

# **Finding Aid for the Dr. Frank C. Kinsey World War I photographs Collection 145**

**Finding aid prepared by Richard H. Harms**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department

April 1992

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
<b>Creator</b>	Kinsey, Frank Cammeron, 1877-1931
<b>Title</b>	Dr. Frank C. Kinsey World War I photographs
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1918-1919
<b>Extent</b>	8.3 Linear feet Two boxes
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>Frank Cammeron Kinsey (1877-1931) was a surgeon from Grand Rapids, Michigan, commissioned as a lieutenant in the Medical Reserve Corp when the United States entered World War I, but entering active service as a Captain. He continued to serve for a while in European medical facilities after the armistice, until discharged at Camp Dix on July 15, 1919. He returned to Grand Rapids to reestablish his practice, with the rank of a lieutenant colonel in the Medical Reserve Corp. The Frank Kinsey photographs document medical corp troops during the United States participation in World War I. They include images of training, camp life, hospital facilities and leave-time visits to locations in Alabama, New Orleans, Louisiana, and Georgia. The views from the European Western Theater detail bunkers, the front lines, injured soldiers, hospitals, and their staffs. Also shown are troops leaving from New York harbor.</p>

## Biographical/Historical note

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A surgeon from Grand Rapids, Michigan, Frank Cammeron Kinsey was born 10 February 1877, in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, the son of Jacob J. Kinsey and Letitia H. Palmer. He died 31 July 1931, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Kinsey received his education from the Grand Rapids public schools, University of Michigan and Northwestern University.

He was commissioned a lieutenant in the Medical Reserve Corps when the United States entered World War I. Soon after enlistment, Kinsey was promoted to captain. His military training was at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia; Camp Sheridan, Alabama, and Camp Wheeler, Georgia. In late July 1918 Base Hospital 80 from Camp Wheeler, including Kinsey, shipped to Europe on Agamemnon, which docked at Brest in early August. At Brest, Base Hospital 80 was broken into separate units. Kinsey, with Teams 215 and 216, saw service near Verdun, just a few miles from the front lines. During this period Kinsey was promoted to major.

Following the armistice, Kinsey was in charge of the camp hospital outside of LeMans and later of the camp hospital at Ballon (just outside of Tours). In July 1919 Kinsey shipped back to the United State on President Grant, landing at Boston. He was discharged at Camp Dix on 15 July 1919. Following his discharge from active service, Kinsey was promoted to lieutenant colonel in the Medical Reserve Corps. He returned to Grand Rapids and reestablished his medical practice.

On 5 July 1920, in New York, Kinsey married Marie Louise Cosson, a native of LeMans. The Kinseys returned to Grand Rapids where they lived until Kinsey died. They had no children; the widow returned to France after Kinsey's death.

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## Scope and Contents note

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The collection contains photographs that document training of medical corp troops at Forts Oglethorpe and Sheridan during United States participation in World War I. Most of the images are in three albums and depict training, camp life, hospital facilities and leave-time visits to locations in Alabama, New Orleans, Louisiana, and Georgia. These leave-time views include the Jefferson Davis home, Civil War battlefields and monuments, and living conditions for southern blacks. (Some of the captions reflect the racist tenor of white society at the time.)

The military images depict training, facilities, personnel and equipment. Also details the troops leaving from New York harbor. The views from the Western Theater details bunkers, the front lines, injured soldiers, hospitals and their staffs.

## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department April 1992

### Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Mrs. John H. Kinsey, circa 1978; accession number 1992.010

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## Controlled Access Headings

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### Genre(s)

- photographs

### Geographic Name(s)

- Fort Oglethorpe (Ga.) -- Photographs
- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History

### Subject(s)

- World War, 1914-1918 -- France
- World War, 1914-1918 -- Hospitals
- World War, 1914-1918 -- United States

## Collection Inventory

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Volume</b>
Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia. (147)	1	1
New Orleans. (205)	1	2
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
France. Western Front (Meuse-Argonne). (14)	2	1
Shipping overseas. Tank (1)	1	2
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Volume</b>
Camp Wheeler, Macomb, Georgia. (318)	2	3