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Preservation and Special Collections Department

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Elbert J. Curry photograph collection

Title: Elbert J. Curry photograph collection
Collection No: MSS.480
Extent: 0.25 cubic feet
Inclusive Dates: 1919, 1973 and undated.

Abstract: The collection comprises photographs documenting the service of Elbert J. Curry (1895-1973) during World War I as a member of the Army Air Service in the United States and France.

Donor: John E. Curry, Memphis, Tennessee, February, 2005.
Processed by: Sara Law, September 2015.
Access: Open to all researchers.
Language: English
Preferred Citation: Elbert J. Curry photograph collection, Preservation and Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis.

Publication date: September 2015

Biographical information

Elbert Jemison Curry was born in Alabama on February 26, 1895, the third child of William J. (born 1867) and Bettie Curry (born 1870). Elbert had two brothers and two sisters. The family moved to West Point, Mississippi, and then to Memphis, Tennessee, when Curry was a child. Elbert and his father formed W.J. Curry & Son, Realtors, and the firm developed a number of Memphis subdivisions. Elbert enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Service during World War I and trained at Park Field in Millington, Tennessee. Possibly as a member of the 281st Aero Squadron, First Sergeant Curry served in France from 1918 to 1919. After the war, he returned to Memphis and the realty business, serving as an officer and member of the Memphis Board of Realtors. He also was on the Memphis and Shelby County Boards of Equalization, and active in the American Legion. He died in September 1973.

Scope and contents

The collection includes 18 images of Elbert Curry during his service with the Air Service of the U.S. Army during and after World War I. The snapshots include images of him during training at Park Field, Millington. There are also images of Curry with various military airplanes including the SPAD, along with colleagues Sergeants Spencer, Evatt and Tonningsen. Other images show Curry relaxing in Nice, France, and with German helmets taken as souvenirs.

Subject terms

Curry, Elbert J., 1895-1973.
United States. Army. Air Service.

Inventory

Box 1

Folder

- 1 Photographs, 1919 and undated.
- 2 Photographs, undated. Includes clipping of obituary.