

CPS SOURCE bySunday

When the United States entered the Great War in 1917, John Hezekiah ("Hezzie") Pattrick was working in Washington, D.C., attending George Washington University. On May 18, President Wilson signed the Selective Service Act, and Hezzie went to the War Department to volunteer for civilian support work, one of the first to do so. Ten days later on May 28, 1917, Hezzie sailed with the first detachment of American troops to France on the Baltic with General John Pershing to serve as a civilian clerk and "confidential secretary" to the Medical Corps of the Quartermaster Department. He was commissioned Second Lieutenant on March 30, 1918 and was assigned to the military aerial photography school, which was the first of its kind and evolved into the Army Intelligence School. He was serving at the front when the war ended.



Gas Mask #1985-196f
German, early 20th century
from the Pattrick Collection

More recent history, like that of World War I - which began just over a hundred years ago, can be explored in much greater depth than a lot of ancient history, because many documents, photographs, and personal histories still exist and are in excellent condition. In fact, many of us have family members that were part of major historical events. Hezzie, mentioned above, was raised on his family farm near Higbee, Missouri, and his family donated his letters and memorabilia to the University of Missouri. We are able to look at these family artifacts (seen here) to better understand how World War I affected everyday Americans right here at home in central Missouri.



Various Personal Objects #1985-0195
belonging to Hezzie Pattrick
Euro-American, early 20th century
from the Pattrick Collection

New York City
Saturday 11:00 p.m.
July 5 1919

Dear Mother and Dad:

We arrived tonight, getting checked off the boat at 8:30. . . . I got away from Brest much quicker than I anticipated - arrived one day at 11:00 and sailed the next morning, the 28th. . . . but just as soon as I get my honorable discharge from the U.S. Army I will lose no time coming home. . . . It is great to be back. . . .

Excerpt from a letter Hezzie wrote to his parents.

EXPLORE

To see more artifacts, visit the Museum of Anthropology's online databases:

<https://anthromuseum.missouri.edu/?q=online-databases>

Database search words:
Germany, world war, Pattrick

Tips for Using the Museum Databases

- Log in as a "Guest."
- Enter search terms into one or more fields and click the "Perform Find" button in the status area on the left-hand side of the screen.
- Use the book icon in the status area to move from one record to another in the found set.
- Click on the magnifying glass icon to return to find mode and perform additional searches.
- When finished working with a database, please be sure to click the "Log Out" button in the status area to close your session.



EUROPEAN ALLIANCES AND BATTLEFRONTS, 1914-1917

