

Crawford, Sgt. Jay H., World War I Diary (SC-225) Guide

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3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy

Dayton, OH 45435-0001

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Summary Information

Repository:	Wright State University Libraries, Special Collections and Archives
Creator:	Crawford, Jay H., 1892-1968
Title:	Sgt. Jay H. Crawford World War I Diary (SC-225)
ID:	SC-225
Date [inclusive]:	1918 May-Oct
Physical Description:	0.1 linear feet
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

[Description of item, Date], SC-225, World War I Diary, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio.

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Biographical / Historical

Jay H. Crawford was born January 19, 1892, in Rush Hill, Audrain County, Missouri, though the family later moved to Camden, Ray County, Missouri. His father, Mark Crawford, was a physician, and his mother's name was Calla.

Crawford enlisted in the U.S. Army in July 1917. On May 16, 1918, Crawford departed for France aboard the U.S.S. Mt. Vernon as a member of the 108th Sanitary Train, in the 33rd Division of the United States National Guard. According to the passenger list for the Mt. Vernon, Crawford's organization was Camp Infirmary #8. His duties in World War I included caring for the sick and dying. Crawford appears on the passenger list for the troop transport ship U.S.S. America on May 16, 1919. He was discharged June 9, 1919, with the rank of Sergeant.

After the war, Crawford married and had two daughters: Mary Virginia Crawford McCauley (1921-2003) and Catherine Anne Crawford Spruill (1927-1999). Places he lived included El

Dorado, Kansas (1920 and 1925); Ardmore, Oklahoma (1930); and Coffeyville, Kansas (1942). He died September 7, 1968, in Coffeyville, and was buried in Fairview Cemetery there.

Tom McClusky, whose name appears on the diary's last page, was a member of the Band of the 362nd Infantry. McClusky appears on the passenger list of the U.S.S. Edward Luckenback sailing from St. Nazaire, France, on April 2, 1919. His connection to Crawford is unknown.

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Scope and Contents

The diary, kept by Sergeant Jay H. Crawford, details a World War I soldier's experience in 1918. It starts in Houston in May 1918, describing Crawford's journey to the east coast, and later to France. The diary discusses his experiences in France, including describing airplanes and dogfights in May and June, and describing the aftermath of the Battle of Verdun. The diary consists of multiple longer passages, with dates referenced in narrative form. The last events discussed appear to date to October of 1918.

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged in chronological order.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Access

There are no restrictions on accessing material in this collection.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright restrictions may apply. Unpublished manuscripts are protected by copyright. Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The collection was donated to Special Collections and Archives, Wright State University Libraries, by Richard Seifried in April 2009 (accession 09-20).

Custodial History

In a March 2009, Richard Seifried described his acquisition of the diary this way: "An acquaintance that we knew died just a few months ago. He...had no family. The owners of his house had the young man that does our repair work clean out the basement. He came away with four boxes of books of all types. He offered to sell them to us. I purchased three. One was the army book." At the time, Seifried lived in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, which is approximately 150 miles east of Coffeyville, Kansas. He did not share the name of the acquaintance or the geographic location where the diary was found.

Existence and Location of Copies

The diary is available online in the CORE Scholar Digital Repository at https://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/special_sc225/1/.

Processing Information

The diary is written primarily in pencil. Though Crawford's name is written on the cover, the inscription "Tom McClusky. Band. 362 Inf." appears on the diary's last page.

Richard and Jean Seifried transcribed the diary, and included a copy of their transcription with the diary. Parentheses were used to enclose transcriber's notes, but are also sometimes a transcription of the diary author's original parenthetical commentary.

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Controlled Access Headings

- World War, 1914-1918 -- France
- World War, 1914-1918 -- Personal narratives, American Diaries
- Crawford, Jay H., 1892-1968

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Sgt. Jay H. Crawford World War I Diary, 1918 May-Oct <u>Creator</u> : Crawford, Jay H., 1892-1968 <u>Digital Object</u> : Sgt. Jay H. Crawford World War I Diary (SC-225) in CORE Scholar	Folder 1	Item 1
Transcription of Jay H. Crawford World War I Diary <u>Creator</u> : Seifried, Richard D.	Folder 1	Item 2