WWII he was a professor of military science and tactics at Arkansas State College from where he was appointed to serve as head of Facility Security Branch of the National Office of Civilian Defense (OCD) Anti-Sabotage Unit beginning in 1942. Colonel Peek retired due to physical disability in 1947 at the age of 60 and spent his terminal leave with his wife, Olive Peek, at his residence, Peek's Hill, in Jonesboro, Arkansas. He died on November 22, 1960 at the age of 73 at the Naval Hospital in Millington, Tennessee.

Scope and Content Note

The Colonel George Peek Collection consists of materials related to his period of active duty. Included are materials related to his time as a second lieutenant in the coast artillery, his time serving in World War One and the occupation of Germany, his time served in artillery battalions after the war, and hundreds of photographs.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in six series.

Series 1: Coast Artillery. The "Coast Artillery" series consists of documents Colonel Peek accumulated as a second lieutenant in the coast artillery.

Series 2: World War I and Occupation. The "World War I and Occupation" series contains documents accumulated by Colonel Peek during his service in World War One and the Occupation. It includes war reports, personal identification documents, certificates and awards he earned during his service in World War One, and programs and invitations to various social events.

Series 3: Artillery Battalions. The "Artillery Battalions" series contains materials Colonel Peek earned during his service in artillery battalions after WWI including certificates, appointment, and location letters.

Series 4: Newspaper Clips. The "Newspaper Clips" series contains newspaper clippings which cover the deployment of Colonel Peek to various offices and his activities on official duty in the various offices.

Series 5: Personal Documents. The "Personal Documents" series contains documents of the Peek's property transfers, certificates of Colonel Peek's membership in social clubs, and a card in memory of George Peek.

Series 6: Photographs and Postcards. The "Photographs" series contains photographs of Colonel Peek and other officers and their families taken primarily during his Peek's service in WWI. Most of the photographs are in individual envelopes in Boxes 2 and 3. Each envelope is numbered with a spacer after every 50 envelopes. Larger photographs are in large envelopes in Box 4. Each envelope is numbered and housed in a folder. Two photographs have their own enclosure. Numerous photographs are not present in this collection.

Subjects

- Artillery, Coast
- Horse racing
- Horse shows
- Military bases -- United States
- Photographs
- Show jumping
- United States. Army--History
- United States. Army--History--World War, 1939-1945
- United States. Army--Mine companies
- United States. Army--Officers
- United States. Continental Army--History
- World War, 1914-1918

Names

- Field Artillery Center and School (Fort Sill, Okla.)
- Field Artillery Replacement Training Center (Fort Sill, Okla.)
- United States. Army
- Koblenz (Germany)
- Fort Sill (Okla.)
- Peek, George, Colonel

Collection Inventory

Series 1: Coast Artillery

Box 1:

Folder Number	Folder Name	Dates
1	Strategic Planning and Policy Making	1915, 1917
2	Recruitment and Remuneration	1914, 1916
3	Re-Deployment	1911
4	Leave	1910-1913
5	Dispute Resolution	1915
	Items in this folder are fragile and need to be handled with care.	
6	Staff Motivation	1917
7	Accounts Management	1910-1915
8	Panama Canal Trips	1914, 1916, 1917

Series 2: World War I and Occupation

Box 1:

Folder Number	Folder Name	Dates
9	Identification, Accommodations, and Events	1916-1923

Series 3: Artillery Battalions

Box 1:

Folder Number	Folder Name	Dates
10	Training Diplomas	1924-1931

Series 4: Newspaper Clippings

Box 1:

Folder Number	Folder Name	Dates
11	Artillery Battalions	1918-1945
12	World War I	1914
13	National Office of Civilian Defense	1942

Series 5: Personal Documents

Box 1:

Folder Number	Folder Name	Dates
14	Personal Documents	1873-1960

Series 6: Photographs and Postcards

Conditions Governing Access

Gloves are required to handle all photographs.

Box 2:

Photograph Batch	Brief Description of Photographs
1-50	Most photographs were taken during Colonel Peek's service in Coblenz. Other photographs are unidentified.
51-100	Most photographs were taken during his service in Coblenz. Photographs 70-78 were taken during Colonel Peek's service at the Panama Canal.
101-153	All photographs in this batch feature horse races during his service in WWI in Coblenz.
154-199	All photographs in this batch feature Colonel Peek's colleagues, their families and friends during his service in WWI in Coblenz.
201-250	Some of the photographs are buildings and scenic features from unidentified places. Some photographs are buildings and scenic features from Germany. There is an aerial photo of the field artillery school at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Other photos feature his colleagues and their families and friends during his service in WWI in Coblenz.
251-300	The photos feature parades, holidays, and other social events held in Coblenz.
301-350	The photographs feature reviews of new brigades, parades, holidays, farewells, and other social events held in Coblenz.

Box 3:

Photograph Batch	Brief Description of Photographs
351-400	Photographs contained within this batch feature parades, motor and horse shows, and jumping competitions in Coblenz.
401-450	Photographs in this batch feature horse shows, horse racing and jumping competitions in Coblenz.
451-464 and 466-498	Photographs 451-456 feature horse racing. Photograph 458 is an aerial view of the field artillery school at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Photographs 459-489 and 492 are portraits of Col. Peek and other officers in uniform. Photograph 490 is Col. Peek in McLain Hall USAAMC. Photograph 491 features Col. Peek with company at dinner. Photographs 493-498 are post cards with images of the American flag and scenes from WWI and WWII.
616-619, 627, and 672	Photographs 616-619 show the shooting down of an airplane in Coblenz. Photograph 627 is a portrait of Col. Peek. Photograph 672 is a photograph of Col Peeks' military friend.

Box 4:

Folder Number	Photograph Numbers
15	164, 167-169, 231-232, 353, 377-378, 380-381, 458, 473-475, 479-484
16	485-492, 616-619, 627

Photograph 488 is placed after folder 16.