

Guide to the  
Ernest A. Love Post 6 American Legion Collection  
**Ernest A. Love Letters**

With addition of letters sent to Ola Henry from Love  
And other related material about Ernest A. Love

Sharlot Hall Museum Archives

Document Box 76

Processed by: Michael Wurtz

\_ linear foot (eight folders)

Accessions 2003.121 (Ernest A. Love Post 6 American Legion) and 89.063 (Marjorie Prince), unknown accession of certificates, photographs, etc.

### **Content**

The Collection is primarily made up of letters concerning Ernest A. Love: while in preparation for war in Berkeley and San Diego, California; on his way to war in New York and briefly in England; more training in France and Italy; the last couple of months in France before his plane went down and he died in a German field hospital; details of his death; and certificates and other material related to him.

## Acquisition

In 1989 the museum accessioned 5 letters (four originals and one copy) written by E. A. Love to Ola Henry, one telegram from Love's mother to Ola.

In September 2003 the Ernest A. Love Post 6 American Legion donated photographs and manuscript letters of Ernest A. Love. This transfer was under the guidance of Al Tecero and Fred Lindquist of the Post and Al Roeseler (an aviation historian). Ernest's mother was active with the Legion's auxiliary in the 1920s and at some time probably donated the letters to the Post.

There are also some certificates and other miscellaneous material that were acquired by the museum at some point, but no documentation exists. All material that is not from the Post's accession is noted in the series descriptions.

## Biography

Allan Love emigrated from Scotland in 1888 and worked for the railroad. Allan and Louetta Gregory (from Kansas) were married in 1892 and Ernest Alexander Love was born in Raton, New Mexico November 30, 1895. Two other children may have died in infancy. The family moved to Prescott in 1898 and ended up at 527 (now 515) East Sheldon Street. In 1921 they moved to Phoenix. Allan died in 1937 and Louetta died in 1946. Both are buried at Mountain View Cemetery.

Through high school Ernest Love appears to have been popular. As a junior, he was named to the **Arizona Republican** Second Line All State Inter-School Football team in 1912.

After graduating from Prescott High School in 1914, he attended Stanford University to study mechanical engineering. When the U.S. entered World War I in April of 1917, Ernest quit school, enlisted in the U.S. Army, and entered officers' training camp at the Presidio. He successfully applied for pilot training and was sent to ground school at the University of California (Berkeley) and then to primary flight training in San Diego.

After training in San Diego, he traveled by train to New York for embarkation to France with the 141<sup>st</sup> Training Squadron. In France he received advanced flight training at Issoudun and later was sent to Italy. On 24 July 1918, 1st Lieutenant Love was assigned to 'A' Flight of the 147<sup>th</sup> Pursuit Squadron, 1<sup>st</sup> Pursuit Group.

Love came under fire for the first time on 29 August 1918. On 15 September Love was delayed in taking off with the rest of his squadron. He was shot down and badly wounded. He died the next day at a German field hospital in Tronville, France. He was buried in the local cemetery, then removed to an American National Cemetery in France, and lastly to Arlington National Cemetery in 1921.

He is memorialized in Prescott with the American Legion Ernest A. Love Post, the Ernest A. Love Field Airport in Prescott, and a Scholarship at Stanford University.



## Scope, content, and processing notes

The Collection consists of three manuscript series: Pre-war Education (folder 1), Personal Letters (folders 2-5), Death Information (folder 6-7), and one photographs series (folder 8). All photographs have been integrated into existing photo collections: PO 1077p, PO 409p, and PO1076p. Materials were arranged chronologically when available. The entire collection fits into one 6-inch box.

There are some letters that were either not from E. A. Love or not to his parents. These have been added chronologically and noted in the series descriptions. Page numbers have been added to most of the letters. E.A. numbered his letters home, however many letters appear to be missing according to that system. Some of the letters were not dated, but have been put into logical order based on envelope dates or other hints as to their date of origin.

## Series Descriptions

**Pre-war Education (1902-1917)** consists of a few items that help to document Ernest's childhood. It includes a Boy Scout certificate, a few report cards, a dance card, and some other items up ending with his time at Stanford University.

Added to series:

Maricopa Public Schools Eight Grade diploma 1910 (unknown accession)

Prescott High School Diploma 1914 (unknown accession)

**Personal Letters (February 1917-September 1918)** consists of letters from E. A. Love to his parents, grandfather, and Ola Henry ("little sis"). The first one was written from Stanford before Ernest signed up to be a soldier. The series ends with a letter written on Sept 12, 1918, three days before his last flight that resulted in his death.

Added to series (un-noted items are from accession 2203:121):

June 5, 1917 letter to Ola Henry (89.064 accession)

July 12 1917 letter to Ola Henry (89.064 accession)

September 19, 1917 letter to Ola Henry (89.064 accession)

Photocopy of Telegram to Ola Henry from Mrs. Allan Love November 15, 1917 (89.064 accession)

Copy of Yavapai Magazine article November 1917 that Ernest refers to in November 24, 1917 letter

Appointment to Aviation section of the Signal Corp December 19, 1917 (unknown accession)

Honorable Discharge from Army December 26, 1917

Active Duty Service request

Trinity Church Christmas Service

Assignment to 141<sup>st</sup> Aero Squadron January 10, 1918

Notes of the Cathedrals (of) Winchester

to E. A. Love from Mme Daigremont April 25, 1918

to E. A. Love from Du Vergeu April 26, 1918

to E. A. Love from Elin Loman June 14, 1918

to E. A. Love from Du Vergeu no date

to "Old Pal" (E.A.?) from Thomas Marks June 29, 1918

July 2, 1918 letter to "Grandfather" J.G. Gregory

no date letter to Ola Henry ((89.064 accession)

copy of magazine cover L'illustration that is referred to in letter of August 16, 1918 (unknown accession)

photocopy of envelope from Ola Henry to E. A. Love December 6, 1918 marked "returned" (89.064

accession)



**Death Information (October 1918-1921, 1964)** consists of correspondences to Mrs. Love concerning her desire to find information about the death and burial of her son. There are also military reports and certificates about E.A. Love.

Added to the series:

"Columbia Gives to Her Son" certificate (unknown accession)

"A LA MEMOIRE" certificate (unknown accession)

"In Memory of" certificate (unknown accession)

"Wings of Liberty" sheet music for Ernest A. Love (unknown accession)

page from Clendenin's 1964 article "147<sup>th</sup> Aero Squadron 1918" (unknown accession)

**Photographs (1901-c.1930)** consist of 18 images. Depending on the subject these images that been distributed by topic into the following subject sorted collections:

Mrs. Louetta Love – PO 409p (item "F")

Mr. Allan Love – PO 1076p (item "A")

Ernest A. Love – PO 1077p:

A – Squadron Group photo

C – Ernest with "Wingate"

H – Group on Boat

J – Portrait

L – Ernest, age 6, dressed as George Washington

M – Group in Rome

N – Portrait

O – Group in Rome

P – Group with Plane

Q – Standing on road

R – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grave

S – Grave at Arlington

T – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grave Cemetery

**Object (no date)** Only this "E.A. LOVE 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut U.S. Air Service" non-military issued identification bracelet has been accessioned into the Museum's object collection (item number X79) that relates to Earnest A. Love.