

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>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78032383>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms012156>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2012

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

Extent: 2 containers plus 11 oversize

Extent: 1.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78032383>

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 LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

McNair, Lesley James, 1883-1944.

Organizations

United States. Army--History--World War, 1939-1945.

Subjects

World War, 1939-1945.

Occupations

Army officers.

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The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Lesley James McNair is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).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

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

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

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	1942-1944 (8 folders)
BOX 1	1944
BOX 2	Miscellany
BOX 2	Academic degrees, appointments, and awards
BOX 2	Doctor of Laws, Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind., 1941
BOX 2	General, 1904-1943 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 2	Fort Benning, Ga., visit, 1943
BOX 2	Log of air travel, 1941-1944
BOX 2	Press reporting on McNair's "Kill or Be Killed" speech, 1942
BOX 2	Scrapbooks, 1918-1945, undated <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 2	Speeches and writings, 1941-1944 (2 folders)
BOX OV 1	Oversize
BOX OV 1	Miscellany
BOX OV 1	Academic degrees, appointments, and awards, 1904-1943 (Container 2)
BOX OV 2	Scrapbooks (Container 2)
BOX OV 2	World War I, 1918, undated
BOX OV 3	First Army, Fourth Army Corps, maneuvers, 1941
BOX OV 4	Newspaper clippings and other material
BOX OV 4	1941-1943
BOX OV 5	1941-1945
BOX OV 6	1942
BOX OV 7	1942
BOX OV 8	1942
BOX OV 9	1943
BOX OV 10	1943
BOX OV 11	1943