

Guide to the James Merriam Howard Papers

MS 471



compiled by N. X. Rizopoulos with the assistance of Anne Willard

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
Yale University Library
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CALL NUMBER: MS 471

CREATOR: Howard, James M. (James Merriam), 1886-1971

TITLE: James Merriam Howard papers

DATES: 1916-1969

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.75 linear feet

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Correspondence, diaries, and other papers of the Rev. James Merriam Howard, chaplain to the 304th Field Artillery during World War I. The bulk of the papers cover the years 1917-1919 and relate to his service in the war and to his diary.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0471>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0471>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of James M. Howard.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

James Merriam Howard Papers (MS 471). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

James Merriam Howard was born in 1886 in Montclair, New Jersey. He attended the public schools there, spent a year and a half at Andover, and received his B.A. from Yale in 1909. Following graduation he served for one year as Secretary of the Yale University Christian Association ("Dwight Hall") He then spent a year in Europe as a private tutor to an American schoolboy. After his return to the United States Howard prepared for the ministry at Union Theological Seminary, receiving his B.D. in 1914. He was ordained to the ministry on June 21st of that year and was installed soon thereafter as pastor at Bedford Park Presbyterian Church.

On September 11, 1917, Howard was commissioned Chaplain (with the rank of First Lieutenant) and was assigned to the 304th Field Artillery. He was promoted to Captain in March 1919, and served as Acting Senior Chaplain of the 77th Division from March 10th to May 10th of that year. Following his discharge from the United States Army Howard returned to his Bedford Park pastorate and was then called to the South Street Presbyterian Church of Morristown, New Jersey, where he served as pastor until 1936. From that date, and until his retirement in 1951, Howard was associated with the First Presbyterian Church in Fort Pierce, Florida.

Scope and Contents

The Howard collection (contained in two boxes) comprises material pertaining to the Reverend Howard's service during World War I and is arranged in four series:

Series I. General Correspondence.

This includes letters to his family from the front (1917-1919), and a sampling of other personal letters -- "ancient and recent, which the chaplain has cherished" (1916-1969).

Series II. Notebook Diary (1918).

This includes the original manuscript notebook diary, covering the period April - December 1918; a copy of the typewritten and annotated transcription; and miscellaneous correspondence relating to Howard's painstaking research in preparing this annotated version.

Series III. 304th Field Artillery Materials.

This includes newsletters from the front; 304th Field Artillery Association bulletins; and copies of the Association's publication, "The Pirate Piece."

Series IV. Personal and Memorabilia.

This includes a miniature pocket diary (1918); the contents of a scrapbook (1917-1919); and a number of photographs, newspaper clippings, and similar items.

Arrangement

Arranged in four series: I. General Correspondence. II. Notebook Diary (1918). III. 304th Field Artillery Materials. IV. Personal and Memorabilia.

Collection Contents

Series I: GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

| | | |
|------------|--|--|
| b. 1, f. 1 | Howard, G. H. (60) | 1917-1919 |
| b. 1, f. 2 | Howard, John and Susan (23) | 1917-1919 |
| b. 1, f. 3 | Miscellaneous "cherished letters" (19) | 1916-1919, 1935, 1956, 1960, 1967-1969 |

Series II: NOTEBOOK DIARY (1918)

| | |
|-------------|---|
| b. 1, f. 4 | Original Diary, April - December 1918 |
| b. 1, f. 5 | Annotated transcript, pp. 1-51 |
| b. 1, f. 6 | Annotated transcript, pp. 52-100 |
| b. 1, f. 7 | Annotated transcript, pp. 101-150 |
| b. 1, f. 8 | Annotated transcript, pp. 151-193 |
| b. 1, f. 9 | Correspondence relating to the Diary [A - J], 1968-1969 |
| b. 1, f. 10 | Correspondence relating to the Diary [K - Z], 1968-1969 |

Series III: 304th FIELD ARTILLERY MATERIALS

| | |
|-------------|--|
| b. 1, f. 11 | Newsletters to 304th Field Artillery Association, 1918 |
| b. 1, f. 12 | Newsletter to Bedford Park Presbyterian Church |
| b. 1, f. 13 | 304th Field Artillery Association Bulletins [printed] |
| b. 1, f. 14 | "An Experience with a Pirate Piece" English |
| b. 1, f. 15 | "The Pirate Piece" (1929, 1935, 1966-1969) English |

Series IV: PERSONAL AND MEMORABILIA

| | |
|-------------|-------------------------------|
| b. 2, f. 16 | Miniature Pocket Diary (1918) |
| b. 2, f. 17 | Scrapbook (1917) |
| b. 2, f. 18 | Scrapbook (1918) |
| b. 2, f. 19 | Scrapbook (1919) |
| b. 2, f. 20 | Newspaper clippings |
| b. 2, f. 21 | Photographs |
| b. 2, f. 22 | Miscellaneous memorabilia |

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Clergy
World War, 1914-1918

Geographic Names

United States -- Foreign relations

Genres / Formats

Diaries

Names

Howard, James M. (James Merriam), 1886-1971

Corporate Body

United States. Army. Field Artillery, 304th,
1917-1919