

M2130

STARS AND STRIPES:
NEWSPAPER OF THE
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES,
1918–1919

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INTRODUCTION

On the single roll of this microfilm publication, M2130, are reproduced all issues of the *Stars and Stripes* newspaper of the American Expeditionary Forces, 1918–19. These records are part of Records of the American Expeditionary Forces (World War I), Record Group (RG) 120.

BACKGROUND

The *Stars and Stripes* began during the Civil War as a privately published newspaper for Union soldiers. In the 20th century the *Stars and Stripes* first reappeared during World War I. From February 18, 1918, to June 13, 1919, the eight-page weekly reported the activities of the American Expeditionary Forces in France. The paper was reestablished during World War II as a result of the concern of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the War Department for troop morale.

For a general history of the Stars and Stripes during World War I, see Alfred E. Cornebise, *The Stars and Stripes: Doughboy Journalism in World War I* (Greenwood Press, 1984). Additional information on the *Stars and Stripes* may be found in Charles E. Dornbusch, “*Stars and Stripes: A Checklist of the Several Editions*,” *Bulletin of the New York Public Library*, Vol. 52, No. 7 (July 1948): 331–340.

RECORDS DESCRIPTION

Stars and Stripes was published weekly, from Volume 1, No. 1, dated February 18, 1918, thru Volume 2, No. 19, dated June 13, 1919. Two special editions were also published: one printed in New York on September 28, 1918, under the auspices of the Liberty Loan Committee of the Second Federal Reserve District, to further the drive of the Fourth Liberty Loan, and one published in Paris on February 8, 1919, upon the occasion of the first anniversary of the founding of the newspaper. The final issue included a “pictorial supplement.”

RG 120 includes a complete set of unbound “Retained Copies of the *Stars and Stripes* (The Official Newspaper of the AEF), 1918–19” (NM-91, Series 144) as well as “*The Stars and Stripes*, 1918–19,” a bound but crumbling set published by the A.E.F. Publishing Association, Minneapolis, MN, 1920 (NM-91, Series 237).¹

The set of *Stars and Stripes* reproduced in this microfilm publication was sent to President Franklin D. Roosevelt on October 20, 1942, by Augustus E. Giegengack, Public Printer of the United States, U.S. Government Printing Office. Mr. Giegengack, who had been a soldier member of the staff of the *Stars and Stripes* in France, had sent the copies to his

¹ Aloha Broadwater, et al., “Preliminary Inventory of the Textual Records of the American Expeditionary Forces (World War I), 1917–23” (NM-91) (National Archives and Records Service, Washington, DC: Feb. 1968).

mother in Brooklyn, NY, during the war. They are bound in a blue cloth album with Mr. Giegengack's letter of transmittal pasted inside the front cover. This set is (2008) at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, Hyde Park, NY. The Giegengack set was microfilmed many years ago and, in 2008, was assigned the number M2130 in order to issue it as a National Archives microfilm publication.

RELATED RECORDS

Related records in RG 120 include "Correspondence Regarding the *Stars and Stripes*, 1917–19" (NM-91, Series 223), and "General Correspondence of the Office of the *Stars and Stripes*, 1917–19" (NM-91, Series 236).

World War II-era and later issues of the *Stars and Stripes* have been reproduced in two National Archives Microfilm Publications: M1506, *The Stars and Stripes: Newspaper of the U.S. Armed Forces in Europe, the Mediterranean, and North Africa, 1942–1964* (138 rolls), and M1624, *Stars and Stripes: Newspaper of the U.S. Armed Forces in the Pacific, 1945–1963* (166 rolls).

ROLL LIST

Feb. 8, 1918–Sept. 27, 1918

Sept. 28, 1918 (special Liberty Loan Committee edition)

Oct. 4, 1918–Jan. 31, 1919

Feb. 8, 1919 (special anniversary edition, aka “Banquet Edition”)

Feb. 7, 1919–June 6, 1919

June 13, 1919 (includes “Pictorial Supplement”)