

Guide to the Paul Jean Gaston Darrot Papers

MS 591



compiled by Staff of Manuscripts and Archives

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 591

CREATOR: Darrot, Paul Jean Gaston, 1892-1958

TITLE: Paul Jean Gaston Darrot papers

DATES: 1914-1919

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1 linear foot (3 boxes)

LANGUAGE: The materials are in French.

SUMMARY: A collection of 210 photographs and 100 stereopticon glass slides compiled by Paul Jean Gaston Darrot during World War I in France.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0591>

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.0591>.

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 Anita (Mrs. Paul) Darrot in 1969.

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

Paul Jean Gaston Darrot Papers (MS 591). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Paul Jean Gaston Darrot was born November 8, 1892, in Paris where his higher education included studies at the Ecole Professionnelle d'Art and at the Trocadero Art School. In 1912 he joined the French Army and during World War I served in the infantry, artillery and communications section of the engineers. He was assigned to maintenance of telephone lines under fire and towards the end of the war was severely gassed. The photographs in this collection were possibly compiled while he was in the engineers.

Soon after his discharge in 1919, Darrot left France and came to the United States. In 1922 he began working for Seth Thomas Clock Company in New York. Paul Darrot died in Southbury, Connecticut, on February 14, 1958.

*Information for this biographical sketch was taken from a letter written by Anita Darrot to the Yale University Library circa 1969.

Scope and Contents

A collection of 210 photographs and 100 stereopticon glass slides compiled by Paul Jean Gaston Darrot during World War I in France.

Arrangement

Arranged by topic.

Collection Contents

Photographs and slides, circa 1914-circa 1918

Series A (45 photographs)

- b. 1, f. 1 Pictures dealing with artillery (anti-aircraft placements), bombed-out villages and specific ruins, field kitchens (and supply trains), trench and bunker scenes, French field operations (by soldiers), wartime use of French railroad

Series B (50 photographs)

- b. 1, f. 2 French countryside scenes—peasants at work, photographs showing activities, horse mounted units, French fighter planes, movement of 75mm gun, wartime cemeteries and burial parties, wartime use of civilian vehicles, military parades

Series C (45 photographs)

- b. 1, f. 3 Views of French countryside, French supply trains (ammunition, wine, etc.), rest camps—ambulance and other means of transporting wounded to camps, telephone exchanges, installation of barbed wire (and other blockades), trench scenes

Series D (50 photographs)

- b. 1, f. 4 Hospital and staff of Soissons, French vehicles and artillery front-line action shots (1918) and aftermath, parades of French, German, and Allied prisoners, clean-up work in French villages—cleaning up bombed-out buildings and German wreckage left behind

Series E (15 photographs)

- b. 1, f. 5 French landmarks—famous monuments, French prisoners of war released after armistice (1918), international boundary line—France, Germany, Belgium

- b. 1, f. 6 Miscellaneous (5 plates)

Stereoscopic glass slides of World War I scenes in France

The slides depict primarily infantry warfare in France during World War I, 1914-1918, concluding with images of the victory parade at the end of the war and the signing of the Treaty of Versailles by President Woodrow Wilson in 1919. A significant number of images depict American troops and artillery. The slides, measuring 1 3/4 inches by 4 3/4 inches, contain duplicate photographic negatives separated by a strip of clear glass on which a brief description has been handwritten in French, presumably by Darrot. Several slides bear an illegible stamp in red ink, the significance of which is unknown.

Glass slides in this collection are too fragile to be used. Researchers must use digital images in Manuscripts and Archives Digital Image Database (MADID).

The slides are arranged in alphabetical order by topic and geographic location based on the French description written on each slide. Some slides are numbered and were presumably used by Darrot after the war as he lectured on his wartime experiences to various groups and organizations. Although the numbers are not sequential, they have been retained with the description of the individual slides.

- b. 2, f. 1 [Argonne, Alerte aux gazs \(gas alert\)](#)
- b. 2, f. 2 [Argonne, Secteur américain \(American sector\)](#)
- b. 2, f. 3 [Argonne, Train de matériel américain \(American transport train\)](#)
-

Stereoscopic glass slides of World War I scenes in France (continued)

b. 2, f. 4	Artillerie anglaise dans la Somme (English artillery in the Somme)
b. 2, f. 5	Artillerie lourde (heavy artillery) (#14748)
b. 2, f. 6	Les mutilés au défilé de la Victoire (The maimed at the victory parade)
b. 2, f. 7	Au front, Enterrement militaire (military burial at the Front)
b. 2, f. 8	Aviation américaine (American aviation)
b. 2, f. 9	Avion vu d'une autre avion (a plane seen from another plane) (#989)
b. 2, f. 10	Avion incendie (burning plane)
b. 2, f. 11	Avion survolant un camp de prisonniers (plane flying over a prison camp)
b. 2, f. 12	Camions chargés de troupes (trucks filled with troops)
b. 2, f. 13	Camp américain (American camp)
b. 2, f. 14	Canon lourd américain (heavy American canon)
b. 2, f. 15	Caronne, Tranchée du Balcon (dugout) (#713)
b. 2, f. 16	Carrefour des Trois Jurés (crossroads of the three) (#545)
b. 2, f. 17	Château Thierry, Prisonniers (prisoners)
b. 2, f. 18	Le Châteaurenault coulé en 1917 The <i>Châteaurenault</i> was a protected cruiser of the French Navy. Recommissioned at the outbreak of World War 1, <i>Châteaurenault</i> patrolled the Mediterranean. She was torpedoed by the Germans and sank in December 1917.
b. 2, f. 19	Chavonne, Construction d'un pont (construction of a bridge) (#A-124)
b. 2, f. 20	Cimetière américain (American cemetery)
b. 2, f. 21	Colonne, D'infanterie américaine (American infantry)
b. 2, f. 22	Calonne, Tranchée (dugout) (#16/85)
b. 2, f. 23	Concert américain (American concert)
b. 2, f. 24	Convoi américain (American convoy)
b. 2, f. 25	Cuisine de territoriaux (local cuisine)
b. 2, f. 26	Cuisine sur le front américain (cuisine on the American front)
b. 2, f. 27	Les cuisiniers (the cooks)
b. 2, f. 28	Dardanelles, Débarquement (disembarkment)
b. 2, f. 29	Dormans (#23219) A French village that sustained heavy damage.
b. 2, f. 30	Enterrement d'un soldat noir américain (burial of a black American soldier)

Stereoscopic glass slides of World War I scenes in France (continued)

b. 2, f. 31	Eparges, attaque du point X - 29.3, 1915 (attack at X point) (#336) The X point was a place near Verdun. This slide relates a French attack during the last days of March 1915.
b. 2, f. 32	Eparges, Relevé des morts, 1915 (removal of the dead) (#90/876)
b. 2, f. 33	Etat major américain (American chief of staff)
b. 2, f. 34	Ferme navarin, Infanterie en reserve (Navarin farm, reserve infantry) (#C314, 2 duplicate slides) Navarin Farm was a position on the Champagne battlefields where heavy fighting took place in 1915 September. The French troops captured German positions here, suffering great losses.
b. 2, f. 35	Ferme navarin, Infanterie en reserve (Navarin farm, reserve infantry) (#C314, duplicate slide)
b. 2, f. 36	Fort de Douaumont remis en état de défense (Fort de Douaumont returned to a state of defense) Fort Douaumont was captured by German forces in 1916 February and in October that same year was recaptured by the French.
b. 2, f. 37	Général Pershing au défilé de la Victoire [1919 juillet 14] (#200)
b. 2, f. 38	Un gros obusier américain (a large American howitzer)
b. 2, f. 39	Guillaume II et l'impératrice" (Guillaume II and the empress) (#116)
b. 2, f. 40	Jaulgonne, Front américain
b. 2, f. 41	L'heure de la soupe (soup time)
b. 2, f. 42	L'heure de la soupe (soup time) (not a duplicate)
b. 2, f. 43	Les Italiens au défilé de la Victoire (The Italians at the victory parade)
b. 2, f. 44	Joffre et Millerand sur le front remettent des décorations (Joffre and Millerand at the Front giving out medals)
b. 2, f. 45	Karpathes, observateur autrichien (Carpathos, Austrian observer) (#26448)
b. 2, f. 46	Laonnais, Fort de Laniscourt (fort at Laniscourt) (#31108)
b. 2, f. 47	Léon Gambetta.... la Côté turque (Léon Gambetta (illegible) la Turkish side) (#170) <i>Léon Gambetta</i> , an armoured cruiser, was part of the French fleet based at Malta blockading the Austrian Navy in the Adriatic. On April 27, 1915, she was torpedoed by Austro-Hungarian submarine <i>U-5</i> under the command of Korvettenkapitän Georg Ludwig Ritter von Trapp, patriarch of the Von Trapp Family Singers. Of the 821 men on board, only 137 survived.
b. 2, f. 48	Marne, cadavres, 1914 (corpses)
b. 2, f. 49	Marne, Eglise occupée (occupied church) (#296)
b. 2, f. 50	Maroc en colonne (Moroccan soldiers in a column)
b. 2, f. 51	Maroc, Ou enterre les morts (Morocco, Where the dead are buried)
b. 2, f. 52	Marseille, (illegible) Marin boche (Marseille,..... German sailor) (LS601)
b. 2, f. 53	Meuse, Cadavre allemand, 1918 (German corpse)

Stereoscopic glass slides of World War I scenes in France (continued)

b. 2, f. 54	Meuse, Cadavre américain, 1918 (American corpse)
b. 2, f. 55	Meuse, Cuisine sous bois, 1918 (cooking under trees)
b. 2, f. 56	Meuse, Front américain (American Front)
b. 2, f. 57	Meuse, Un P. C. américain, 1918 (An American pay clerk?)
b. 2, f. 58	Meuse, Pendant l'avance américain, 1918 (During the American advance)
b. 2, f. 59	Meuse, Transport d'un blessé américain, 1918 (Transport of a wounded American)
b. 2, f. 60	Mont Kemmel, Champ de bataille (B139)
b. 2, f. 61	Mont Kemmel, Champ de bataille (B139) (duplicate)
b. 2, f. 62	Mouilly, Enterrement (burial)
b. 2, f. 63	Mouvement américain à Château Thierry (American movement at Château Thierry) The Battle of Château-Thierry was fought From June 3-July 18, 1918, and was one of the first actions of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) under General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing.
b. 2, f. 64	Nesles, Cimetière américain (American cemetery)
b. 2, f. 65	Nieuport Nieuport, later Nieuport-Delage, was a French airplane company that primarily built racing aircraft before World War I and fighter aircraft during the war.
b. 2, f. 66	Obusier américain (American howitzer)
b. 2, f. 67	Paris, American Legion parade (1 of 5) The American Legion was founded in 1919 by veterans who served in the American Expeditionary Forces (A.E.F.) in France during World War I. Members convened in Paris in March 1919, the same year the organization was chartered by Congress.
b. 2, f. 68	Paris, American Legion parade (2 of 5)
b. 2, f. 69	Paris, American Legion parade (3 of 5) Marchers carry a Connecticut banner.
b. 2, f. 70	Paris, American Legion parade (4 of 5) Marchers carry a Tennessee banner.
b. 2, f. 71	Paris, American Legion parade (5 of 5) Marchers carry a Tennessee banner.
b. 2, f. 72	Paris, Fêtes de la Victoire, Drapeaux américains (Celebration of the victory, American flags)
b. 2, f. 73	Reims, Chauffeurs annamites (Annamese drivers) (#23293)
b. 2, f. 74	Le repos près des faisceaux (Rest near the stack of weapons)
b. 3, f. 75	Salut de drapeau (Salute the flag)
b. 3, f. 76	Soissons, Soldats américains (American soldiers)
b. 3, f. 77	[Soixante-quinze] 75th américain en action (U.S. Infantry, 75th regiment?)

Stereoscopic glass slides of World War I scenes in France (continued)

b. 3, f. 78	Soldats noirs américains (Black American soldiers)
b. 3, f. 79	Somme, Convois américain (American convoy) (#82)
b. 3, f. 80	Souain, Cadavres de Goumiers (Bodies of Goumiers) (#205) Moroccan Goumiers were soldiers who served in auxiliary units attached to the French Army of Africa, between 1908 and 1956.
b. 3, f. 81	La soupe au camp (meal at camp)
b. 3, f. 82	St. Nazaire, Arrivée des troupes américains (Arrival of the American troops)
b. 3, f. 83	St. Rémy, Meuse, Génie américain (American engineering)
b. 3, f. 84	Thann, Alsace (#983)
b. 3, f. 85	Tombe de Quentin Roosevelt (Tomb of Quentin Roosevelt) (#187) Quentin Roosevelt was the youngest son of President Theodore Roosevelt. He joined the United States Army Air Service where he became a pursuit pilot during World War I. He died in aerial combat over France on Bastille Day, 1918 July 14.
b. 3, f. 86	Troupes Gorkas (Gurkhan troops) (#23611) More than 200,000 Gurkhas (India) served in the British Army during World War I, arriving in France in 1914.
b. 3, f. 87	Tyrol, Infie autrichienne (Austrian infantry) (#107)
b. 3, f. 88	Verdun, Assaut allemand (German assault) (#127)
b. 3, f. 89	Verdun, Boyau allemand conquis (conquered German communication trench) (#845)
b. 3, f. 90	Verdun, Cadavres (#826)
b. 3, f. 91	Verdun, Poste de secours allemand (German aid station) (#108)
b. 3, f. 92	Verdun, Tranchée des Baiönettes (Bayonet trench) (#102) Tranchée des Baïonnettes is the oldest memorial on the battle fields at Verdun.
b. 3, f. 93	Verdun, Voie sacrée (Verdun, sacred way)
b. 3, f. 94	Vichy,illegible anglais (#0320)
b. 3, f. 95	La Victoire, Défilé armée américain (Victory, American army marching)
b. 3, f. 96	Vosges, skieurs allemands (Vosges, German skiers) (#927)
b. 3, f. 97	Wilson rend visite au roi des Belges (Wilson visits the king of the Belgians)
b. 3, f. 98	Wilson signant le Traité de Versailles (Wilson signing the Treaty of Versailles) (#9)
b. 3, f. 99	Fooker abattu (Fooker destroyed) (#938)
b. 3, f. 100	B-106 - HOOGLEDE - L'avance en 1918" (The advance in 1918)

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

World War, 1914-1918
World War, 1914-1918 -- France
World War, 1914-1918 -- France -- Pictorial works
World War, 1914-1918 -- Pictorial works

Genres / Formats

Photographs
Photoprints
Slides (photographs)

Geographic Names

France -- Pictorial works

Names

Darrot, Paul Jean Gaston, 1892-1958