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DUNHAM, Frederick Harold

MG 29, E 89

Finding Aid No. 1091 / Instrument de recherche no 1091

Prepared by G.G. Cumming  
of the Public Affairs Archives  
in 1979

Préparé en 1979 par  
G.G. Cumming des  
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MG 29 DUNHAM, Frederick Harold (1880-1951). Soldier.  
E 89

Originals, 1899-1900, 1979. 3.5 cm. Transcripts, n.d., 1900.  
13 pages. Photocopies, 1977. 7 pages. Finding Aid No. 1091.

Frederick Harold Dunham was born in 1880 at St. John, New Brunswick. Upon the death of his father in 1883, the family moved to Toronto where Frederick grew up and began working in a textile mill. He combined his daytime employment with night school courses at Toronto's Central Technical School.

He joined the York Rangers militia unit and later transferred to the 48th Highlanders. In October, 1899 he enlisted for South African service in the 2nd Special Service Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment, and sailed with the First Contingent from Quebec the same month. After six months in the field he contracted typhoid fever in June, 1900, and was invalided to England. He returned to Canada and was discharged in October, 1900.

Dunham rejoined the 12th York Rangers and was commissioned in 1903, made adjutant in 1909 and was promoted major before going overseas with the 35th Battalion C.E.F. in 1915. In 1922 he was promoted commanding officer of the Queen's York Rangers and retired with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. He died at Toronto in 1951.

Presented in 1979 by Mrs. J.S. Vanderploeg of Toronto, Ont.

Finding Aid No. 1091 is a descriptive file list.

The South African War diaries, letters, sketches and notes of Pte. Frederick Harold Dunham, "C" Company, 2nd Special Service Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment, n.d., 1899-1900. Available also in typescript.

Frederick Harold Dunham

MG 29, E 89

Descriptive File List

File 1 Diary - ca 27 October, 1899-30 November, 1899 and 1 August  
1900 - 17 August, 1900.

One series of diary entries covers the period of  
Dunham's embarkation at Quebec City and voyage to  
Capetown, South Africa, ca 27 October - 30 November,  
1899. 26 pages

Another series of entries covers his departure from  
South Africa and a part of the voyage to England  
on the S.S. Canada, 1 August - 17 August, 1900.  
11 pages.

Besides the daily entries the diary contains drafts of  
two letters written to his mother and one to a friend,  
October, 1899, describing his departure from Toronto,  
the train journey to Quebec City and reception in that  
city. 9 pages.

Also included is the address of a friend and sketches  
of Table Mountain, Capetown, 31 October, 1899, a  
soldier relaxing on S.S. Canada, August, 1900, and  
an unidentified scene, n.d. 6 pages.

File 2 Diary - 1 December, 1899 - 14 February, 1900 and 2 March, 1900 -  
15 March, 1900.

Diary entries include a description of the Battle of  
Sunnyside, the march to the Modder River and the march  
to Bloemfontein. 57 pages.

Also included in the diary are mess accounts and three  
sketches, 18 and 26 February, 1900, outlining the  
positions of the opposing forces at the Battle of  
Paardeberg. 9 pages.

Please note that the typescript (see file 4) includes a  
4 page account and two sketches by Dunham of the  
Battle of Paardeberg, as well as two letters dated  
23 February 1900 and 3 March, 1900 concerning the  
same battle.

Descriptive File List (cont'd)

File 3 Diary - 18 August 1900 - 14 October, 1900.

Diary entries 18 August - 14 October 1900 outline Dunham's convalescence in England and include references to a brief visit from Queen Victoria and other members of the royal family. 28 pages.

The diary also contains addresses, personal accounts and notes including notes on the South African campaign and the Boers. Included also are three sketches, August, 1900, of the Frank James Memorial Home, East Cowes, Isle of Wight, England. 23 pages.

File 4 - Typescript of the diaries and papers of Frederick H. Dunham c. 27 October 1899 - 14 October, 1900. Typescript follows a chronological order.

The typescript was prepared by one of Dunham's daughters, Mrs. J. S. Vanderploeg and includes a biographical sketch of Dunham, pages 1-2, a list of Dunham's descendants, page 3, a brief explanatory note concerning the history of the original diaries and the production of the typescript, page 4, and inventory of the contents of the original diaries, page 5.

Please note that the following parts of the typescript are not available in the original at the Public Archives:

Part III consisting of an account of the Battle of Paardeberg and two letters. The two letters were published in the Toronto Globe of 28 March and 28 April, 1900. 7 pages.

Parts VI B and VI C consisting of a mileage record and a pay and expenditure record. 2 pages.

Part VII - two photocopy sketches of the Battle of Paardeberg (2 pages) and a one page photocopy sketch of two soldiers. 3 pages.



Photographs transferred to National Photography Collection

- One photograph of Pte. Frederick H. Dunham  
n.d.
- One photograph of Pte. F. H. Dunham and three fellow  
soldiers outside a hospital tent, Bloemfontein, South  
Africa, 1900.
- One photograph of a group of convalescent soldiers,  
including Pte. F. H. Dunham, at Frank James Memorial  
Home, East Cowes, Isle of Wight, England, 1900.
- One photograph of F. H. Dunham, 48th Highlanders and  
W. Elson Dunham, Queen's Own Rifles, ca. 1899.