

A Guide to the Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr. Papers, 1913-1970 MS.0006

Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr. papers
1913-1990

Title Statement

A Guide to the Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr. Papers, 1913-1970 MS.0006

Publication Statement

Publisher: Virginia Military Institute Archives

VMI Archives
Preston Library
Lexington, VA 24450
Business Number: 540-464-7516
archives@vmi.edu
URL: <http://www.vmi.edu/archives>

© 2002 Virginia Military Institute

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2026-04-22 07:01:54 -0400.

Language Usage: English

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MS.0006

Unit ID

/repositories/3/resources/602

Unit Date

1913-1990

Language

English

Creator

Shepherd, Lemuel C., Jr. (Lemuel Cornick), 1896-1990

Extent

6 cubic feet

Physical Location

Manuscripts stacks

Repository

Virginia Military Institute Archives

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

There are no restrictions.

Conditions Governing Use

Manuscript collections in the VMI Archives are made available for educational and research use. The VMI Archives should be cited as the source. The user assumes all responsibility for identifying and satisfying any copyright holders. Materials from our collections may not be redistributed, published or reproduced without permission from the VMI Archives. Contact the VMI Archives for additional information.

Preferred Citation

Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr. papers, 1913-1990. MS 0006. VMI Archives, Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Virginia.

Biographical / Historical

Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr. (1896-1990) was a United States Marine Corps four-star general, and saw distinguished service in World War I, World War II, and the Korean War. He was appointed the 20th Commandant of the Marine Corps in 1952.

1896 February 10 Born in Norfolk, Virginia 1917 May Graduated from the VMI. Shepherd, along with many other classmates, were declared graduates a month early, having been called into active duty. 1917-1919 Served with the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, American Expeditionary Forces, France 1920-1922 Aide to the Commandant of the Marines Corps Junior White House aide 1922 Married Virginia Tunstall Driver and the couple had four children. 1922-1925 Served on United States ships Idaho and Nevada 1927-1929 Served with the 4th Marines in China 1937-1939 Commander, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Brigade, Fleet Marine Force 1939-1942 Staff member, Marine Corps School 1942-1943 Regimental Commander, 9th Marines, 3rd Marine Division 1943-1944 Assistant Division Commander, 1st Marine Division 1944-1945 Commanding General, 6th Marine Division 1946-1948 Assistant Commandant and Chief of Staff, Marine Corps 1948-1950 Commandant, Marine Corps Schools 1950-1951 Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific 1952-1956 Commandant, Marine Corps 1956 January 1 Retired from Marine Corps 1956 March Recalled to active duty Chairman, Inter-American Defense Board, 1956-1959 1959 October Retired from active duty for second time 1990 August 6 Died at his home in La Jolla, California, and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia.

Scope and Contents

The Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr. papers consist primarily of the following: Unpublished memoirs and accompanying documents Photograph albums and scrapbooks dating from Shepherd's years as a VMI cadet, as Commandant of the United States Marine Corps, and from his service as President of the Inter-American Defense Board An interview with Shepherd conducted by the archivist of the MacArthur Library regarding Shepherd's role during the Korean War, assault at Inchon Correspondence Clippings Certificates and resolutions Printed material The unpublished memoirs include detailed information about Shepherd's early Marine Corps career and his participation in World War I. They include copies of his World War I diary and personal correspondence.

Related Materials

Other repositories holding papers relating to Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr. include the United States Marine Corps History Division (Quantico, Virginia).

Keywords

United States. Marine Corps—Officers—Biography
Generals—United States—Biography
World War, 1939-1945
Inter-American Defense Board
Scrapbooks
Photographs
World War, 1914-1918
United States. Marine Corps—History—World War, 1939-1945

Online Access

Lemuel C. Shepherd Jr.'s World War I memoirs, diary, and letters are available online.

Existence and Location of Originals

The memoirs and addenda were copied from originals that are no longer extant, according to family sources. The Shepherd family believes that the originals once held by Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr. were lost following his death.

Description of Subordinate Components

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/1643

Unit Date 1944-1946

Language English

Extent 20 items

Scope and Contents

Correspondents and topics include: Mober Bonhomme Nagano Eiji (Japanese General) Chaplain W. F. McClain Mrs. Lemuel C. Shepherd Guam Liberation Day A form letter for the sympathy message sent to parents of soldiers killed in action

Oral history interview transcripts

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4334

Unit Date 1966-1967

Language English

Extent 2 items

Scope and Contents

Transcripts of two oral history interviews conducted during 1966 and 1967. One covers Lemuel C. Shepherd's entire career while the other covers the Korean War and the Battle of Inchon.

Keywords

Oral histories

Interview transcript covering the Korean War

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/1644

Unit Date 1966 August 24

Language English

Scope and Contents

Transcript of an oral history interview conducted by the archivist at the MacArthur Library, regarding Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr.'s role during amphibious assault at Inchon (South Korea) during the Korean War.

Keywords

Korean War, 1950-1953—Campaigns—Korea (South)—Inchon

Korean War, 1950-1953—Personal narratives, American

Interview transcript covering Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr.'s military career

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4335

Unit Date 1966-1967

Language English

Conditions Governing Use

This item must be read in person and may not be reproduced. For copies, contact the United States Marine Corps History Division (Quantico, VA).

Keywords

World War, 1939-1945

World War, 1914-1918

Korean War (1950-1953)

Korean War, 1950-1953—Campaigns—Korea (South)—Inchon

Existence and Location of Originals

The original recordings and transcript were created and are held by the United States Marine Corps History Division.

Speeches

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/1645

Unit Date 1944-1945

Language English

Scope and Contents

Talks given to troops and officers.

Keywords

Speeches, Addresses, etc.

Military orders

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/1646

Unit Date 1918-1945

Language English

Extent 9 items9 items in 2 folders

Keywords

Orders (military records)

Report

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/1649

Unit Date 1945 September

Language English

Scope and Contents

A report on Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr.'s trip to Japan.

Keywords

World War, 1939-1945

Allied Occupation of Japan (1945-1952)

Japan

World War II subject file

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/1650

Language English

Scope and Contents

Notes concerning origin of Japanese sword of surrender, a circular, Japanese propaganda, and a citation for distinguished service medal.

Keywords

Propaganda

Circular letters

Military decorations

Scrapbooks

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/1647

Unit Date 1913-1955

Language English

VMI cadet scrapbook

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/1652

Unit Date 1913-1917

Language English

Scope and Contents

Scrapbook compiled by Lemuel C. Shepherd during his VMI cadetship. Includes photographs and

memorabilia for the period 1913-1917.

Keywords

Virginia Military Institute—Cadet life—1910-1919

Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1917

Virginia Military Institute—Scrapbooks

Pre-World War II career scrapbook

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/1653

Unit Date 1920-1939

Language English

Scope and Contents

Primarily clippings. The scrapbook also contains some memorabilia, including invitations from Mrs. Roosevelt and a thank you note signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

United States Marines in World War II scrapbook

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/1654

Language English

Scope and Contents

Primarily newspaper clippings concerning Guam and New Britain.

Keywords

World War, 1939-1945

World War, 1939-1945—Pacific

World War II, 6th Marine Division scrapbook

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/1655

Language English

Scope and Contents

Primarily clippings concerning Okinawa (Japan) and limited memorabilia.

Keywords

World War, 1939-1945

Japanese inspection trip scrapbook

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/1656

Unit Date 1955 April

Language English

Scope and Contents

Includes clippings, postcards, photographs, and printed materials.

Keywords

Japan

Military insignia of French Colonial Troops scrapbook

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/1657

Unit Date 1955 April

Language English

Scope and Contents

A collection of approximately 35 metal insignias.

Photographs and photo albums

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/1648

Unit Date 1945-1959

Language English

Visit to Korea photograph album

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4331

Unit Date 1953

Language English

Biographical / Historical

"From the officers and men of the First Marine Division, FMF"

Scope and Contents

Contains photographs with detailed captions commemorating General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr.'s visit to Korea.

Keywords

Korean War (1950-1953)

United States. Marine Corps—Marine Corps. Division, 1st
Korea

Inter-American Defense Board trip photo album

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/1662

Unit Date 1956-1959

Language English

Scope and Contents

Contains photos of Argentina, Bolivia, Cuba, Haiti, Paraguay, and Peru.

Keywords

Inter-American Defense Board

Peruvian submarines launching ceremonies photographs

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4332

Unit Date 1957 February 5

Language English

Douglas MacArthur at Pearl Harbor photographs

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/1659

Unit Date 1951 April 16-17

Language English

Keywords

MacArthur, Douglas, 1880-1964

Surrender Ceremony in Tsingtao, China photographs

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/1658

Unit Date 1945 October 25

Language English

Keywords

World War, 1939-1945

Marine Corps inspection of United States forces trip photographs

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/1660

Unit Date 1953-1955

Language English

Scope and Contents

Includes photographs from visits to Korea, Yokosura Marine Barracks, Camp Pendleton, and 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing in Miami, Florida.

Marines Corps trip photographs

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/1661

Unit Date 1955 March

Language English

Scope and Contents

Includes photographs from trips to Argentina and Brazil.

Memoirs and related documents

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4333

Unit Date 1913-1959

Language English

Extent 1 items Approximately 400 pages in 1 binder

Scope and Contents

One three ring binder containing a copy of the typescript of "My Memoirs," the unpublished autobiography of General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., along with copies of related documents.

"Volume I" (written circa 1964) of the autobiography provides a detailed narrative beginning with Shepherd's early life, VMI cadetship, entrance into the United States Marine Corps and early training, a thorough account of his combat service in France during World War I, and activities in the immediate post-War period through 1920. The emphasis is on a detailed account of his World War I service. This narrative is accompanied by related documents, including the typescript of a diary kept during the early part of World War I (August 1917-March 1918), letters written home during the War, and other documents.

"Volume II" relates to the post-World War I era (1921 and forward). It contains fewer pages of narrative; most of this section consists of documents, records of citations, articles, clippings, and correspondence.

Keywords

World War, 1914-1918

World War, 1914-1918—Personal narratives, American

Memoirs

Diaries

United States. Marine Corps—Marine Regiment, 5th—Battalion, 2nd

Belleau Wood, Battle of, France, 1918

United States. Army—American Expeditionary Forces

Château-Thierry, Battle of, Château-Thierry, France, 1918

Printed materials

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/1651

Language English

Scope and Contents

Includes various pamphlets, magazines, and yearbooks, most relating to the United States Marine Corps during World War II.

Certificates and resolutions

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4972

Mixed Materials 7 (box)

Language English

Extent 4 items

Scope and Contents

Certificates and resolutions presented to General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr. by various organizations.