

## Participation of San Diego in World War I Document Collection

- Night Letter telegram dated April 10, 1917 to Col. D. C. Collier, Congress Hotel, Chicago, Illinois from J. B. Pendleton, Board of Park Commissioners, City of San Diego, concerning parts of Balboa Park available for use by Army (everything East of Plaza unoccupied by Marine Corps and withheld for proposed summer Music Festival.)

- Copy of a letter dated April 17, 1917 from D. C. Collier, Hotel Shoreham, Washington, D.C. to Secretary of war, Washington, D.C. submitting a letter from the Board of Park Commissioners, City of San Diego, and a resolution adopted by them authorizing him as their representative to tender to the War Department the use of such portion of the buildings and grounds of the Panama-California-International Exposition that are not occupied by the San Diego Museum and the Marine Corps for as long as it may desire for free. Buildings of sufficient size to house at least ten thousand soldiers and easily feed that number by using the Cristobal Cafe. Offer also includes the unimproved portion of the 1400 acre city park, a portion of which has been given over to the Exposition, which can be used for close order drills and training. Notes that two and one-half miles north of the Exposition Grounds lies the Linda Vista Mesa of approximately 25 thousand acres, containing up to 20 houses available for training troops. "Several thousand acres of this Mesa belong to the City of San Diego and will be turned over to the Government for its use without cost." Collier also points out that there is no provision in the law of the State of California authorizing the Commissioners to make a lease of this property to the Government; but, they are willing to enter into an agreement with the Government and they have the backing of all commercial organizations and city officials. The Marine Corps has occupied a portion of this land for three years; and other portions by the cavalry and 21st Infantry for two years.

Three page letter that does not include original map attachments.

- Copy of a second letter dated same, D.C. Collier, as President of the Mission Bay Corporation, also tenders to the War Department "Wonderland Park," formerly an amusement park, in the City of San Diego. The dancing pavilion and the restaurant are the only remaining buildings on the property. Col. J. P. O'Neil of the 21st Infantry to whom Collier submitted the proposal felt that it was ideal as a camp for the regiment. Just to the east is "Collier Park," a sixty acre public park without improvement is privately owned and can be used without cost by the Government for drill purposes. Collier states he is prepared to execute a lease to the Government. Original map attachments not included.

Two page letter.

- April 25, 1917 letter to George W. Marston, Chairman of the Board of Park Commissioners, City of San Diego from H W. Sumflin, Executive Secretary, San Diego Chamber of Commerce, forwarding copies of all papers filed by D. C. Collier with the Secretary of War. Mentions receipt of telegram from Collier that morning advising that the offer was referred today by Secretary of War Baker to General Bell with power to act.

- Letter dated April 28, 1917 from Melville Klauber, Chairman of the Army & Navy Committee, San Diego Chamber of Commerce to George W. Marston, Chairman of the Park Commission, regarding offer of Exposition Grounds offer to the Army referred at Washington to the Commanding General of the Western Department. Klauber states that General Sibert has wired that, although the offer was appreciated, the Grounds will not at this time be used by the Army Department as it is not in line with the present plans. Also states that, meanwhile, Admiral Caperton took up with Mr. Davidson the matter of using the Grounds as a training school for the Navy. "Admiral Caperton says the Navy Department is badly in need of facilities for training the young men who are rapidly enlisting. He strongly recommends the use of the

buildings and grounds for that purpose and states that they would have about one thousand d boys to send at once and thought that this number would probably be ultimately increased to ten thousand.” References wire with Admiral Caperton asking him to first confer with General Sibert, to be absolutely certain that there is no prospect of the Army’s use of the property. After such consultation, Klauber states that it would be wise for the city to make offer of the Exposition Grounds to the Navy. Army & Navy Committee has tentatively made this offer to the Navy, subject to the Park Commission passing favorably on the matter. Requests that Marston take the matter up as promptly as possible with the Park Commission.

One page, signed letter.

- April 30, 1917 letter to Jerome B. Pendelton, Secretary of the Park Commission, City of FFSan Diego from Melville Klauber, Chairman Army and Navy Committee, confirming that the tender to the War Department of the Exposition Buildings and Grounds made on behalf of the City by Honorable William Kettner and Charles Collier, was referred with full power to act to the Commander of the Western Division. Moreover, that General Sibert, Commander of the Western Division of the U.S. Army declined the offer by telegram.

- Two forms of Park Commission Resolution dated April 30, 1917 stating that all unoccupied buildings on the Exposition Grounds East of the Plaza de Panama which have not been tendered to the 21st Infantry are hereby tendered to the U.S. Government for naval purposes. Also, such unimproved lands in Balboa Park outside the Exposition Grounds as may be considered suitable by the Navy Department are tendered by the City. Col.D. C. Collier is hereby authorized to tender the use of said buildings and grounds to the Navy Department for emergency concentration training camp. Rental of said buildings and grounds to be free. All water, gas, electricity, etc. used shall be paid by the Navy Department. Permit for said use to be the same as that made to the U.S. Marine Corps. Signed by George W. Marston, President of the Board of Park Commissioners, Henry Ryan and Arthur Cosgrove. Other copy of said resolution is entitled Resolution with “Whereas” paragraphs and no signers.

- April 30, 1917 signed letter to the Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C. from D. C. Collier, Hotel Shoreham, Washington, D. C. on the same subject as above, forwarding a copy of the Board of Park Commissioners letter and resolution described above. Seems to be a second version of April 17, 1917 letter to the Secretary previously described further above. Content nearly identical. Two page letter.

- Unsigned draft of September 5, 1917 Message From Mayor of the City of San Diego, Louis J. Wilde, “Bid God Speed to the boys who go to war today.” “The Mayor’s Proclamation”:

The important item of co-operative purpose, for all men on earth, never was more emphasized then today, when San Diego’s youth bid farewell to home ties, to stand behind the greatest flag on earth, in a cause to make all men better.

Let us shed tears, but let those tears be tears of joy, for after all, the young men who have gone from us, we all can be proud of, for they have proved their desire to supplement efficiently the co-operative purpose of this nation to make democracy s sound around the world.

To the mothers, wives, sweethearts and other relatives of these brave, young Americans, let me say that on you, too, falls a great honor, in having your blood and flesh go forward when the country needs your boy.

I wish each youth God-speed you.

L. J. Wilde  
Mayor of the City of San Diego, California.  
By C. P. Cook  
Secretary”

- Various Conscription Registration forms and tabulations (The Draft for World War 1), including : "Summarization Blank" describing "citizens and declarants from countries with which the U. S. is not at war" and "Aliens and Alien Enemies" report of the registration in the City of San Diego, California certified by the City Clerk, Allen H. Wright, and L. J. Wilde, Mayor, dated June 29, 1917, "Registrars Who Served Without Compensation" lists of citizen names and precinct addresses, and "Services and material voluntarily furnished with name of person furnishing them" including costs or estimates of expenses not to be claimed.