

**Joseph Taggart McNarney Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2023**

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2021086401>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms022015>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Manuscript Division staff, 2022

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Joseph Taggart McNarney Papers

**Inclusive Dates:** 1917-1957

**Bulk Dates:** 1944-1947

**ID No.:** MSS022015

**Creator:** McNarney, Joseph Taggart, 1893-1972

**Extent:** 50 items

**Extent:** 3 containers

**Extent:** 1.2 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2021086401>

**Summary:** United States Army and Air Force officer. Diaries, logbooks, and photographs documenting McNarney's service during and after World War II as deputy supreme allied commander, Mediterranean Theatre; commanding general of United States forces, European Theater; and United States military governor in the American-occupied zone in Germany.

## Acquisition Information

The papers of Joseph Taggart McNarney were given to the Library of Congress by Lucy Stewart and Joseph T. Williams in 2020.

## Processing History

The papers of Joseph Taggart McNarney were arranged and described by Joanne Archer with the assistance of Sara Ludewig in 2022.

## Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Joseph Taggart McNarney in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Joseph Taggart McNarney are open to research. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting.

## Preferred Citation

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

## Biographical Note

Date	Event
1893, Aug. 28	Born, Emporium, Pa.
1915	Graduated United States Military Academy, West Point, N. Y.
1917	Married Helen Wahrenberger (died 1975)
1917-1919	United States Army Air Service, France

1920-1925	Student and instructor, Air Corps Tactical School, Langley Field, Va.
1926	Graduated Command and General Staff School, Fort Leavenworth, Kans.
1926-1929	Member, Air Section, Military Intelligence Division, United States War Department, Washington, D.C.
1933-1935	Instructor, Army War College, Washington, D.C.
1939-1941	Member, Joint Army-Navy Planning Committee to adapt military to World War II; chief of staff, United States Army Special Observer Group, London, England; member, Roberts Commission on the Facts of the Japanese Attack on Pearl Harbor
1942-1944	Developed plan for land-based anti-submarine warfare leading to the formation of the United States Army Air Forces Antisubmarine Command; appointed deputy supreme allied commander in chief, Mediterranean Theatre
1945-1947	Commanding general, United States Forces, European Theater; commander in chief, United States Forces of Occupation in Europe; and military governor, American-occupied zone, Frankfurt, Germany.
1947-1952	General, United States Air Force
1952	Retired, United States military
1972, Feb. 1	Died, La Jolla, Calif.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Joseph Taggart McNarney (1893-1972) span the years 1917 to 1957, with the bulk of material dating between 1944 and 1947. The collection primarily consists of office logbooks with summaries of McNarney's daily meetings including attendees, topics, and decisions. The logbooks document his time as deputy supreme allied commander of the Mediterranean Theatre (October 1944 to September 1945) and as commanding general, United States Forces, European Theater, and military governor of the American-occupied zone in Germany (November 1945 to March 1947). Also included are a 1941 diary and family photographs.

The collection provides insight into the American entry into World War II and the last months of World War II in Europe as well as the immediate postwar period. The 1941 diary documents McNarney's daily activities as chief of staff of the United States Army Special Observer Group in London. Topics include his role in planning for the eventuality of the United States entering the war, British use of land-lease supplies, a trip to Moscow to assess Soviet military viability, and involvement in negotiations over the allocation of United States military aircraft. Entries in the logbooks cover discussions and planning for Allied offenses in northern Italy in the spring of 1945 and the responses to the capitulation of German forces in Italy. McNarney's logs from the postwar period include discussions of demobilization of United States forces, staffing issues, denazification policies, food rationing, and treatment of displaced persons.

## Arrangement of the Collection

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically thereunder.

## 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

McNarney family.

McNarney, Joseph Taggart, 1893-1972.

### Organizations

Allied Forces.

Allied Forces. Mediterranean Theatre.

United States. Army. Special Observer Group.  
United States. Army. United States Forces, European Theater.

**Subjects**

Airplanes, Military--United States.  
Denazification.  
Food supply--Europe.  
Lend-lease operations (1941-1945)  
Rationing--Europe.  
World War, 1939-1945--Aerial operations.  
World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns--Italy.  
World War, 1939-1945--Europe.  
World War, 1939-1945--Germany.  
World War, 1939-1945--Great Britain.  
World War, 1939-1945--Italy.  
World War, 1939-1945--Peace.  
World War, 1939-1945--Refugees.  
World War, 1939-1945--Soviet Union.  
World War, 1939-1945--United States.

**Places**

Germany (West)--History.  
Germany (West)--Politics and government--1945-1990.  
United States--Armed Forces--Demobilization.

**Occupations**

Air Force officers.  
Army officers.

## Container List

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
<b>BOX 1</b>	Diaries and logbooks
<b>BOX 1</b>	1941-1945, May (8 folders)
<b>BOX 2</b>	1945, June-1946, Apr. (11 folders)
<b>BOX 3</b>	1946, May-1947, Mar. (11 folders)
<b>BOX 3</b>	Photographs, 1917-1957