



Sharlot Hall Museum Library and Archives
415 West Gurley Street
Prescott, AZ 86301
www.sharlot.org

Title: Ernest A. Love Papers

Creators: Ernest Love family members

Dates: 1902-1998 (Bulk Dates: 1917-1921)

Quantity: .5 linear feet (1 box)

System of Arrangement

- Series 1: Biography & Genealogy
- Series 2: Education & Personal Mementoes
- Series 3: Personal Correspondence
- Series 4: Flight Summaries
- Series 5: Ernest Love's Death
- Series 6: Photographs
- Series 7: Oversize Materials (located in Oversize Drawer 8)

Abstract

Ernest Alexander Love was born in New Mexico in 1895, and later moved to Prescott, Arizona with his family in 1898. He attended Stanford University before enlisting in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps in San Francisco. He became a pilot in the American Expeditionary Force and was killed in action on September 15, 1918 at the age of 22. This collection includes, but is not limited to, biographical information; correspondence to family while traveling and training in San Diego, California, Italy and France. It also includes photos, personal records, details of death, and posthumous awards (including one signed by the President of France and another by General John J. Pershing, the commander of the American Expeditionary Force during World War I).

Identification: SHM MS-28

Language and Scripts of the Materials: English and French

Biographical History

Ernest A. Love was born on November 30, 1895 in Raton, New Mexico to Allan and Louetta Love. His father emigrated from Scotland in 1888 and worked for the Santa Fe, Prescott & Phoenix railroad. Allan married Louetta 'Etta' Gregory (from Kansas) in



1892. In addition to Earnest, they had two sons that died in infancy; Francis Gilbert 1893-1894 and Robert Chester 1898-1899. The boys are buried in the family plot in Mountain View Cemetery, Prescott, Arizona. The family moved to Prescott in 1898 and lived at 527 (now 515) East Sheldon Street. After Ernest's death they moved to Phoenix. Allan died April 30, 1937 and Louetta died November 30, 1946; they are buried at Mountain View Cemetery in Prescott.

Ernest Love appeared to have been very popular through high school. He was very musical and developed a love of acting which was demonstrated by his participation in many plays and musicals. He was a very good student but also excelled in football, eventually being named to the Arizona Republican Second Line All State Inter-School Football team in 1912. Ernest was also involved in the Boy Scouts of America. After graduation from Prescott High School in 1914, he attended Stanford University to study mechanical engineering.

In his junior year at Stanford, Ernest filed an application to enroll with the Reserve Officers' Training Corps at the Presidio in San Francisco. After completing training, Ernest and 15 others chose to go into the Aviation Section of the U.S. Army Signal Corps. He applied for pilot training and was sent to ground school at the University of California (Berkeley) and then to primary flight training in San Diego. After six weeks of flight theory, the students were given nine hours of training in actual airplane flying. Of the 15 who started, only Love qualified. After training in San Diego, he traveled to New York for embarkation to France with the 141st Training Squadron. On December 26, 1917, he was discharged as private first class and assigned active duty as first lieutenant. After being sent to France, he received advanced flight training at Issoudun (Third Aviation Instruction Center). He was a top student in all his classes and graduated May 7, 1918. From Issoudun, he was sent to Furbara, Italy, for aerial gunnery training, which was a sixteen-day course. He flew twenty-two combat missions in seven weeks and although a victory claim was never filed, a former Commander wrote of the downing of a German Rumpler by Love. It was immortalized in the song 'Wings of Liberty' by Dixie Wadlington Matthie.

On September 15th, 1918, he prepared to take off with seven other planes on his twenty-second mission but was unable to start his engine, and the rest of the patrol departed without him. He got airborne and flew toward a rendezvous point, not knowing that the patrol had diverged from the normal patrol route. Arriving alone at Lachaussee Pond, he encountered a German fighter squadron and after a dogfight that drifted behind German lines, Ernest landed his plane near a church in the French village of Tronville, with a mangled left hand, forearm and knees. A French priest carried the badly wounded American aviator to a Tronville Church. Hemorrhaging and lacking proper care, Love died the following day and was buried in the church cemetery. Love's parents were notified he was missing in action on October 6th. Finally locating his grave in February of 1919, the army disinterred his remains and reburied them at the St. Mihiel American



Cemetery in France. Allan and Louetta Love launched a campaign to have the army remove their son's remains from France and transfer them to Arlington National Cemetery. It wasn't until June 30, 1921 that Ernest Love was buried in Arlington. It took another five years for the Love's to get the Army to replace the original grave marker with a headstone with aviator wings and the following inscription: "If I am to give my life for this cause, I am satisfied. There is no way I would rather go than serving my Country".

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of biographical and genealogical information, education records; primary through college, extensive correspondence (109 letters and telegrams) to family and friends, correspondence to Ernest Love's mother regarding his death, photographs, sheet music composed by Dixie Wadlington Matthie in honor of Lt. Love, and a French aviation magazine with personal notations by Love. It also includes posthumous awards for bravery and gallantry signed by the president of France, Raymond Poincare; and another signed by General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing, the commander of the American Expeditionary Force during World War I. Included are official squadron reports from September 1918 listing Ernest Love together with the famous flying ace Eddie Rickenbacker and Frank Luke, another Arizona flying ace shot down during World War I. There is a letter from Stanford University inviting Love to membership in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and a humorous letter that Ernest wrote to his girlfriend Helen in 1917, complete with illustrations.

Restrictions:

None

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

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Related Archival Materials & Subjects

People

Love, Allan

[Love, Ernest Alexander, 1895-1918](#)

Love, Louetta

[Luke, Frank, 1897-1918](#)

[Pershing, John J. \(John Joseph\), 1860-1948. My experiences in the World War](#)

[Rickenbacker, Eddie, 1890-1973.](#)

Organizations or Clubs

American Legion. Post No. 6 (Prescott, Arizona)

[United States. Army](#)

[United States. Army. Reserve Officers' Training Corps.](#)

Geography

[London \(England\)](#)

[Prescott \(Ariz.\)](#)

Prescott Municipal Airport, Ernest A. Love Field

[New York \(N.Y.\)](#)

Paris (France)

[Rome \(Italy\).](#)

[San Diego \(Calif.\)](#)

Related Subjects

[United States. Army. American Expeditionary Forces.](#)

[American war library. World War I](#)

141st Aero Squadron, 45th Pursuit Group, Second United States Army

[League of WWI Aviation Historians \(U.S.\)](#)

[National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial](#)

[Stanford University. Libraries & Academic Information Resources. Department of Special Collections & University Archives](#)

U.S. Signal Corps, Aviation section, World War I

World War I

[World War I Aeroplanes \(Association\)](#)

[World War I Overseas Flyers \(Organization\)](#)

Please also see the following related materials in the Sharlot Hall Museum Library and Archives:

[An Arizona Aviator in France](#), Alan L. Roesler, 2005

[Terror of the Autumn Skies](#), Blaine Pardoe, 2011

Vertical File, Ernest Love

Westerners Video Collection DB 394



Administrative Information

Custodial History

The materials found within this collection were donated by American Legion Post 6 to the Sharlot Hall Museum on September 23, 2003. The materials were originally processed and placed into a non-standardized arrangement and organization scheme in Document Boxes 76 and 132, and Photo Box po1077. The collection was reprocessed using a DACS compliant finding aid and placed into a standardized DACS compliant archival arrangement and organization scheme. A new DACS compliant number was assigned to the collection, MS-28. On November 25, 2008 an accrual was donated by Lily Wright Budd; a letter from Louetta Love and a photo of Ernest Love in his airplane cockpit.

Accession Numbers:

1989.063
2003.121
2008.217

Accruals: More accruals to this collection are not expected.

Description Control

This collection was originally processed by Michelle Young in 2013, and reprocessed in 2014 by Cynthia Vaughn using *Describing Archives: a Content Standard (DACS)*.

Container List

Title: Ernest A. Love Papers -SHM MS-28

Dates: 2005, 2009

Series Scope and Content: This series consists of the genealogy of the Love family, and the biography of Ernest A. Love.

| Series 1: Biography and Genealogy | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|------------|
| Box/Folder | File/Item Description | Date(s) |
| 1.1 | Biographical information and genealogy | 2005, 2009 |



Title: Ernest A. Love Papers – SHM MS-28

Dates: 1902-1917

Series Scope and Content: This series consists of educational and related mementoes including report cards, a dance card, a Boy Scout certificate and diplomas.

| Series 2: Education and Personal Mementoes | | |
|---|--|----------------|
| Box/Folder | File/Item Description | Date(s) |
| 1.2 | Education Related Mementoes as follows: Invitation to Stanford Mechanical Engineers Receipt 2 empty envelopes Letter from American Society of Mechanical Engineers to join Post card from Mrs. Cleveland to Love regarding Canadian boy scouts 3 report cards 1912-1914 Dance card Boy scouts certificate Diploma from 8 th grade Prescott High diploma Arizona Republic news copy of picks for All State football team. Diploma from 1 st grade Photo copy of class from Prescott High School (Original BU-S 5014p) Diploma from Maricopa County public school – 8 th Grade (Original is in oversize folder) Prescott High School diploma (Original is in oversized folder) | 1902-1917 |



Title: Ernest A. Love Papers – SHM MS-28

Dates: 1917-1918

Series Scope and Content: This series consists of letters from Love to his parents, grandfather, Ola Henry (“little sis”) and letters from friends to Love. The first letter is written from Stanford before Ernest signed up to be a pilot. The series ends with a letter written on Sept. 12, 1918, three days before the flight that resulted in his death.

| Series 3: Personal Correspondence | | |
|--|--|----------------|
| Box/Folder | File/Item Description | Date(s) |
| 1.3 | Personal Correspondence as follows: Letters to family while training in San Diego, Feb. 1917-Nov. 1917 Newspaper article on testing of pilots Newspaper article about Henderson Van Surdam with guests including Ernest Love Telegram to mother “completed RMA tests” Telegram to mother “coming home” Telegrams to mother “ordered to New York” “leaving, meet me in Ashfork” “leaving Los Angeles” Telegram to friend Ola Henry to meet Love in Flagstaff Letters to family while in New York, Nov. 1917 Honorable discharge from the Army News copy Prescott Paper on his accomplishments Telegram from Love to family “Merry Christmas” Copy of certificate from President to 1 st Lieutenant (original is in oversize folder) Trinity Church program, Christmas 1917 Telegram to mother “being sent to San Diego” Letter to “Little Sister” Two letters to Love from Maurice DuVergeu Letter to Love from Mme. Daigremont Letter to Love from Elin Loman To “old Pal” from Thomas Marks | 1917 |
| 1.4 | Letters to family while in Europe January 1918-June 1918 Telegram “arrived in Europe” Small book on ‘Notes on Cathedrals’ | Jan-June 1918 |



| | | |
|-----|--|-----------------------------|
| 1.5 | Letters to family while in Europe Copy of French magazine (original in oversize file) showing the type of plane he flew. | June- September, 1918 |
|-----|--|-----------------------------|

Title: Ernest A. Love Papers -SHM MS-28

Dates: 1918, 1920

Series Scope and Content: This series consists of Official Squadron Reports listing patrol and flight summaries.

| Series 4: Flight Summaries | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| Box/Folder | File/Item Description | Date(s) |
| 1.6 | Squadron Reports | 1918, 1920 |

Title: Ernest A. Love Papers – SHM MS-28

Dates: 1918, 1919, 1921, 1937, 1991, 1998

Series Scope and Content: This series consists of correspondence from, and to Mr. and Mrs. Love regarding their desire to find information about the death and burial of their son. It also includes the certificate of death, posthumous awards, and newspaper articles.



| Series 5: Ernest Love's Death | | |
|-------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Box/Folder | File/Item Description | Date(s) |
| 1.6 | <p>Information regarding Love's death as follows: Letters and telegrams from and to Mrs. Love regarding Ernest's death, Oct. 1918–1921 Original telegram to Mrs. Love saying her son is missing in action In Memory of – copy, original in oversize folder Wings of Liberty- copy, original in oversize folder Letter to Mrs. Love from James A. ?, about details of Ernest being missing. Letter from Red Cross in Italy to Mrs. Love reporting Ernest missing (Elin Loman), Jan 24, 1919 Letter to Mrs. Love from W. Joe Chamberlin(sp?) regarding sending Ernest's locker to her and reporting his being missing, Jan. 26, 1919 Letter from American Red Cross (France) to "Gentlemen" regarding contacting Mrs. Love to end the suspense and shock of direct cable regarding the death of her son, Feb. 3, 1919 Letter from American Red Cross (France) to Mrs. Love regarding the death of her son, Feb. 4, 1919 Confirmation copy from Red Cross regarding Love's death Letter from American Red Cross (France) to Mrs. Love regarding the death of her son, Feb. 5, 1919 Letter of condolence from George Nilsson, Feb. 25, 1919 Letter of condolence from Maurice DuVergen Letter to Mrs. Love from General Headquarters American Expeditionary Forces with details of death, written by George W. Nilsson, France, Feb. 24, 1919 Letter to Helen Gordon (girlfriend) from Mail Clerk regarding letters she sent to Love that were not sent but forwarded to U.S. Deceased Section, Feb. 25, 1919 Letter to Mrs. Love from the War Department acknowledging letter from her requesting information, March 19, 1919</p> | 1918,1919, 1921, 1937, 1991,1998 |



| | | |
|--|---|--|
| | <p>Copy of letter from the Office of the Chief of Air Service with details of death, March 27, 1919</p> <p>Letter from American Red Cross regarding letter of inquiry from Mrs. Love as to how Ernest died (states injuries), April 2, 1919</p> <p>Piece of a letter from American Expeditionary Forces regarding place of burial, 2/3 of letter missing</p> <p>Diagram of the Battle of Saint-Mihiel</p> <p>Letter from American Red Cross (France) detailing the grave site at Tronville – a French cemetery, May 4, 1919</p> <p>Letter from American Expeditionary Force explaining where he died and where his remains are (Tronville Civilian Cemetery), June 24, 1919. States he was moved May 22, 1919 to American National Cemetery.</p> <p>Letter to Mrs. Love from American Military Mission, Berlin. Copy of official German records, in German. Description of personal effects, April 23, 1919</p> <p>French postcard</p> <p>Copy of newspaper article in Courier regarding Ernest Love</p> <p>Map of Arlington Cemetery showing Love's grave site</p> <p>Copy of article in Journal-Miner Oct 12, 1918 titled "Love Probably is Alive, But A Prisoner"</p> <p>US Army certificate of death</p> <p>Letter from Louetta Love to niece Jessie regarding death of Mr. Allan Love</p> <p>Copies of letters from the Army regarding Loves 'Aviation History'</p> <p>Memorial signed by General John J. Pershing</p> <p>Copy of 'Columbia Gives to her Son'</p> <p>Copy of 'A La Memoire' signed by President Poincare of France</p> | |
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Title: Ernest A. Love Papers – SHM MS-28

Dates: 1904-1917, 1918, 1937, 1946

Series Scope and Content: This series consists of pre-military and military photos, photographs of Ernest Love’s parents and home, and photographs of headstones from his burial sites.

| Series 6: Photographs | | |
|------------------------------|--|----------------|
| Box/Folder | File/Item Description | Date(s) |
| 1.8 | Personal photographs as below: Ernest at age six dressed up as George Washington First boy scout group of Prescott, AZ, 1909 Ernest in Prescott High football uniform Two photos of Ernest in portrait from Stanford | 1904-1917 |
| 1.9 | Military photos, including: Squadron Group photo after buying spree at Abercrombie & Fitch in NYC on Nov. 26, 1917 Ernest in cockpit (3 photos) of Curtiss JN-4 “Jenny” Ernest portrait in uniform (two poses two each) Ernest in his R.O.T.C. uniform at the Presidio in San Francisco, May-June, 1917 Ernest with R.M.A. class eating watermelon after landing in Oceanside, CA, Oct. 2, 1917 Ernest and friend Tiny Wingate on farm in Rome, June 8, 1918 Ernest showing his Reserve Military Aviator wings on left breast pocket taken in New York on Nov. 24, 1917, sent in a letter to his mother Ernest in studio portrait (with aviator wings and strap over right shoulder) probably in Paris late July 1918, just prior to his being assigned to the 147 th Aero Squadron. Unidentified group photo, probably on a ship to Europe in 1918 Group photo, shot in the garden of the Princess Rospigliosa in Italy, June 1918. Group photo, with ‘Wingate’ surrounded by British Tommies in Rome, June 8, 1918 | 1918 |



| | | |
|------|---|------------------|
| 1.10 | Headstone photographs including: Picture of grave where Ernest was reburied at St. Mihiel American Cemetery on May 9, 1919 Postcard from Thiaucourt, France Two photos of the tombstone in Arlington National Cemetery Photo of the family plot in Mountain View Cemetery, Prescott, AZ | 1918, 1937, 1946 |
| 1.11 | Family photos including: Seven Photos of Mrs. Louetta Love One photo of Mrs. Love in the Bate collection One photo of Mr. Love Two photos of Love's residence in Prescott, Arizona | Various dates |

Title: Ernest A. Love Papers – SHM MS-28

Dates: 1914-1925

Series Scope and Content: This series consists of oversize documents relating to the life of Ernest A. Love.

| Series 7: Oversize Materials | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|----------------|
| Box/Folder | File/Item Description | Date(s) |
| MS Oversize drawer 8 | American Legion Auxillary Membership roll (his mother) Diploma from Maricopa County public school – 8 th Grade Prescott High School diploma Wings of Liberty sheet music Notre Aviation de Guerre – L'illustration magazine (with personal notes, showing the type of plane he flew) Certificate from the President on appointment to 1 st Lieutenant 12-19-17 Certificate from Army of the U.S. to 1 st Lieutenant 9-16-19 U.S. army In Memory Of... French certificate In Memory Of... Columbia gives to her son – Military Memorial poster from President Woodrow Wilson | 1914-1925 |