



Howard C. Rather Papers UA.17.442

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University Archives and Historical Collections

Conrad Hall
943 Conrad Road, Room 101
East Lansing , MI 48824
Business Number: 517-355-2330
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Summary Information

Repository:	University Archives and Historical Collections
Creator:	Rather, Howard C. (Howard Christian), 1895-1950
Title:	Howard C. Rather papers
ID:	UA.17.442
Date [inclusive]:	1918-1919
Physical Description:	0.75 Cubic Feet
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information:
"Item title, Collection title, Collection Identifier, Michigan State University Archives & Historical Collections, East Lansing, Michigan."

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Biographical Note

Howard Christian Rather was born to Henry Robert and Mary Ann Rather on September 17, 1895, in Bay Port, Michigan. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture from Michigan Agricultural College (now Michigan State University) in 1917. From 1917 to 1919 he served as a Second Lieutenant, Field Artillery, United States Army, with the American Expeditionary Forces France, 26th and 80th Divisions. He was honorably discharged. In June 1922 he married Emilie McKnight (died August 1923). He married again on October 23, 1926 to Hazel Cobb. This second marriage saw the birth of a son, Henry Lee Rather.

Following the war, Howard Rather joined the faculty of Michigan Agricultural College, first as an Agricultural Extension Specialist (1920) and later advancing to professor of farm crops, and head of Farm Crops Department (1928-1944). In 1944, he was appointed chairman of the Basic College committee, later becoming dean of the Basic College. He died on December 28, 1950, after a brief illness.

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Scope and Contents

The Howard C. Rather papers consists of Rather's correspondence and diaries documenting his experiences as an Army officer during World War I. Covering the time period of January 1918 to May 1919, the collection includes descriptions of the people Rather dealt with every day, and the conditions he lived in, both in the States and in France. His letters home describe his training at Camp Custer, Michigan; Camp Jackson, South Carolina; Camp Merritt, New Jersey; and Saumur Artillery School, France. The daily routine and activities around him are duly described. He spent the last six months of the war seeing combat duty as part of a field artillery unit in France.

Rather's diaries offer brief entries on his views of his training and activities. The collection includes seven letters written by relatives and fellow soldiers. The entire collection was transcribed by the donor's wife, Lavon H. Rather, and printed in a paperback volume which is included with the collection.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Permission to publish material from this collection must be obtained from University Archives & Historical Collections, Michigan State University.

Conditions Governing Access

Legal Status: Donor(s) have transferred any applicable copyright to Michigan State University but the collection may contain third-party materials for which copyright was not transferred. Copyright restrictions may apply. **Property Rights:** Michigan State University.

Processing Information

Changed record group from 00169 to UA 17.442 to reflect Rather's connection to Michigan State University. M. Badgley Malone, January 2020.

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Controlled Access Headings

- World War, 1914-1918
- Fort Custer (Mich.)
- Diaries
- Letters (correspondence)
- Photographs
- United States. Army

Collection Inventory

Papers

Scope and Contents note

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence		
February - May 1918	box 6241	folder 1
June 10 - July 30, 1918	box 6241	folder 2
August 1918	box 6241	folder 3

September 1918	box 6241	folder 4
October 1918	box 6241	folder 5
November 1918	box 6241	folder 6
December 1918	box 6241	folder 7
January - February 1919	box 6241	folder 8
March 1919	box 6241	folder 9
April - May 1919	box 6241	folder 10
Envelopes	box 6241	folder 14
Diaries, January 1918 - May 1919	box 6241	folder 11
<i>Howard C. Rather World War I diaries and letters 1918 - 1919, 1992</i>	box 6241	folder 12

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Photographs

Title/Description	Instances	
Rather, Hazel	box People 21	
Rather, Howard C.	box People 21	
Nurses (unidentified), Undated	box 6241	folder 13

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Postcards

Title/Description	Instances
The Castle, St. Andrews, 1948	drawer Postcards

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