

# Herald and News

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## Object lessons

### Logging pioneer sent word from World War I

By **ELON GLUCKLICH**  
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Alfred Collier is well-known in the Klamath Basin as an architect of the region's logging industry, as well as for being the man who donated nearly 150 acres for Collier State Park and established the Collier Logging Museum.

Less known about the man nicknamed "Cap" is his service as an engineer in World War I. Between 1917 and 1919, Collier served as a lieutenant in France and Germany, building bridges for the Allies.

See **COLLIER**, page A6

**Editor's note:** 'Object Lessons' is an ongoing Herald and News series that examines historic items from the Klamath Basin.

## COLLIER'S LETTERS

### The photos

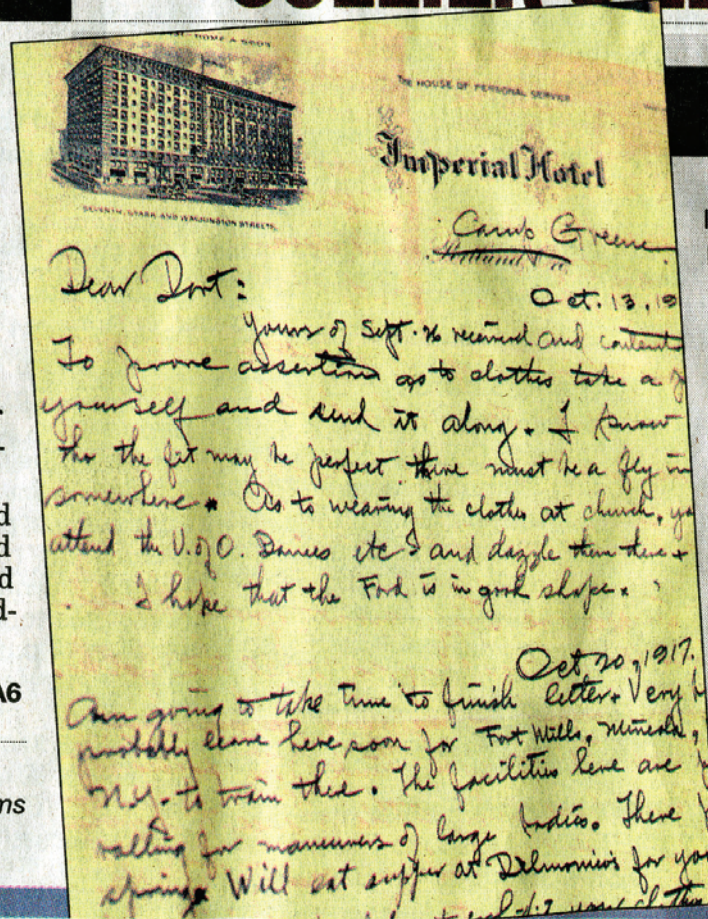
In addition to frequently writing letters to his family, Alfred Collier was a photography buff.

He took hundreds of photographs around France and Germany during his two years of service during World War I. They've since been preserved at the Shaw Historical Library.

The images are varied: Some show children at play in French villages and Allied troops doing drills. But as his time in Europe progressed, the images took on a more somber tone.

One of the most striking shows a soldier standing calmly by a French building, donned in a gas mask. Another shows soldiers looking down at tombstones in a makeshift cemetery.

See **PHOTOS**, page A6





## PHOTOS

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### Images can be seen at the Shaw Library at OIT

"He took all these photographs and brought them home," said Shaw librarian Anne Hiller Clark.

His family members would later donate those images to the Shaw Library, where they can be seen today.

The Shaw Library is located at Oregon Institute of Technology, above the college's general library, 3201 Campus Drive.



H&N photo by Elon Glucklich

**Anne Hiller Clark, librarian at the Shaw Historical Library, leafs through letters written by Alfred Collier to his friends and family during World War I.**

## COLLIER

From page A1

### Letters show Collier kept his composure while fighting in WWI

His experiences are documented in dozens of letters he wrote to family and friends, and hundreds of photographs he took from Europe, which today sit preserved in the Shaw Historical Library.

"He kept a lot of materials related to his time" in Europe, said Shaw librarian Anne Hiller Clark. Those include postcards from around France and Germany.

Letters to his mother and sister show Collier kept his composure during WWI.

The letters he wrote offer insight into Collier's thoughts during the "Great War." Many of them show the efforts he took to ease his mother's worry over his service.

"Dear mother, just a line to let you know that I am doing fine down here," one letter starts. It

#### Video online

Head to [www.heraldandnews.com](http://www.heraldandnews.com) for a short video on Alfred Collier's letters and photographs from World War I. Videos are in the center of the page, under top stories.



continues on, detailing his efforts to buy a chicken at a French market. He got his French wrong, and ended up with a bag of eggs.

Other letters were written to his sister, Dorothy. With his sister he often corresponded about events back home in Oregon, and how the war was going for the allies.

Many of the letters were written on French letterhead, some in

pencil, others in pen. Most were written in a calm tone, leaving out some of the carnage he certainly saw during his time near the front lines.

That's likely because he didn't want to alarm his family. Another reason could be military secrecy, Clark said. Collier couldn't reveal any Allied movements, but the dates and addresses of his letters show he moved frequently along the ranks of the Allied front, helping construct the bridges that would enable English, French and American forces to move eastward toward Germany.

"He wasn't able to keep a lot of his letters," Clark said. "But he did hold on to quite a few from his family."

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