

Charles Pelot Summerall Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



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Washington, D.C.**

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LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm78041947>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Collection Summary

Title: Charles Pelot Summerall Papers

Span Dates: 1880-1955

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1917-1919)

ID No.: MSS41947

Creator: Summerall, Charles Pelot, 1867-1955

Extent: 10,000 items ; 40 containers plus 2 oversize ; 16 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Summary: Army officer and college president. Correspondence, diaries, reports, speeches, writings, maps, charts, printed matter, memoranda, orders, memorabilia, and photographs concerning Summerall's military and academic 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.
Bowley, Albert Jesse, 1875-1945--Correspondence.
Bullard, Robert Lee, 1861-1947--Correspondence.
Capper, Arthur, 1865-1951--Correspondence.
Drum, Hugh Aloysius, 1879-1951--Correspondence.
Fletcher, Duncan Upshaw, 1859-1936--Correspondence.
Harbord, James G. (James Guthrie), 1866-1947--Correspondence.
Hurley, Patrick J. (Patrick Jay), 1883-1963--Correspondence.
MacArthur, Douglas, 1880-1964--Correspondence.
McCormick, Robert Rutherford, 1880-1955--Correspondence.
Morgan, David Taylor--Correspondence.
Parker, Frank, 1872-1947--Correspondence.
Pershing, John J. (John Joseph), 1860-1948--Correspondence.
Preble, George Henry, 1816-1885--Correspondence.
Pétain, Philippe, 1856-1951--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919--Correspondence.
Sherman, William T. (William Tecumseh), 1820-1891--Correspondence.
Summerall, Charles Pelot, 1867-1955.
Vandenberg, Charles A.--Correspondence.

Organizations

Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina.
United States. Army.
United States. Army. American Expeditionary Forces.
United States. Army. Division, 1st.

Subjects

Universities and colleges--South Carolina--Charleston.
World War, 1914-1918--France.
World War, 1914-1918.

Places

Florida--Politics and government--1865-1950.
Florida--Social life and customs.

Occupations

Army officers.

College presidents.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Charles Pelot Summerall, army officer and college president, were given to the Library of Congress by his son, Charles P. Summerall, Jr., in 1955.

Processing History

The Summerall Papers were processed in 1957. The finding aid was revised in 2012 and again in 2013.

Transfers

Maps have been transferred to the Geography and Map Division where they are identified as part of this collection.

Additional Guides

The Summerall Papers were described in the *Library of Congress Quarterly Journal of Current Acquisitions* 13, no. 3 (1956).

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Charles Pelot Summerall 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 Charles Pelot Summerall 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, Charles Pelot Summerall Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1867, Mar. 4	Born, near Lake City, Fla.
1892	Graduated, United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.
1899-1900	Served in Philippine campaign
1900-1901	Served in Relief Expedition, Boxer Rebellion, China
1902-1905	On duty, Alaska; Chickamauga Park, Ga; and Fort Myer, Va.
1905-1911	Teacher of artillery tactics, United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.
1917	Promoted to brigadier general; member of Military Mission to British and French Armies
1917-1918	Field commander, First Division, Fifth Army Corps, and other units, American Expeditionary Force, France

1918	Promoted to major general
1918-1919	Member, Allied Mission of Generals to Negotiate the Fiume Dispute; attached to American Commission to Negotiate Peace
1921-1924	Commander, Hawaiian Department of the Army
1926-1930	United States Army chief of staff
1929	Promoted to general
1931	Retired from army
1931-1953	President, the Citadel, Charleston, S.C.
1955, May 14	Died, Washington, D.C

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Charles P. Summerall (1867-1955) span the years 1880-1955, with the bulk of the material from 1917 to 1919. The collection consists of general and personal correspondence, reports, speeches, writings, photographs, maps and charts, clippings, field orders, and miscellaneous material. The papers are organized into ten series: [Diaries, Notebooks, and Engagement Books](#); [Correspondence and Memoranda](#); [Orders, Decorations, and Citations](#); [Commands and Duties](#); [Subject File](#); [Speech and Article File](#); [Photographs](#); [Clippings](#); [Miscellany](#); and [Oversize](#).

The field orders in the collection cover Summerall's military career from the time he graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1892 until he retired from the army in 1931. Professional correspondence of this period does not appear in the papers, except for the World War I years. The correspondence includes letters concerning his months of retirement in Eustis, Florida, in 1931; a movement in Florida to draft him as a candidate for governor or representative-at-large, 1931-1932; and some, from 1931 to 1940, relate to his activities as president of the Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina.

The bulk of the material deals with Summerall's commands during World War I as field commander of the First Division and other units in the American Expeditionary Forces in France. Correspondents include Generals Robert Lee Bullard, Frank Parker, Albert Jesse Bowley, Hugh Aloysius Drum, James G. Harbord, John J. Pershing, and Douglas MacArthur; French Generals Henri Philippe Pétain and Charles A. Vandenburg; Senators Arthur Capper and Duncan Upshaw Fletcher; and others such as Newton Diehl Baker, Theodore Roosevelt, Robert Rutherford McCormick, and Patrick J. Hurley.

Memorabilia and other items in the [Miscellany](#) series include letters from William T. Sherman, 1880, and George Henry Preble, 1881, addressed to David Taylor Morgan.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in ten series:

- [Diaries, Notebooks, Engagement Books, 1918-1930](#)
- [Correspondence and Memoranda, 1900-1940](#)
- [Orders, Decorations, and Citations, 1894-1931](#)
- [Commands and Duties, 1894-1931](#)
- [Subject File, 1917-1931](#)
- [Speech and Article File, circa 1892-1941](#)
- [Photographs, 1894-1930](#)
- [Clippings, 1900-1955](#)

- Miscellany, 1880-1930
- Oversize

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1	<p><u>Diaries, Notebooks, Engagement Books, 1918-1930</u></p> <p>Bound volumes of diaries, notebooks, and scheduling material. Arranged chronologically. Volumes for 1922, 1923, and 1926 are missing.</p>
BOX 2-11	<p><u>Correspondence and Memoranda, 1900-1940</u></p> <p>Letters and memoranda sent and received. Letters are grouped chronologically by command and alphabetically therein by name of correspondent. Memoranda are arranged chronologically within command periods.</p>
BOX 12	<p><u>Orders, Decorations, and Citations, 1894-1931</u></p> <p>Typescript and manuscript documents and one bound volume. Arranged in three chronological groups.</p>
BOX 13-22	<p><u>Commands and Duties, 1894-1931</u></p> <p>Material connected with commands and tours of duty, including memoranda, field and general orders, schedules, reports, map problems, instructions, lists of officers, official communiqués, and lecture programs. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 23-26	<p><u>Subject File, 1917-1931</u></p> <p>Chiefly typescript and near-print material with related correspondence used in writing the history of the First Division and relating to the Society of the First Division, First Division Memorial Association, and battle monuments and markers in France. Also material in connection with controversies in which Summerall was involved. Arranged by topic.</p>
BOX 27-31	<p><u>Speech and Article File, circa 1892-1941</u></p> <p>Handwritten, typewritten, mimeographed, and printed copies and drafts of speeches and articles. Arranged chronologically with notes and reference material filed at the end of the series. Many speeches are undated.</p>
BOX 32-36	<p><u>Photographs, 1894-1930</u></p> <p>Photographs. Arranged by subject.</p>
BOX 37-39	<p><u>Clippings, 1900-1955</u></p> <p>Clippings. Arranged by subject within chronological periods.</p>
BOX 40	<p><u>Miscellany, 1880-1930</u></p> <p>Memorabilia including programs, menus, invitations, cards, and letters from William T. Sherman and George Preble to David Taylor Morgan.</p>
BOX OV 1-OV 2	<p><u>Oversize</u></p> <p>Oversize material arranged and described according to the series and containers from which it was removed.</p>

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Diaries, Notebooks, Engagement Books, 1918-1930 Bound volumes of diaries, notebooks, and scheduling material. Arranged chronologically. Volumes for 1922, 1923, and 1926 are missing.
BOX 1	1918-1930
BOX 2-11	Correspondence and Memoranda, 1900-1940 Letters and memoranda sent and received. Letters are grouped chronologically by command and alphabetically therein by name of correspondent. Memoranda are arranged chronologically within command periods.
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BOX 13-22	Commands and Duties, 1894-1931 Material connected with commands and tours of duty, including memoranda, field and general orders, schedules, reports, map problems, instructions, lists of officers, official communiqués, and lecture programs. Arranged chronologically.
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Commands and Duties, 1894-1931

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
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BOX 17	Ninth Army Corps, Fourth Army Corps, Inter-Allied Commission of Inquiry, Fiume, Italy, 1918, Aug.-1919, Aug.
BOX 18	Fifth Army Corps, operation reports, St. Mihiel and Argonne-Meuse, summaries of intelligence, St. Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne, 1918, Aug.-Nov.
BOX 19	First Army field orders, summary of operations, summaries of Intelligence, 1918, Aug.-Nov.
BOX 20	First Army report of commanding general, including letters from French commanders, maps and charts, 1918-1919
BOX 21	Treaties of peace with Germany and Austria, Versailles, 1919, Jun.
BOX 22	Final report of chief of staff, 1930, Nov. 20
BOX 23-26	Subject File, 1917-1931 Chiefly typescript and near-print material with related correspondence used in writing the history of the First Division and relating to the Society of the First Division, First Division Memorial Association, and battle monuments and markers in France. Also material in connection with controversies in which Summerall was involved. Arranged by topic.
BOX 23	First Division history, material used in compiling historical sketch by Society of the First Division (St. Mihiel, Soissons, Meuse-Argonne Operations), 1917, May 23-1918, Nov. 17
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Photographs, 1894-1930

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
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