

Philip Olson Collection
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Finding aid prepared by Benjamin C. Skinner

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Summary Information

Repository	James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library
Creator - Author	Olson, Philip, 1890-1986
Title	Philip Olson Collection
Date	1917-1919
Extent	1.75 Linear feet
Collection Digitized by Minnesota Digital Library	The collection is available at the Minnesota Reflections website: http://reflections.mndigital.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/mpls
Language	English

Biography

Philip Olson was born on January 29, 1890. Sgt. Philip Olson served in World War I with the 25th Regiment Engineers. After his enlistment he departed New York for France on October 31, 1918 aboard the transport ship Agamemnon. The journey was not uneventful due to fears about German U-boats, and an accident which involved their ship being rammed.

Upon arrival in France Olson took part in a number of projects including the building of a docks and doing engineering at the front in Verdun. In addition he also had various other duties including working for the supply sergeant, warehouse work, and distributing kit through camp. These duties were performed in a number of locations in France including Brest, Bordeaux, Verdun, and Paris. In addition at the close of the war he was able to take a trip to Monaco and Monte Carlo.

After the signing of the Armistice in November 1918 Olson stayed for a time in France. During this time he and the 25th Engineers aided in construction and rebuilding projects. In March of 1919 Olson returned to the United States by way of New York.

Olson was a member of the Ark Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite and Zuhrah Shrine temple. His last residence was at the Minnesota Masonic Home. He died on October 31, 1986. He is buried at Lakewood Cemetery.

Collection Description

The Philip Olson Collection consists of one box which contains the following items:

An olive drab satchel containing Olson's diary which describes his time during the war including information about the time he served at the front in Verdun. It also includes some details of the work he did while in France as well as the places he visited or was stationed.

The satchel also includes 2 regiment rosters from the period of 1917-1918 and another roster from 1932.

In addition, there is a large scrap book containing: Photographs, post cards, German and French Wartime Currency, day passes, and other miscellanea.

Also Olson's dog tags are included in a separate envelope.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library

Controlled Access Headings

Subject(s)

- World War, 1914-1918.

Collection Inventory

	Box
Olive Drab Satchel	1
Roster: 25th Regiment Engineers. A Company	
Roster: 25th Regiment Engineers. B Company	
Roster: 25th Engineers. October 20, 1932	
Personal Diary of Sgt. Philip Olson. 1917-1918	
Large Brown Embossed Scrap book	1
Dog tags	1