

Ralph T. Kingery Collection, 1902-1956

**Ontario City Library
Robert E. Ellingwood Model
Colony History Room**



Ontario, California

**Contact Information: Ontario City Library Model Colony Staff
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Processed by: La Vera Miller, Kelly Zackmann

Date Completed: October 2008

Descriptive Summary

Title

Ralph T. Kingery Collection, 1902-1956

Creator

Ralph T. Kingery, Kathleen Vinnedge

Extent

Number of containers: 1

Linear feet: 2

Abstract

Ralph T. Kingery was born in Springfield, Missouri on December 16, 1891. He and his family moved to Ontario when he was about 18 or 19 years old. His parents were William and Florenda Kingery, and they resided at 406 East Carlton Street. Ralph had a younger brother named Archie, who also served in World War I, and two younger sisters, Mary and Kathleen. Ralph worked for King Fruit Company prior to being drafted into the U.S. Army in August of 1917.

Ralph T. Kingery was among the first troops sent overseas after the U.S. declaration of war on April 6, 1917, as part of the First Infantry Brigade sent to France selected by General John Pershing. He arrived in Europe on Christmas Day 1917, and was sent to France soon after.

The First Division was sent to relieve the First Moroccan Division in the Ansauville Sector of France on January 15, 1918. The Ansauville Sector was located north of Toul. Kingery was killed in action by a German shell while in the front line trenches on February 19, 1918. His division was relieved from Ansauville on April 5, 1918 with total casualties of 38 officers and 504 men, 6 officers and 103 men killed in action. Mr. Kingery was the first soldier from California to be killed in action during World War I.

Mr. Kingery's body was interred temporarily in France until the military was able to bring the soldier's bodies home, long after the war was over. Mr. Kingery's body arrived home to his parents in Ontario on June 24, 1921, and he was given a military funeral. He is buried at Bellevue Cemetery in Ontario.

Several of Mr. Kingery's possessions were held by his sister Kathleen. Kathleen's son, Donald Vinnedge, discovered the possessions and donated them to the Model Colony Room in July, 2002.

Administrative Information

Access

Collection is open for research during the operating hours of the Robert E. Ellingwood Model Colony History Room, or by appointment.

Preferred Citation

Ralph T. Kingery Collection, 1902-1956. Robert E. Ellingwood Model Colony History Room, Ontario City Library.

Acquisitions Information

Collection acquired in July 2002. Donated by Donald Vinnedge, nephew of Ralph T. Kingery.

Processing Information

Processed by La Vera Miller, July 2002. Finding aid completed by Kelly Zackmann, October 2008.

Container List
Box 1
(Collection kept in Fire Safe FF, Drawer 5)

Folder	Contents
1	World War Enlistment Certification with portrait
2	Memorial certificate signed by king of France
3	Memorial certificate signed by Governor Stephens of California, dated November 11, 1919
4	Citation from Headquarters of the First Division, stating Ralph T. Kingery was killed in action, February 19, 1918
5	United States Army certification that Ralph T. Kingery died with honor, dated June 13, 1920
6	Notice of call and to appear for physical examination at Chaffey High School on August 11, 1917
7	Notice of Certification to District Board when no Claim of Exemption or Discharge has been made, dated August 25, 1917 (call for military service), with envelope
8	Receipt for delivery of freight from Union Pacific Railroad Co. for Ralph Kingery's headstone, bill of lading, envelope addressed to Kathleen Vinnedge (sister), dated February 17, 1956.
9	Letter from U.S. Army addressed to Ralph T. Kingery, stating departure date is postponed until September 19, 1917, with envelope.

United States Flag with 48 stars, presented to family at funeral.

Books:

Rollo in Holland, by Jacob Abbott

Published: Chicago (n.d.): W. B. Conkey Co.

Inscription: To Ralph Kingery from Grandma, December 25, 1902

History of the First Division During the World War, 1917-1919, by The Society of the First Division

Published: Philadelphia: John C. Winston, 1922

U. S. Official Pictures of the World War: Showing America's Participation

Compiled by William E. Moore & James C. Russell

Published: Washington, D.C.: Pictorial Bureau, 1920

See Also--Model Colony Photograph Collection (Individuals):

Ralph T. Kingery's grave in France

Funeral in front of Ontario City Hall, 1921

Ralph T. Kingery, circa 1916-1917