

Peyton Conway March Papers

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Collection Summary

Title: Peyton Conway March Papers

Span Dates: 1897-1955

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1898-1933)

ID No.: MSS31302

Creator: March, Peyton Conway

Extent: 6,500 items ; 18 containers plus 11 oversize ; 11 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Summary: United States Army officer and Chief of Staff of the Army during and after World War I. Correspondence, reports, military training manuals, book and article drafts, lectures and speeches, notebooks, news clippings, printed matter, scrapbooks, and other papers relating to March'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

Baker, Newton Diehl, 1871-1937--Correspondence.

Bliss, Tasker Howard, 1853-1930--Correspondence.

Graves, William Sidney, 1865-1940--Correspondence.

MacArthur, Arthur, Jr., 1845-1912.

March, Peyton Conway, 1864-1955.

March, Peyton Conway, 1864-1955. Nation at war. 1932.

March, Peyton Conway, Jr., 1896-1918.

Pershing, John J. (John Joseph), 1860-1948 My experiences in the World War. 1931.

Pershing, John J. (John Joseph), 1860-1948--Correspondence.

Organizations

Army War College (U.S.)

Japan. Rikugun.

United States. Army. American Expeditionary Forces.

United States. Army. Artillery.

United States. Army. Astor Battery.

United States. Department of the Army. General Staff.

Subjects

Air bases--California--Riverside.

Artillery drill and tactics.

Artillery.

Eastern question (Far East)

Military bases--Kansas.

Russo-Japanese War, 1904-1905--Manchuria (China)

Spanish-American War, 1898--Philippines.

World War, 1914-1918--France.

World War, 1914-1918.

Places

China--Foreign relations--Japan.

Fort Riley (Kan.)--History.

Japan--Foreign relations--China.

March Air Force Base (Calif.)

Philippines--History--Philippine American War, 1899-1902.

Siberia (Russia)--History--Revolution, 1917-1921.
Soviet Union--History--Allied intervention, 1918-1920.

Occupations

Army officers.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Peyton Conway March, military officer and army chief of staff, were given to the Library of Congress by Peyton Conway March, Cora McEntee March, and Lawrence Martin, 1952-1958.

Processing History

The papers of Peyton Conway March were minimally processed and described in 1958. The papers were re-organized and a new finding aid produced in 2015.

Transfers

When the papers were re-processed in 2015, items were transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Some photographs were transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division and maps to Geography and Map Division where they are identified as part of the Peyton Conway March Papers.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Peyton Conway March 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 Peyton Conway March 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, Peyton Conway March Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1864, Dec. 27	Born, Easton, Penn.
1880-1884	Student, Lafayette College, Easton, Penn.
1888	Graduate, United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.; Commissioned second lieutenant and assigned to the 3rd United States Artillery.
1891	Married Josephine Smith Cunningham (died 1904)
1894	Promoted to first lieutenant, assigned to the 5th United States Artillery
1896-1898	Attended the Artillery School at Fort Monroe, Hampton, Va.

1898	Organized and designated captain of the Astor Battery
1898-1899	Commander, Astor Battery, Spanish-American War, Philippines campaign and the capture of Manila
1899	Aide to General Arthur MacArthur; promoted to major, 33rd Volunteer Infantry, Philippine American War
1900-1901	Provincial governor and commissary of prisoners, Philippines
1901-1903	Reverted to regular army captain; commanded the 19th Battery, Field Artillery, Fort Riley, Kans.
1903-1907	Member, War Department General Staff
1904	Military observer, Japanese Army, Russo-Japanese War
1907	Promoted to major
1907-1911	Member, Artillery Board; commander, 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery
1911-1916	Adjutant, successive appointments by the adjutant general to Fort Riley, the Department of the Missouri, the Central Department, the 2nd Division, and department headquarters in Washington, D.C.
1916	Promoted to colonel
1916-1917	Commander, 8th Field Artillery on the Mexican border
1917	Promoted to brigadier general in June and placed in command of the 1st Field Artillery Brigade, 1st Division, American Expeditionary Forces; in August, promoted to major general in the National Army and placed in command of the First army and nondivisional artillery, American Expeditionary Forces; in September, appointed to the General Staff and promoted to major general in the regular army
1918-1921	Chief of staff, United States Army. Established the leading role of the chief of staff in the army hierarchy; directed the buildup of American forces in Europe; centralized control of supplies; created the Air Service, Tank Corps, and Chemical Warfare Service; and oversaw demobilization at the end of World War I
1921	Retired as a major general in November
1923	Married Cora V. McEntee (died 1964)
1930	Advanced to general on the retired list
1955, Apr. 13	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Peyton Conway March (1864-1955) span the years 1897-1955, with the bulk of the material dating from 1898 to 1933. The papers are organized into the following series: [Correspondence](#), [Speeches and Writings](#), [Subject File](#),

Miscellany, Scrapbooks, and Oversize. The collection is focused on March's globe-spanning military career, specializing in artillery command, and his retirement writings and opinions on military topics. March is given credit for establishing the primacy of the chief of staff position within the army hierarchy. As chief of staff, March succeeded in transporting the troops and supplies to Europe for the rapid buildup of the American Expeditionary Forces in 1918 and then overcame the logistical challenge of demobilization in 1919. Notable correspondents in the papers include Newton Diehl Baker, Tasker Howard Bliss, William Sidney Graves, and John J. Pershing.

The Correspondence series has a chronological file from 1911 to 1955 and a small alphabetical file that dates solely from 1918 to 1921, while March was chief of staff. The correspondence is largely military-related before 1921, the year of his retirement. Post retirement correspondence concerns his writing projects, special requests from the public, and personal correspondence with friends, often other retired military personnel.

The Speeches and Writings file includes the drafts of his 1932 book *The Nation at War*, March's personal history of World War I and a critical response to Pershing's 1931 book *My Experiences in the World War*. Book reviews and related material are also included. Additionally, this series contains copies of lectures before the Army War College, speeches, newspaper articles, and draft writings on the Astor Battery, his memoirs, and his thoughts on Japanese intentions in Asia in 1933.

The Subject File is largely organized around March's various military assignments: command of artillery at Fort Riley, Kansas, command of the Astor Battery in the Philippines during the Spanish-American War, service in the Philippines working with General Arthur MacArthur during the 1899 Philippine American War, assignment to the Japanese Imperial Army in Manchuria as an observer during the Russo-Japanese War, and service in France during World War I. Also in the Subject File are reports and training manuals on a variety of army topics, but with a special focus on World War I and on artillery. March's memorandum arguing against the Siberian intervention by Allied forces in 1918 is in the Subject File; correspondence concerning the Siberian intervention is in the Correspondence File.

The Miscellany series is primarily composed of news clippings and printed matter related to March, an assortment of War Department proposals and reports, and other miscellaneous material.

The Scrapbooks series, all placed in Oversize, has nine volumes, seven of which are collections of newspaper clippings, with a few photographs and magazine articles, documenting the career of March. The last two scrapbooks relate to March Air Force Base, Riverside, California, which was named for March's son, Peyton C. March, Jr., an army air corps pilot who was killed in a 1918 flight training exercise in Texas.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in six series:

- Correspondence File, 1900-1955
- Speeches and Writings, 1918-1954
- Subject File, 1897-1955
- Miscellany, 1900-1955
- Scrapbooks, 1898-1951
- Oversize, 1898-1951

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-6	<p><u>Correspondence File, 1900-1955</u></p> <p>Letters sent and received.. Arranged in a chronological file and a small personal file organized alphabetically by name of person or organization.</p>
BOX 6-9	<p><u>Speeches and Writings, 1918-1954</u></p> <p>Drafts and other material relating to March's book <i>The Nation at War</i>, lectures, many given at the United States Military Academy, speeches, drafts of writings, articles, letters to the editor, and some writings by others. Arranged alphabetically by type of writing or title.</p>
BOX 9-15	<p><u>Subject File, 1897-1955</u></p> <p>Material relating to March's military service, including his service in the Philippines, at Fort Riley, Kansas, in World War I, and also his time with the Japanese Imperial Army during the Russo-Japanese war. Includes reports, military training manuals, orders, military correspondence and memoranda, and biographical material. Arranged alphabetically by subject.</p>
BOX 16-18	<p><u>Miscellany, 1900-1955</u></p> <p>News clippings, printed matter, War Department proposals and reports, notes, small notebooks, and some photographs. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.</p> <p><u>Scrapbooks, 1898-1951</u></p> <p>Nine scrapbooks primarily containing newspaper clippings and some photographs and articles concerning the military career of March. The last two scrapbooks contain photographs and text pertaining to March Air Force Base, Riverside County, Calif., which was named after March's son, an army air corps pilot killed in a training flight in 1918. Arranged chronologically <i>See <u>Oversize</u></i></p>
BOX OV 1-OV 11	<p><u>Oversize, 1898-1951</u></p> <p>Maps, muster roll, printed matter, photographs, and scrapbooks. Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.</p>

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-6	Correspondence File, 1900-1955 Letters sent and received.. Arranged in a chronological file and a small personal file organized alphabetically by name of person or organization.
BOX 1	Chronological file 1900-1930 (20 folders)
BOX 2	1931 (2 folders) 1932 Jan.-Sept. (5 folders)
BOX 3	Oct.-Dec. (2 folders) 1933 (4 folders) 1934 Jan.-Apr. May-Dec. (3 folders)
BOX 4	1935-1936 (4 folders)
BOX 5	1937-1955 (19 folders)
BOX 6	Undated Personal file, A-Y, 1918-1921 (20 folders)
BOX 6-9	Speeches and Writings, 1918-1954 Drafts and other material relating to March's book <i>The Nation at War</i> , lectures, many given at the United States Military Academy, speeches, drafts of writings, articles, letters to the editor, and some writings by others. Arranged alphabetically by type of writing or title.
BOX 6	Annual lectures before the Army War College, 1931-1938 (2 folders)
BOX 7	"The Astor Battery," undated (2 folders) "Japanese Strategy in the Far East," 1933 Memoir drafts, undated Miscellaneous lectures and speeches, 1929-1937, undated (3 folders)

Speeches and Writings, 1918-1954

Container

Contents

- Miscellaneous writings, 1918, 1926-1928, 1938-1944, undated
(2 folders)
- BOX 8** *The Nation at War*
Book reviews, 1932-1933
Drafts, circa 1931
(8 folders)
- BOX 9** Financial records, 1931-1946
Serial proofs 1-7, circa 1932
Newspaper articles and letters to the editor, 1926, 1932, 1944, 1954
Writings by others, 1921-1925, 1943-1944, undated
- BOX 9-15** **Subject File, 1897-1955**
Material relating to March's military service, including his service in the Philippines, at Fort Riley, Kansas, in World War I, and also his time with the Japanese Imperial Army during the Russo-Japanese war. Includes reports, military training manuals, orders, military correspondence and memoranda, and biographical material.
Arranged alphabetically by subject.
- BOX 9** American Army School, 1915-1916
Artillery, reports, 1903-1907, undated
Biographical material, circa 1917-circa 1953
Desert Rock, 1952
Fort Riley, Kans.
Diary, circa 1908-circa 1911
- BOX 10** Field artillery board notebook, 1908-1910
Report of Major George V. Read, 1910 *See also Oversize*
(2 folders)
Reports, 1903-1908
Funeral and obituaries, 1955
Horoscope, 1915
Military demobilization, United States history of, 1950
Chapters 1-3
(2 folders)
- BOX 11** Chapter 3 notes-Chapter 4
Military training and instructional manuals
1897, 1911-1917
(5 folders)
- BOX 12** 1917-1918, undated
(5 folders)
Philippines
Astor Battery
Clothing and material issued, circa 1898 *See Oversize*
Muster roll showing discharge, 2 Feb. 1899 *See Oversize*
Recruitment and organization, 1898
Chronological file, 1898-1906
(2 folders)
- BOX 13** Military supplies, 1898-1899, undated
(5 folders)

Subject File, 1897-1955

Container

Contents

- Reports of the United States Military government of the Philippines
1901
(2 folders)
- BOX 14** 1903
Villamor, Blás and Juan, circa 1898
Russo-Japanese War
Chronological file, 1904-1906
(2 folders)
Lecture: "Observations on the Russo-Japanese War," 1905
Miscellany, undated
Motieling Pass, report and enclosures, 1904 *See also Oversize*
Notebooks, 1904
Books 1-8
(4 folders)
- BOX 15** Books 9 and unnumbered
(2 folders)
"Notes on Manchuria," circa 1900-circa 1904
Siberian intervention, 1918
Volunteer army, proposed legislation, 1905, undated
World War I, 1916-1918
(4 folders)
- BOX 16-18** **Miscellany, 1900-1955**
News clippings, printed matter, War Department proposals and reports, notes, small notebooks,
and some photographs.
Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
- BOX 16** *Congressional Record*, 1920, 1932, 1938, 1947-1955
Diary and pocket books, circa 1890-circa 1935
Invitations and cards, circa 1930-1953
Lists of names, unidentified, undated
News clippings, 1918-1955 *See also Oversize*
(3 folders)
Notes, undated
Photographs of gravestones and unidentified aerial views, undated, *See also Oversize*
- BOX 17** Printed matter, 1900-1937, 1953-1954, undated *See also Oversize*
(4 folders)
Statements before Congress, 1935
War Department proposals and reports
"Development of the Four Army Organization," 1933
Miscellaneous, 1905-1906, 1926
- BOX 18** "Statistical Data Relative to Port Army Supply Bases," 1919
Transportation service, 1919

Scrapbooks, 1898-1951

Nine scrapbooks primarily containing newspaper clippings and some photographs and articles concerning the military career of March. The last two scrapbooks contain photographs and

Scrapbooks, 1898-1951

Container

Contents

text pertaining to March Air Force Base, Riverside County, Calif., which was named after March's son, an army air corps pilot killed in a training flight in 1918.
Arranged chronologically *See Oversize*

BOX OV 1-OV 11	Oversize, 1898-1951 Maps, muster roll, printed matter, photographs, and scrapbooks. Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.
BOX OV 1	Subject File Fort Riley, Kans. Report of Major George V. Read, eight maps, 1910 (Container 10) Philippines Astor Battery Clothing and material issued, circa 1898 (Container 12) Muster roll showing discharge 2 Feb. 1899 (Container 12)
BOX OV 2	Russo-Japanese War Motieling Pass, report and enclosures, two maps, 1904 (Container 14) "Notes on Manchuria," map "Disposition of the Russian Divisions," Aug.-Sept. 1904 (Container 14) Miscellany News clippings, article on canvas, 1918 (Container 16) Photographs of unidentified aerial views, undated (Container 16) Printed matter, portrait, undated (Container 17)
BOX OV 3	Scrapbooks, 1898-1951 (Container 18) 1898
BOX OV 4	1918
BOX OV 5	1918-1919
BOX OV 6	1918-1921, 1941
BOX OV 7	1919-1926
BOX OV 8	Clippings about <i>The Nation at War</i> , 1932
BOX OV 9	1943-1951
BOX OV 10	March Air Force Base, California, 1951
BOX OV 11	Medal of Honor Ceremony at March Air Force Base, 1951