

## Wilfred R. Easterbrooks Collection (1991.002)

### Overview of the Collection

Repository: South County History Center, 2636 Kingstown Road Kingston, Rhode Island 02881  
Tel: 401.783.1328; Website: southcountyhistorycenter.org

Title: Wilfred R. Easterbrooks Collection

Dates: 1894 – 1920

Media: objects, papers, photographs

Quantity: 1 box, .5 linear feet

Identification: 1991.002

Language: English

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### Biographical Note

Wilfred Ross Easterbrooks (1894-1968) was born in South Kingstown, Rhode Island, on August 25, 1894. He attended Rhode Island State College and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in 1917. Following his graduation, Easterbrooks enlisted in the U.S. Army and served as a Private First Class in Battery A of the 103<sup>rd</sup> Field Artillery Regiment.

In late 1917 Easterbrooks's regiment was deployed to France, where it participated in several major battles of World War I. Easterbrooks was wounded in September 1918 while serving as a motorcycle dispatch bearer. He was not able to receive needed treatment for this injury for several months, resulting in blood poisoning and "a narrow escape from losing his leg." According to the *Narragansett Times*, Easterbrooks was the only serviceman from South Kingstown to be seriously wounded in World War I.

Following his military service, Easterbrooks married Mary Rose Albro and remained engaged in veteran's organizations. Easterbrooks served as postmaster of the Wakefield Post Office for twelve years and then worked as a civil engineer until the early 1960s. He was also a member of the Pettaquamscutt Historical Society, now the Center, at the time of his death.

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### Scope and Content

The Wilfred Ross Easterbrooks Collection includes objects, papers, and photographs. The materials document Easterbrooks's military service during World War I. These include telegrams and correspondence between the American Red Cross and Mary Albro informing her of Easterbrooks's location and condition. Photographs in the collection document fighting on the front lines in France, including trench warfare and camp life, and Easterbrooks's recovery. The series is organized as follows:

Series I: Objects

Series II: Photographs

Series III: Papers

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## Administrative Information

Access: Any qualified researcher is permitted to utilize materials in the Center's collections.

Preferred Citation: Wilfred R. Easterbrooks Collection, South County History Center

Provenance: This collection was donated by Easterbrooks's daughter, Ruth Larose.

Processed by: Erica Luke, with the generous support of Laurie Friel

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## Subject Terms

United States. Army. Field Artillery Regiment, 103<sup>rd</sup>. Battery A

World War, 1914-1918

## People

Easterbrooks, Wilfred Ross 1894-1968

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## Related Materials

Researchers interested in this collection may also wish to consult the following Center resources:

Research Library – *History of the 103rd Field Artillery (Twenty-sixth Division, A.E.F.) World War 1917-1919* by W.F. Kernan; *Battery A: 103rd Field Artillery in France* by Frederick Ambrose McKenna.

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## Contents Listing

### Series I: Objects

ID Number	Description	Dates
1991.002.0001	Service flag, invented during World War I to serve as a symbol for a family member serving in the military	1917-1919
1991.002.0002	Ditty bag used by Easterbrooks during his World War I military service	1917-1919

### Series II: Photographs

ID Number	Description	Date
1991.002.0003	Easterbrooks civilian/childhood photographs (3 photographs)	1894-1905
1991.002.0004	Easterbrooks World War I photographs (39 photographs)	1917-1919

### Series I: Papers

ID Number	Description	Date
1991.002.0005	General Order No. 8B, ordering Easterbrooks to report for military service and "Only a Volunteer" handwritten poem	1917-1919
1991.002.0006	Red Cross telegrams and correspondence with Mary Albro	1919
1991.002.0007	Mis. print materials (reproductions) about Easterbrooks, his service, and postwar life	-