

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS
PAMPHLET DESCRIBING M917

**Historical Files
of the
American Expeditionary
Forces in Siberia
1918-1920**



NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON: 1973

RICHARD NIXON
President of the United States

ARTHUR F. SAMPSON
Administrator of General Services

JAMES B. RHOADS
Archivist of the United States

The records reproduced in the microfilm publication

are from

Records of U.S. Army Overseas Operations

and Commands, 1898-1942

Record Group 395

in the National Archives Building

HISTORICAL FILES OF THE
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES
IN SIBERIA, 1918-1920

On the 11 rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced a collection of important letters, reports, memorandums, cablegrams, maps, charts, and other kinds of records relating to the activities of the American Expeditionary Forces in Siberia (hereafter, AEF in Siberia), 1918-20. This collection, known as the Historical Files of the AEF in Siberia, is part of the Records of U.S. Army Overseas Operations and Commands, 1898-1942, Record Group 395.

Administrative History

After many months of prodding by America's Allies and top advisers in the State Department, President Woodrow Wilson agreed in early July 1918 to permit limited U.S. participation in an Allied expedition to Siberia. Among the reasons Wilson gave for this move by the United States were: to extricate Czechoslovak Armed Forces trapped in Siberia who had been attempting to reach the Western Front; to guard Allied military stores at Vladivostok; and to aid the Russian people themselves in "self-government and self-defense." Soon after Wilson's announcement, the War Department made speedy preparations for the transfer of the 27th and 31st Infantry Regiments from the Philippine Islands to Vladivostok. In addition, Maj. Gen. William S. Graves, who was designated commander of the expedition, received orders to select an additional 5,000 men and officers from his 8th Division stationed at Camp Fremont, Calif., to supplement these two infantry regiments.

On August 3, 1918, orders were sent from the Adjutant General in Washington to the two regiments in the Philippines and to Graves in California to embark for Vladivostok, where they were to establish American Headquarters. The bulk of the expeditionary forces landed in Siberia between August 15 and September 2. Immediately upon arrival, elements of the 27th and 31st Infantry Regiments took up guard duty along the Ussuri Railroad line from Vladivostok to Nikolsk. During late August and September the remainder of the 27th Infantry under Col. Henry Styer participated in an Allied offensive that pushed back Bolshevik forces in the Spasskoe-Ussuri region. By November most of this fighting had subsided, and the primary tasks of the AEF in Siberia became railroad garrison duty, care of prisoners of war, and guarding Allied supplies at Vladivostok.

In the Spring of 1919, an interallied agreement on guarding the Trans-Siberian Railroad resulted in the assignment of American forces to several widely separated sections of the railroad line: Vladivostok to Nikolsk-Ussuri, Ugolnaya to the Suchan Mines, Spasskoe to Ussuri, and (1,700 miles further west) Verkhne-Udinsk to Mysovaya. During the period May through August 1919,

the garrisons at Ugolnaya, Ussuri, Razdolnoe, the Suchan Mines, and Shkotovo sustained the heaviest casualties of the expedition because of strikes, riots, and partisan guerrilla activity. Conditions were so bad that American forces were removed from Shkotovo and the Suchan Mines in August. Other American garrisons, however, maintained their stations until January 9, 1920, when the War Department ordered the entire AEF in Siberia to assemble at Vladivostok in order to return to Manila. On April 1, 1920, General Graves closed his headquarters, and the last American units departed from Siberia. A list of names of some of the principal officers who served with the AEF in Siberia follows these introductory remarks.

Creation of Historical Files

The Historical Files of the AEF in Siberia were the creation of the Historical Branch, War Plans Division (1918-21), and its successor, the Historical Section of the Army War College (1921-42). These historical units had the task of collecting, preserving, indexing, and publishing documents of historical value bearing on the American effort in the First World War. In the course of these duties the Historical Branch began to collect and classify the most important files on Siberia as early as 1920, the year the records of the AEF in Siberia were retired to Washington. The first page or cover sheet of many of the documents added to this series by the Historical Branch in 1920 and 1921 bear the stamp "HISTORICAL BRANCH," and immediately underneath this stamp is a file designation, usually "58-2." The Historical Section of the Army War College continued to add to the Historical Files of the AEF in Siberia until at least as late as 1942, although most of the records comprising this series were collected before 1930. The major sources of the records here reproduced are the files of the offices comprising the Headquarters of the AEF in Siberia, more especially the records of the Commander, the Chief of Staff, and the Military Intelligence Section; records of the 27th and 31st Infantry Regiments; and the records of the Adjutant General of the War Department. In most cases the Historical Branch and Section merely screened the important series of records of these offices and units and withdrew documents that they considered suitable for inclusion in this historical collection. On a few occasions, documents were sent to the historical units by other agencies of the War Department to be included in this series; in one or two cases, documents were photostated, returned to their original filing places, and the photostats added to this collection.

Arrangement

The present arrangement of these documents is according to the so-called War Department historical decimal classification scheme, a filing system devised by the Historical Section of the Army War College that, despite its name, lacks certain basic

elements of a true decimal classification system. According to this scheme each file designation consists of two numbers separated by a hyphen. The number before the hyphen, the master number, represents the organizational entity to which the document was assigned; the number following the hyphen, the subject number, denotes the subject matter of the document. For example, General Graves' final report on the Siberian expedition bears the file designation "21-33.6." The number "21" is the master number for the AEF in Siberia, and "33" is the subject number for "Reports of Operations." The number "33.6" is the designation for "Special Reports of Operations." A descriptive list of folder contents and their file designations follows these introductory remarks. In addition to the file designations of the "War Department historical decimal classification scheme" and the file markings imposed by the Historical Branch described above, many of the records bear other file markings that indicate their original provenance. The most common is the blue stamp "HEADQUARTERS AM. EXP. FORCES VLADIVOSTOK, SIBERIA" followed by a penciled-in file designation from the War Department decimal classification scheme, and below this another stamp indicating the date the document was filed. Another common file designation found on the records here reproduced is one employed by the Adjutant General's Office, typical of which is the citation on the first page of General Graves' final report: AG 370.22 Rus[sian] Exp[edition] (5-26-20).

Security Classification

None of the documents reproduced in this microfilm publication are now security classified. Some documents were classified as secret or confidential at the time of their creation and had these security classification markings stamped, typed, or written on them. The Adjutant General's Office reviewed the security classification of this entire series in March 1947 and marked each folder, file cover, or document with a rectangular stamp indicating "CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED" or "CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO CONFIDENTIAL." Between 1947 and 1970 the National Archives reviewed and declassified a few documents as a result of specific requests by searchers. Finally, the National Archives systematically reviewed and declassified in 1970 all the remaining security classified documents in this series.

Description of Records

War Diaries

The bulk of the historical files of the AEF in Siberia consist of war diaries compiled at American Headquarters in Vladivostok. In addition, a few of the war diaries of the garrisons stationed at Shkotovo and the Suchan Mines during the summer of 1919 were included by the Historical Branch in this collection. Paragraph 35 of the U.S. Army *Field Service Regulations* (1917 rev. ed.) gives the following prescription for the content and format

of the war diaries:

Each day's record will commence with a march table or statement of the operations or location of the organization, including an account of the weather, roads, camps, health of troops, etc., and a statement of the supply of ammunition, rations, and forage. This will be followed by a chronological record of events, including time and place of issue and receipt of orders and messages, with a copy or a synopsis of contents.

. . . After an engagement, the war diary will contain a report of losses and captures and will be accompanied by a sketch showing the positions of the command at the most important phases.

Each day's record will be attested by the commander or the adjutant; and, with attached copies of orders and messages sent and received, will be forwarded daily to the next higher commander. . . .

Commanders of armies or of units not components of a higher command will forward their war diaries direct to the War Department.

Almost from the beginning the Vladivostok war diaries, which were never forwarded to the War Department on a daily basis, diverged from the prescribed model. By mid-September 1918 the march table was eliminated because by then there were so few troop movements and combat actions. On the other hand, the diaries contain a great deal more information about economic, political, and social conditions in Siberia than the regulations stipulated. The diaries include a great number of appendixes and enclosures in the form of maps, charts, cablegrams, memorandums, and newspaper clippings. The war diary of the AEF in Siberia Headquarters for any given day usually consists of one or more small war diary form sheets containing a brief listing and description of the contents of the diary, followed by an intelligence summary with its enclosures, followed in turn by English translations of pertinent items from Russian, Japanese, and Chinese newspapers published in or near eastern Siberia.

The Headquarters diaries are arranged chronologically, and thereunder the appendixes that accompany them daily are arranged by "W.D." (War Diary) number in two numerical sequences: W.D. 1-583 (August 7, 1918-February 5, 1919) and W.D. 1-945 (February 6, 1919-March 30, 1920). There are a few errors of repetition and omission in the second sequence: numbers 353 through 356 are repeated, and number 577 appears twice, once in place of 567. The dates of the appended documents are not always concurrent with the war diary, tending to lag from 1 to 3 days behind it. An extreme case, the diary of January 3, 1919, includes an

enclosure, W.D. 491-A, dated November 18, 1918. There are no war diaries for August 8-11 and 13, 1918, and for March 28 and 29, 1920.

Local units at Shkotovo and the Suchan Mines submitted war diaries to Vladivostok, and the Historical Branch added to this collection those which documented the strikes of railroad workers and mineworkers and the heavy partisan guerrilla activity in these districts during the summer of 1919.

Operations Report

The Historical Files of the AEF in Siberia also include a number of semiannual, annual, and final reports of operations of the various offices and units comprising the expedition to Siberia. Among the most important of these are the two reports of General Graves, which together give an overall view of the Siberian expedition, and the report of Capt. Laurance B. Packard, an Intelligence officer, entitled "An Account of the American Expeditionary Forces in Siberia, August 1918 to March 1919." Enclosed with Graves' two reports were about 30 reports of offices and units under his command. Nearly all of these enclosures are included in this series and are reproduced on the first and last two rolls of this microfilm publication.

Subject Files

Other important records comprising the Historical Files of the AEF in Siberia are the four subject files of the Chief of Staff of the Siberian Expedition entitled "Japanese-American Relations" (21-4.7), "Civil Affairs" (21-21.3), "Field Messages" (21-32.16), and "Allies Orders [from Japanese Headquarters]" (21-32.7). These subject files, all of which are reproduced on roll 1 of this publication, consist of reports, memorandums, letters, cablegrams, telegrams, and maps. Each file is preceded by a list of contents that does not always reflect the present contents of the file. For example, the first 16 documents listed in the "Allies Orders" file are missing, while the last two documents in the "Field Messages" file are not included in the list of contents. In a few cases documents were transferred from one of these four files to another.

Related Records

In addition to the general files of the AEF in Siberia, which can be found among the Records of United States Army Overseas Operations and Commands, 1898-1942, Record Group 395, there are numerous documents on the Siberian Expedition in the files of the American Section of the Supreme War Council, Records of the American Expeditionary Forces (World War I), 1917-1923, Record Group 120. Special naval attache reports on the "Siberian Situation" appear in the files of the Office of Naval Intelligence,

Records of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Record Group 38. The files of the Russian Railway Service Corps, Records of International Conferences, Commissions, and Expositions, Record Group 43, shed important light on the operation of the Trans-Siberian Railroad during this time. The 1910-29 decimal file of the Department of State, General Records of the Department of State, Record Group 59, contains extensive documentation on conditions in Siberia during the Russian Civil War. The following three important segments of the decimal file relating to Russia and the Soviet Union have been reproduced as microfilm publications by the National Archives: *Records of the Department of State Relating to Internal Affairs of Russia and the Soviet Union, 1910-1929* (M316); *Records of the Department of State Relating to Political Relations Between the United States and Russia and the Soviet Union, 1910-1929* (M333); and *Records of the Department of State Relating to Political Relations Between Russia (and the Soviet Union) and Other States, 1910-1929* (M340). Another important segment of the decimal file available as a National Archives microfilm publication is *Records of the Department of State Relating to World War I and Its Termination, 1914-1929* (M367).

This introduction was written and the lists and contents were compiled by Gibson Bell Smith.

LIST OF SOME OF THE COMMAND AND STAFF OF
THE AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES IN
SIBERIA, 1918-20

Names of officers serving in an acting or in an ad interim capacity have been omitted.

Commanders

Col. Henry D. Styer, Aug. 16-Sept. 3, 1918.
Maj. Gen. William S. Graves, Sept. 3, 1918-Apr. 1, 1920.

Chiefs of Staff

Lt. Col. Oliver P. Robinson, Sept. 3, 1918-Sept. 23, 1919.
(No one served in this position between Sept. 24-27, 1919.)
Col. Joseph D. Leitch, Sept. 28, 1919-Mar. 3, 1920

Assistant Chief of Staff

Lt. Col. Robert L. Eichelberger, Sept. 3, 1918-Apr. 1, 1920.

Intelligence Officers

Lt. Col. David P. Barrows, Aug. 16, 1918-Mar. 10, 1919.
Lt. Col. Robert L. Eichelberger, Mar. 10, 1919-Apr. 1, 1920.

Adjutants General

Col. Edwin Landon, Aug. 16-Sept. 15, 1918.
Lt. Col. Thomas W. King, Sept. 15, 1918-Apr. 1, 1920.

Commanding Officers 27th Infantry

Col. Henry D. Styer, Aug. 16, 1918-Apr. 11, 1919.
Col. Charles H. Morrow, Apr. 11, 1919-Mar. 4, 1920.

Commanding Officers 31st Infantry

Col. Frederic H. Sargent, Aug. 22, 1918-Oct. 8, 1919.
Col. Fred W. Bugbee, Oct. 8, 1919-Mar. 30, 1920.

DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF FOLDER CONTENTS

Ten folders contain no records at all, merely cross-reference sheets to related records in this and other series. These folders are listed below in quotation marks without any other identifying information.

<u>File Number</u>	<u>Subject</u>
21-4.7	Documents concerning Japanese-American relations, 1918-19.
21-7	Maj. Gen. William S. Graves Proclamation to the Russian People, Apr. 21, 1919.
21-7.1	President Wilson's reply to the Senate, informing that body of his reasons for sending and maintaining American forces in Siberia, July 22, 1919. (Sen. Doc. 60, 66th Cong., 1st sess).
21-10.5	Strength report showing the number of officers and enlisted men stationed in the Shkotovo Sector on Dec. 6, 1919.
21-11.4	"History."
21-12.3	"Casualties."
21-12.9	"Troops."
21-17.9	Report of Harry Lemons, representative of the American Library Association, on the society's activities in Siberia, Nov. 1918-May 1919.
21-19.3	Telegrams and memorandums pertaining to the organization and movement of troops to Siberia, July-Aug. 1918.
21-20.1	Maj. David P. Barrows' weekly intelligence summary, Sept. 15-21, 1918.
21-20.4	Intelligence Office summary of newspaper translations, Sept. 13, 1918.
21-20.7	Memorandum on towns within the Ugolnaya-Kangauz Sector and the Shkotovo Sector, Sept. 1919.
21-20.7	Intelligence report on the Siberian Front, Dec. 2, 1918.
21-20.7	Report on the Vladivostok to Irkutsk ordnance train, Oct. 8-Nov. 16, 1918.
21-20.7	Weekly intelligence report from Razdolnoe, Dec. 12, 1919.
21-20.7	Report on the Bolsheviks' policy in Razdolnoe, Jan. 13, 1920.
21-20.7	Reports of railroad traffic through Spasskoe, Sept.-Dec. 1919.
21-21.1	Reports on the activities of the Intelligence Section, July 1918-Feb. 1920.
21-21.3	Documents relating to "Civil Affairs" and diplomatic relations, July 6, 1918-May 22, 1919.
21-21.8	"Situation in Siberia."
21-23.11	Memorandums on the strength and organization of White Russian Forces, Oct.-Nov. 1918.

<u>File Number</u>	<u>Subject</u>
21-23.7	"The Czecho-Slovaks in Russia - August 1914 to February 1919," by Capt. Laurance B. Packard.
21-27.2	Instructions concerning the writing of intelligence reports, Sept. 2, 1919.
21-31	Lt. Col. G. Maitland Edwards' memorandum relative to proposed Allied military operations in Siberia (n.d., but probably spring of 1918).
21-32.16	Field messages relating to movements and operations of Allied units, Aug. 15, 1918-Mar. 7, 1919.
21-32.2	Map showing general distribution of Allied troops in Siberia (n.d.).
21-32.2	Description of troop dispositions in Vladivostok, the Suchan Mines, and Khabarovsk (n.d.).
21-32.2	"Distribution of Railway Guards."
21-32.6	Operations maps, Aug. 1919.
21-32.7	Orders received from Japanese Headquarters ("Allies Orders"), Aug. 26-Nov. 3, 1918.
21-33.5	War diaries of the AEF in Siberia Headquarters at Vladivostok, Aug. 7, 1918-Mar. 30, 1920.
21-33.5	War diaries of the 31st Infantry Replacement Battalion in the Shkotovo Sector, May 18-Oct. 31, 1919.
21-33.5	War diaries of the Allied Mine Guard, Suchan Sector, June 23-Aug. 2, 1919.
21-33.6	Maj. Gen. William S. Graves' report of operations of the AEF in Siberia, to June 30, 1919.
21-33.6	"An Account of the American Expeditionary Forces in Siberia, August 1918 to March 1919" by Capt. Laurance B. Packard.
21-33.6	Report of operations in the Spasskoe Sector, Jan. 1-June 30, 1919.
21-33.6	Report of operations of the 31st Infantry, Jan. 1-June 30, 1919.
21-33.6	Maps showing monthly stations of units of 31st Infantry, Jan.-June 1919.
21-33.6	Reports of elements of the 27th Infantry Regiment, Aug. 1918-June 1919.
21-33.6	Reports of operations of the Allied Mine Guard at Suchan, Oct. 1918-July 1919.
21-33.6	Final report of Maj. Gen. William S. Graves on the operations of AEF in Siberia, July 1, 1919-Mar. 30, 1920.
21-33.6	Maj. Earle W. Jennings' "History of the Suchan Campaign," June 22-July 18, 1919.
21-33.6	"Operations at Razdolnoe, Feb. 6-Mar. 8, 1919."
21-33.6	Post diary, Spasskoe, July 1-Sept. 1, 1919.
21-33.6	Reports of operations at Spasskoe, July 1-Dec. 31, 1919.
21-33.6	Report of operations in Shkotovo Sector, July 1-Dec. 31, 1919.
21-33.6	"Engagement at Uspanka."

<u>File Number</u>	<u>Subject</u>
21-33.6	Weekly reports of operations, Base and Line of Communications (31st Infantry), Sept. 14, 1918-May 8, 1919.
21-34.2	Report of Japanese interference with an American troop train at Nikolsk, Oct. 13-14, 1919.
21-37	Report of inspection of the narrow gauge railway beyond Fanza, Nov. 16, 1919.
21-42.2	Reports of operations of the Engineer Detachment, Aug. 16, 1918-Jan. 1, 1919; Jan. 1-June 30, 1919; and July 1-Dec. 31, 1919.
21-42.2	Report of American Railway Engineers with the Czecho-Slovaks in Siberia, May 5-Sept. 9, 1918.
21-42.22	Table of distances by railroad of all major Russian cities between Vladivostok and Petrograd expressed in <u>versts</u> (1 verst = .66 mile).
21-42.3	Brief note and newspaper clipping concerning the Allied agreement to guard the Trans-Siberian railway and the Russian Railway Service Corps, Feb. 12, 1919.
21-42.8	List of engineer supplies and equipment received by the AEF in Siberia, Aug. 1918-Feb. 1919.
21-43.	Col. James S. Wilson's "Medical History of the Siberian Expedition," Aug. 1918-June 1919.
21-43.	Chief Surgeon's reports of operations during 1919.
21-43	History of the Veterinary Detachment.
21-43.3	Col. James S. Wilson's report on sanitary personnel, Aug. 1918-May 1919.
21-43.5	"Operations of the Dental Corps."
21-43.9	Report on medical supplies, Oct. 1, 1918-Feb. 5, 1919.
21-43.9	"Operations of the Hospital Laundry."
21-43.9	"Disbursing Office of the Medical Department."
21-44	Reports of Ordnance Department operations, Aug. 25, 1918-Dec. 31, 1919.
21-44	List of ordnance stores issued to troops of the AEF in Siberia, Aug. 15, 1918-Jan. 31, 1919.
21-45	Semiannual report of the Chief Signal Officer, July 1-Dec. 31, 1919.
21-45.6	Report of operations of the Signal Corps' Photographic Unit, Nov. 4, 1918-Jan. 9, 1919.
21-46	Reports of operations of the Quartermaster Corps, Aug. 15, 1918-Dec. 31, 1919.
21-46.3	Report on quartermaster property received and issued, Aug. 1918-Feb. 1919.
21-67.4	Reports of operations of the Judge Advocate General, Sept. 2, 1918-Dec. 31, 1919.
21-67.4	Final report of operations of the Judge Advocate General's Department, Jan. 1-Mar. 26, 1920.

CONTENTS

<u>Roll</u>	<u>File Designations</u>
1	21-4.7 through 21-32.7
2	21-33.5 Headquarters, AEF in Siberia, War Diaries Aug. 7-Oct. 20, 1918
3	Oct. 21-Dec. 20, 1918
4	Dec. 21, 1918-Feb. 20, 1919
5	Feb. 21-May 15, 1919
6	May 16-July 15, 1919
7	July 16-Sept. 30, 1919
8	Oct. 1-Dec. 21, 1919
9	Jan. 1-Mar. 30, 1920 31st Infantry Replacement Battalion War Diaries May 18-Oct. 31, 1919 Allied Mine Guard, Suchan Sector, War Diaries June 23-Aug. 2, 1919
10	21-33.6 through 21-37
11	21-42.2 through 67.4