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Herman Davis Croix de Guerre certificate, 1925 January 2

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Herman Davis Croix de Guerre certificate SMC.088.015

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Summary Information

Repository	Arkansas State Archives
Title	Herman Davis Croix de Guerre certificate
Date	1925 January 2
Extent	0.04 Cubic feet 1 folder
Language	English
Language of Materials	Materials in English and French.
Microform [Reel]	MG00249

Preferred Citation

Herman Davis Croix de Guerre certificate, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Biographical/Historical Note

Herman Davis was born January 3, 1888, to Jeff and Mary Ann Vance Davis at Manila, Mississippi County, Arkansas. As a child, he would shoot game in the woods near his house, killing as many as 400 ducks in one day. His excellent marksmanship skills served him well during World War I. He tried to enlist but was rejected due to his 5'3" height. However, he was drafted and inducted into the Army on March 4, 1918, serving as a private in Company I, 113th Infantry, 29th Division. As a scout he was exposed numerous times to poison gas. He was honorably discharged March 19, 1919.

Due to his remarkable service, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, Croix de Guerre with Palm, the Croix de Guerre with Gilt Star, and the French Medaille Militaire. His family learned of his valor in the war only after General John J. Pershing published a list of the greatest heroes of World War I with Davis listed as fourth. Due to his exposure to poison gas, he developed tuberculosis and died during an operation on January 5, 1923.

Herman Davis State Park at Manila (Mississippi County) in northeast Arkansas was named for Davis. The one-acre park surrounds a monument to him. Thanks to a penny drive by the school children of Arkansas, a 25-foot granite spire stands behind the life-size marble statue of Herman Davis. He was buried at the base of the statue.

Scope and Contents

This certificate was presented to Herman Davis of Manila, Arkansas, by the French government.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Arkansas State Archives 5/18/2021

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research use. The ASA possesses the material listed in this finding aid in the original format, but due to preservation concerns this collection is accessible to the public through microfilm format.

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Unknown, 1960.

Collection Inventory

Certificate for award of the French Croix De Guerre to Herman Davis, Company I, 113th Infantry, 29th Div. American Expeditionary Forces in World War I 1925 January 2