

James G. Harbord Papers

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LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm78024844>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Collection Summary

Title: James G. Harbord Papers

Span Dates: 1886-1938

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1917-1919)

ID No.: MSS24844

Creator: Harbord, James G. (James Guthrie), 1866-1947

Extent: 24,000 items ; 38 containers ; 14 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Summary: Army officer and business executive. Correspondence, personal diary, confidential cables, administrative memoranda of General John J. Pershing, records of conversations, clippings, scrapbooks, operational maps, barrage charts, sketches, records of the United States Army 2nd Division, a portrait, translations of war diaries of the German army, and other papers pertaining to Harbord's service in the American military, principally during World War I.

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.
Baker, Newton Diehl, 1871-1937.
Bandholtz, Harry Hill, 1864-1925--Correspondence.
Bliss, Tasker Howard, 1853-1930--Correspondence.
Degoutte, Jean, 1866-1938--Correspondence.
Haig, Douglas Haig, Earl, 1861-1928--Correspondence.
Harbord, James G. (James Guthrie), 1866-1947.
Harts, W. W. (William Wright), 1866-1961--Correspondence.
Hoover, Herbert, 1874-1964--Correspondence.
Johnson, Hugh S. (Hugh Samuel), 1882-1942--Correspondence.
March, Peyton Conway, 1864-1955--Correspondence.
McCoy, Frank Ross, 1874-1954--Correspondence.
McIntyre, Frank, 1865-1944--Correspondence.
Palmer, John McAuley, 1870-1955--Correspondence.
Pershing, John J. (John Joseph), 1860-1948--Correspondence.
Pershing, John J. (John Joseph), 1860-1948.
Pétain, Philippe, 1856-1951--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919--Correspondence.
Taft, William H. (William Howard), 1857-1930--Correspondence.
Wood, Leonard, 1860-1927--Correspondence.

Organizations

Germany Heer.
Philippine Constabulary.
United States. American Military Mission to Armenia, 1919.
United States. Army--Supplies and stores.
United States. Army.
United States. Army. American Expeditionary Forces. Services of Supply.
United States. Army. Division, 2nd. United States Army 2nd Division records.

Subjects

Château-Thierry, Battle of, Château-Thierry, France, 1918.
World War, 1914-1918--Campaigns--France.
World War, 1914-1918.

Places

Armenia--History--Revolution, 1917-1920.
Soissons (France)--History.

Occupations

Army officers.
Executives.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of James G. Harbord, army officer and business executive, were given to the Library of Congress by Harbord in 1945. An earlier gift had been received in 1923.

Processing History

The collection was processed prior to 1960. The finding aid was revised in 2014.

Transfers

Photographs have been transferred to the Library's Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of these papers.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of James G. Harbord 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, James G. Harbord Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of James Guthrie Harbord (1866-1947) span the years 1886-1938, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1917-1919. The collection consists of correspondence, personal diary, confidential cables, administrative memoranda of General John J. Pershing, records of conversations, clippings, scrapbooks, operational maps, barrage charts, sketches, a portrait, records of the United States Army 2nd Division, a portrait, translations of war diaries of the German army, and other papers pertaining to Harbord's career in the United States Army. Featured are Harbord's service as Pershing's chief of staff during World War I; as commander of a marine brigade during the battle of Chateau-Thierry, France, in 1918; commander of the 2nd Division in the Soissons offensive; and commander of the American Expeditionary Forces Service of Supply, 1918-1919. Also documented is Harbord's service as chief of the American Military Mission to Armenia in 1919 as well as his postings prior to World War I, especially as assistant chief of the Philippine Constabulary. The papers are organized by topic or type of material.

Subjects include political and administrative issues within the military, Newton Diehl Baker's activities as secretary of war during World War I, and the relationship between Harbord and Baker until the latter's death in 1938. Secretary Baker's two visits to Europe, one during the war in 1918 and one in 1919 while the Peace Conference was in session at Paris, are briefly described, with accounts by Harbord on his conversations with the secretary. Contained in a volume of Harbord-Pershing correspondence are copies of Pershing's administrative memoranda as well as Harbord's own letters and communications.

A volume of personal miscellany contains a note from J. C. Grew, enclosing to Harbord a ticket of admission to the Salle des Glaces in the Palace at Versailles, to witness the signing of the treaty of peace with Germany on June 28, 1919.

Correspondents in addition to Baker and Pershing include Harry Hill Bandholtz, Tasker Howard Bliss, Jean Degoutte, Earl Douglas Haig, W. W. Harts, Herbert Hoover, Hugh S. Johnson, Peyton Conway March, Frank Ross McCoy, Frank McIntyre, John McAuley Palmer, Philippe Pétain, Theodore Roosevelt, William H. Taft, and Leonard Wood.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Private letters, 1886-1916 Letters sent and received. Vol. 1 includes a typewritten diary of a trip by Harbord through parts of Russia and Europe, June 2, 1906- Sept. 8, 1906. The correspondence is arranged in chronologically. Included are letters from Leonard Wood, John J. Pershing, William H. Taft, and Frank McIntyre. The largest body of correspondence is with Harry Hill Bandholtz.
BOX 1	Vol. 1, 1886-1906
BOX 2	Vol. 2, 1907-1908
BOX 3	Vol. 3, 1909-1910
BOX 4	Vol. 4, 1911-1912
BOX 5	Vol. 5, 1913-1916
BOX 6	Military records, 1889-1916 Scrapbook containing newspaper and magazine clippings, original letters, commissions, certificates, orders, etc.
BOX 7	World War I
BOX 7	Promotions and decorations, 1917-1919 Congratulatory letters and official notices on the promotions of Harbord. Arranged alphabetically.
BOX 8	Military activity
BOX 8	I, Official war activity
BOX 8	Introduction
BOX 8	Liberty Loan, 1917
BOX 8	Military unification, Allied Services of Supply, 1918
BOX 8	2nd Division victory in Meaux District, 1918
BOX 8	Château-Thierry, Bouresches, and Bois de Belleau, 1918
BOX 8	Harbord's appeal for decorations for soldiers, 1918
BOX 8	American Red Cross, 1919
BOX 8	Services of Supply inspection tour, 1919
BOX 8	Armenian Mission, 1919
BOX 8	Retirement of Harbord, 1922
BOX 8	II, Army correspondence, including letters, telegrams, orders, and memoranda, 1917-1921
BOX 9	Personal miscellany, 1917-1919 Scrapbook containing pictures, memoranda, menus, programs, invitations, etc.
BOX 10	Personal war letters, 1917-1919 Preface, dated Dec. 1936, by Eleanor Kay Abrams. Included are letters or telegrams from Tasker Howard Bliss, John McAuley Palmer, John J. Pershing, and others. A typewritten copy of Newton Diehl Baker's letter of Feb. 25, 1919 constitutes the introduction. Letters arranged alphabetically with index at the beginning.
BOX 11	Pershing-Harbord letters, 1917-1922 Letters, telegrams, memoranda exchanged by John J. Pershing and Harbord. Harbord's letters being for the most part in the form of carbon copies.

Container List

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BOX 12	Personal letters, Newton Diehl Baker, 1918-1938 Letters, telegrams, and related matter exchanged by Baker and Harbord. Harbord's letters being for the most part in the form of typewritten copies signed. The last letter, Jan. 12, 1938, is from Mrs. Baker.
BOX 13	American Expeditionary Forces
BOX 13	Confidential
BOX 13	Cables sent, July 2, 1917-Aug. 30, 1919 Six books of cables, bound as one volume. Largely from Pershing to adjutant general, War Department, or the adjutant general for the chief of staff, secretary of war, etc. (marked "3rd copy")
BOX 14	Cables received, July 23, 1917-Aug. 30, 1919 Largely addressed to Pershing Amexforces (marked "3rd copy") Five books of cables bound as one volume.
BOX 15	2nd Division at Belleau Wood, 1918, June Carbon copies of orders sent by messenger, summaries of intelligence, resumes of activities, handwritten reports and memoranda, signed papers. Arranged in general chronological order with maps at the front of the volume.
BOX 16	Records of the 2nd Division [Regular], 1917-1918 Operation maps, barrage charts and sketches. Index at front.
BOX 17	Translations of war diaries of German units opposed to the 2nd Division [Regular], 1918 Typewritten material. A foreword, June 20, 1930, bearing the heading "Second Division Historical Section, Army War College, Washington, D.C.," signed by Captain C.O. Mattfeldt, explains the preparation and handling of the material in the volume. Includes a word of appreciation to the Deutsches Reicharchiv, Potsdam, Germany, for its courtesy in making available to the section the original war dairies of the German units that engaged the 2nd Division.
BOX 17	Vol. 1, Toulon-Troyon, Château-Thierry
BOX 18	Vol. 2, Château-Thierry
BOX 19	Vol. 3, Château-Thierry
BOX 20	Vol. 4, Château-Thierry
BOX 21	Vol. 5, Soissons
BOX 22	Vol. 6, Marbache, Saint-Mihiel
BOX 23	Vol. 7, Blanc Mont [Part I]
BOX 24	Vol. 8, Blanc Mont [Part II]
BOX 25	Vol. 9, Meuse-Argonne
BOX 26	Records of the 2nd Division [Regular] Typewritten material "copied literally from original documents and most carefully compared," according to a note at the front of vol. 1 by Brigadier General Preston Brown. This series was done under the direction of Captain C. O. Mattfeldt.
BOX 26	Vol. 1, 1918-1919, Field orders
BOX 27	Vol. 2, 1919-1919, Field orders (3rd and 4th Brigades)
BOX 28	Vol. 3, Field orders (9th Infantry-23rd Infantry, 5th Marines-6th Marines and 2nd Engineers)
BOX 29	Vol. 4, 1918 , Field messages (Headquarters 2nd Division, 2nd Field Artillery Brigade, 3rd Brigade Marines)
BOX 30	Vol. 5, 1918, 9th-23rd Infantry, 5th- 6th Marines, 12th-15th and 17th Field Artillery, 2nd Engineers, 4th-5th-6th Machine Gun Battalions
BOX 31	Vol. 6, 1918, Operation Reports War Diaries Journal of Operations, (2nd Division, 2nd Field Artillery Brigade, 2nd Trench Mortar Battery, 3rd Brigade, 4th Brigade)

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 32	Vol. 7, 1918, Operations reports, war diaries, petrol reports (9th-23rd Infantry, 5th-6th Marines, 2nd Engineers)
BOX 33	Vol. 8, 1918, Operation reports, war diaries (12th-15th and 17th Field Artillery, 4th, 5th, and 6th Machine Gun Battalions, 1st Field Signal Battalion, 2nd Trains)
BOX 34	Services of Supply Personal telegrams sent, 1918-1919. Carbon copies. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 35	Memoranda, 1919. Carbon copies. Arranged chronologically
BOX 36	Clippings, 1917-1920, 1931
BOX 37	Scrapbook, circa 1923-1929 Pictures, clippings, menus, articles, etc. Pocket of loose material at the back of the volume.
BOX 38	Maps showing operations of American divisions on Western Front Map room G-3, General Headquarters. Includes loose material consisting of maps, commissions, a portrait, a report, and a memorial of women of Armenia to Harbord, 1919.