
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MS 1094

**FORD, WILLIAM M., 1898-1969
PAPERS, 1906-1945 (bulk: 1914-1918)**

DESCRIPTION

The collection concerns the military career of William M. Ford, a sergeant in the U. S. Army Signal Corps. His papers include photographs from the punitive expedition into Mexico in 1916 as well as photographs from his time in France in 1918. There is one postcard photograph of Pancho Villa. The collection includes his army records as well as a small diary kept in France in 1918. Also included are copies of a diary he kept in Mexico during 1916-17.

1 box, .25 linear feet

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

William M. Ford, U. S. Army telegrapher, grew up in Oklahoma and became a railroad telegrapher in 1910, working in Oklahoma and Texas. He joined the Army in 1915 and was in Columbus, N. M. with the 1st U. S. Cavalry during the Pancho Villa raid into Columbus in 1916. He served with the signal corps in Mexico under Gen. Pershing and again served under Pershing in France. Ford was permanently disabled by artillery fire in 1918 and received his discharge. He went back to the railroad before studying radio and electronics at the University of Arkansas. He returned to the Army in World War II, serving again in the signal corps. He retired in Benson, Arizona and died there in 1969.

ACQUISITION

Donated by Alice Ford in 1987.

ACCESS

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

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PROCESSING

The collection was processed by Riva Dean in February 1998.