Lesley James McNair Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2012

Contact information:
http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact

Additional search options available at:
http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms012156

LC Online Catalog record:
http://lccn.loc.gov/mm78032383

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff
Collection Summary
Title: Lesley James McNair Papers
Span Dates: 1904-1945
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1941-1945)
ID No.: MSS32383
Creator: McNair, Lesley James, 1883-1944
Extent: 425 items ; 2 containers plus 11 oversize ; 1.6 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Summary: Army officer. Correspondence, air travel log, photographs, scrapbooks, clippings, and memorabilia pertaining to McNair’s military career.

Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People
McNair, Lesley James, 1883-1944.

Organizations

Subjects
World War, 1939-1945.

Occupations
Army officers.

Administrative Information
Provenance
The papers of Lesley James McNair, army officer, were transferred to the Library of Congress from the Army War College from 1953 to 1955.

Processing History
The papers of Lesley James McNair were arranged and described in 1955. The finding aid was revised in 2012.

Transfers
Some photographs and a cartoon have been transferred to the Library's Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of the James Lesley McNair Papers.

Copyright Status
The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Lesley James McNair is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions
The papers of Lesley James McNair are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.
Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Lesley James McNair Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1883</td>
<td>Born, Verndale, Minn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1904</td>
<td>B.S., U.S. Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1905</td>
<td>Married Clare Huster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1914</td>
<td>Took part in Major General Frederick Funston’s expedition to Vera Cruz, Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1916-1917</td>
<td>Served under General John J. Pershing in Pancho Villa expedition into Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1917-1919</td>
<td>Served with American Expeditionary Forces in France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1918</td>
<td>Awarded Distinguished Service Medal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1918</td>
<td>Awarded French Legion of Honor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1942</td>
<td>Appointed commander, U.S. Army Ground Forces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1943</td>
<td>Wounded in action in North Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1944</td>
<td>Killed in action in Normandy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Lesley James McNair (1883-1944) span the years 1904-1945, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1941-1945. The collection consists of correspondence, an air travel log, scrapbooks, clippings, memorabilia, and photographs pertaining to McNair’s military career. The focus is on World War II, with some material relating to World War I.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is organized by type of material and is mainly comprised of oversize scrapbooks.
## Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Correspondence 1942-1944 (8 folders) 1944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>Miscellany Academic degrees, appointments, and awards Doctor of Laws, Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind., 1941 General, 1904-1943 See Oversize Fort Benning, Ga., visit, 1943 Log of air travel, 1941-1944 Press reporting on McNair’s “Kill or Be Killed” speech, 1942 Scrapbooks, 1918-1945, undated See Oversize Speeches and writings, 1941-1944 (2 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX OV 1</td>
<td>Oversize Miscellany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX OV 2</td>
<td>Academic degrees, appointments, and awards, 1904-1943 (Container 2) Scrapbooks (Container 2) World War I, 1918, undated First Army, Fourth Army Corps, maneuvers, 1941 Newspaper clippings and other material 1941-1943 1941-1945 1942 1942 1943 1943 1943</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>