

Robert J. King Papers, 2020

Dates: 1888-1964

Extent: 1 box (7 cm)

Biographical description: Robert J. King ([1899?]-) served a private in the 3rd battalion, 'A' Company in the Canadian Armed Forces in World War 1. He was captured as prisoner of war on April 24, 1915, and held until 1918 in various German prison camps including those at Giessen and Soltau.

Scope and contents: This collection includes correspondence between Robert J. King and members of his family, as well as between family members, and others from both before and during his captivity. Also included are photographs, material related to King's war service, medals, and a notebook pertaining to the King family.

Arrangement:

Contains Series:

Series 1: ***Correspondence***

Series 2: ***Photographs***

Series 3: ***War service***

Series 4: ***Family material***

Series 5: ***Medals***

Custodial History:

This collection was acquired by William Matthews from the estate of Edna May King in 2018 and purchased by the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, in 2019.

Notes:

Shorthand notations are used throughout the finding aid and are to be translated as follows:

A.L.S: Autograph letter signed

T.L.: Typed letter

MS: manuscript

Restrictions on access:

There are no restrictions on access.

Series 1: Correspondence		
BOX/ FOLDER #:	CONTENTS:	DATES:
1:1	A.L.S. from King addressed to his mother - 3 leaves on Y.M.C.A. stationary, re: sleeping in tents, request for woolen socks, and keeping away from the "wet" canteen.	20 Nov. 1914
1:2	A.L.S. from king addressed to his mother - 4 leaves plus envelope on stationary of the 'A' Company, Third Battalion, Canadians, re: being on guard duty for Christmas and plans for leave in Glasgow.	26 Dec. 1914
1:3	A.L.S. from King addressed to his mother - 15 leaves plus envelope on stationary of the 'A' Company, Third Battalion, Canadians, from Bustard Camp, re: leave in Glasgow, meeting family members, and overstaying his leave by 3 days and receiving punishment.	16 Jan. 1915
1:4	A.L.S. from King addressed to his mother – 1 folded leaf, re: arrival in trenches, being seasick on the journey across the channel, and ability to write letters home.	19 Feb. 1915
1:5	A.L.S. from King addressed to his mother – 1 leaf, re: letter writing regulations, etc. With 2 words censored.	2 Mar. 1915
1:6	A.L.S. from King addressed to his mother – 1 leaf, re: shelling in trenches, etc, with 2 words censored	19 Mar. 1915
1:7	A.L.S. from King addressed to his father – 2 leaves, re: shelling in trenches, billets, etc.	28 Mar. 1915
1:8	A.L.S. from King addressed to his mother – 2 leaves plus envelope, from "somewhere in France" re: Easter, shelling of villages, etc.	4 Apr. 1915
1:9	A.L.S. from King addressed to his mother – 2 leaves plus envelope, re: Easter, censorship of letters, marches, etc.	8 Apr. 1915
1:10	Post card from King addressed to his mother - 1 leaf, from Giessen prison camp, re: sending parcels and the fate of acquaintance, Lou Anderson.	9 May 1915
1:11	A.L.S. from King addressed to his mother – 1 folded leaf plus envelope, from Giessen prison camp, re: letter writing and parcels, passing time in camp, etc.	17 Sept. 1915
1:12	Post card from King addressed to his mother – 1 leaf, from Giessen prison camp, re: letter writing, and wounded soldier sent back to England.	4 Oct. 1915
1:13	Post card from King addressed to his mother – 1 leaf, from Giessen prison camp, re: letter writing.	1 Nov. 1915
1:14	Post card from King addressed to his brother Fred – 1 leaf, from Giessen prison camp, re: letter received and holiday wishes.	8 Nov. 1915
1:15	Post card from King addressed to his mother – 1 leaf, from Giessen prison camp, re: photographs sent and request for foodstuffs.	28 Nov. 1915
1:16	Post card from King addressed to his mother – 1 leaf, from Cellelager prison camp, re: movement to new camp, parcels received.	1 Jan. 1916
1:17	Post card from King addressed to his mother – 1 leaf, from Cellelager prison camp, re: new address and Christmas parcels.	20 Jan. 1916

1:18	A.L.S. from King addressed to his mother – 1 folded leaf plus envelope, from Cellelager prison camp, re: new address, parcels and letters, requests for foodstuffs, etc.	1 Jan. 1916
1:19	Post card from King addressed to his mother – 1 leaf, from Cellelager prison camp, re: parcels and death of uncle.	13 Mar. 1916
1:20	Post card from King addressed to his mother – 1 leaf, from Cellelager prison camp, re: letters and parcels.	18 Mar. 1916
1:21	Post card from King addressed to his mother – 1 leaf, from Cellelager prison camp, re: change of address, work at camp, and request for foodstuffs.	15 Apr. 1916
1:22	Post card from King addressed to his mother – 1 leaf, from Cellelager prison camp, re: mother's health, request for address and foodstuffs.	30 Apr. 1916
1:23	Post card from King – 1 leaf, from Cellelager prison camp, re: receipt of parcels	7 Aug. 1916
1:24	Post card from King – 1 leaf, from Berne re: receipt of parcels.	7 Nov. 1916
1:25	Post card from King – 1 leaf, from Cellelager prison camp, re: receipt of parcels.	8 Nov. 1916
1:26	Post card from King – 1 leaf, from Berne re: receipt of parcels.	12 Dec. 1916
1:27	A.L.S. from King addressed to his mother – 1 folded leaf plus envelope, from Soltau prison camp, re: parcels from red cross and others, letters not received,	15 Feb. 1917
1:28	Post card from King - 1 leaf, from Soltau prison camp, re: receipt of letter.	16 Feb. 1917
1:29	Post card from King addressed to his mother – 1 leaf, from Soltau prison camp, re: letters not received.	5 Nov. 1917
1:30	Post card from King addressed to his mother – 1 leaf, from Soltau prison camp, re: illness and Christmas celebrations in the camp.	5 Jan. 1918
1:31	4 envelopes, including 2 self-addressed envelopes from King addressed to German prison camp addresses.	[1915-1918]
1:32	Ms. copy of letter from James [Morton] in Scotland to Robert King – 1 leaf plus envelope, re: safe arrival in Germany.	27 Apr. 1915
1:33	A.L.S. from Minnie addressed to Cousin Mary (King's mother) - 1 folded leaf, from Glasgow, re: informing family that King is still alive and in a German prison camp, sending parcels, and German censorship of letters.	20 May 1915
1:34-35	A.L.S. from John Anderson addressed to Mrs. King – 1 folded leaf, re: newspaper, sending parcels to King, etc. and copy of The Ardrossan & Saltcoats Herald, Friday June 4, 1915, featuring Picture of Robert King and text of a letter sent by him to a relative.	7 Aug 1915 and 4 June 1915
1:36	T.L. from Department of Militia and Defence, Ottawa – 2 leaves plus envelope, re: notice that King has been moved from Giessen to a prison camp at Cellelager and instructions regarding sending of mail and parcels to prisoners of war.	19 Apr. 1916
1:37	A.L.S. from James Morton addressed to Mrs. King – 1 leaf, re: post cards from Robert King, sending of parcels, and money spent.	3 June 1916

1:38	T.L. from [G.R.?] Buckeley, Canadian Red Cross Society, Prisoner of War Department to Mrs. R.H. King – 1 leaf, re: regulations on clothing sent to prisoners of war.	24 Jan. 1917
1:39	A.L.S. from Uncle [Robert?] addressed to Robert King – 1 folded leaf plus envelope, re: Spanish flu, reopening of theatres, money and letters sent, etc.	3 Nov. 1918
Series 2: Photographs		
1:40-41	Photographs of unidentified soldiers taken by Darragh of Galt, Ontario	[1914].
1:42	2 photographs of Robert J. King	1945 and [1940s]
Series 3: War service		
1:43	Printed card with list of transports and 2 addresses in ms. on reverse	1914
1:44	Newspaper clipping featuring Robert King as prisoner of war, The Toronto Daily News, Friday, May 21, 1915	21 May 1915
1:45	4 handwritten recipes and 1 clipping	[1914-1915]
1:46	Notice from the Canadian Militia re: 1914-1915 Star Medal	[1918]
1:47	War service badge certificate	28 Sept. 1942
1:48	Original's Club Jubilee Reunion program – features message from 2 photographs of Robert J. King and a message from him as President.	1-3 Aug. 1964
Series 4: Family material		
1:49	Holograph notebook of R.H. King recording important dates and events in the King family	1888-1902
Series 5: Medals		
Box 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1914 Star Medal - British War Medal - Victory Medal - Toronto Regiment medal - Victoria Medal awarded to Gnr. A.L. Norman - Two ribbons 	1914-[1919]