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MEGEE, VERNON E.: Papers, 1919-92

Accession 94-17
Processed by: TB
Date Completed: March 2003

The papers of General Vernon E. Megee were deposited in the Eisenhower Library by his daughter Mrs. LaVerne M. Broad in August 1994.

Linear feet:	3.2
Approximate number of pages:	6,400
Approximate number of items:	3,000

Mrs. LaVerne M. Broad and her children Kathleen L. Broad and Tyson Megee Broad signed an instrument of gift for the papers on January 3, 1995. Literary rights in the writings of Vernon E. Megee in this collection and in all other collections of papers received by the National Archives have been retained by the Broads until their deaths, at which time such rights will pass to the public. Under terms of the instrument of gift, the following classes of items are withheld from research use:

1. Papers which constitute an invasion of personal privacy or a libel of a living person.
2. Papers which are required to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy, and are properly classified.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Vernon E. Megee was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on June 5, 1900. He joined the Marine Corps in 1919 and was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1922. For the next several years he held many positions in Marine forces stationed abroad, including tours of duty in Haiti, Nicaragua and China. He also received aviation training and qualified as a Naval Aviator in 1931. His flight experience enabled him to develop techniques for close air support of Marine ground forces.

From 1940 to 1943 Megee was a member of the U.S. Naval Aviation mission to Peru. He later served as a Marine aviation commander in the Pacific and participated in the Iwo Jima and Okinawa campaigns. After the war he held a number of positions in the Department of Defense and in Marine organizations in the Atlantic and Pacific fleets. During 1956 and 1957 he was assistant commandant and chief of staff of the Marine Corps.

Megee retired from the Marine Corps in November 1959 and settled at Austin, Texas. He returned to graduate school for his Master of Arts degree and then helped organize the Marine Military Academy at Harlingen, Texas, where he served as Superintendent and President of the Board of Trustees. He was an active member of the National Rifle Association and wrote many articles on guns and ammunition for various sporting magazines. Megee died in Albuquerque, New Mexico on January 14, 1992.

The papers of Vernon Megee pertain to his military career and his activities after his retirement. The material has been divided into two series. The Military Service Series consists of Megee's 201 file, containing copies of orders and official correspondence relating to his military assignments. The series also includes correspondence and memorabilia relating to the positions he held. This material is arranged chronologically. His service in Peru from 1940 to 1943 and his retirement in November 1959 are especially well documented. Of particular interest is a file of letters from Megee's friend W.O. Brice at Marine Corps headquarters during 1954 and 1955 describing the philosophy behind the promotion and reassignment of general officers.

The second series is an alphabetical subject file. This contains copies of Megee's articles and speeches, flight logs, social correspondence and memorabilia. Of particular importance is a rough draft of Megee's uncompleted memoirs that give a detailed account of his entire military career.

CHRONOLOGY

June 5, 1900	Born in Tulsa, Oklahoma
1917-1919	Student at Oklahoma AandM College
March 8, 1919	Enlisted in the Marine Corps
1919-1921	Garrison duty, Marine Barracks, Paris Island, South Carolina
1921-1922	Attended officers' candidate school, Marine Barracks, Washington, DC
May 4, 1922	Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant
1922-1923	Attended basic officers course, Marine Corps School, Quantico, Virginia
October 1923- November 1925	Member, First Marine Brigade, Haiti
November 1925- April 1927	Member, Tenth Marine Regiment, Quantico, Virginia
April 1927- March 1928	Expeditionary duty in China with Tenth Marine Regiment
March 1928- January 1929	Aviation training, Naval Air Station, San Diego, California
January 1929- January 1931	Squadron Quartermaster, Second Marine Brigade, Nicaragua
January 1931- February 1932	Flight training, Pensacola, Florida
February 1932- May 1933	Member, Aircraft Squadron, West Coast Expeditionary Forces, San Diego, California
June 1933- August 1936	Instructor, Marine Corps School, Quantico, Virginia
August 1936- June 1937	Attended Air Corps Tactical School, Maxwell Field, Alabama
June 1937- July 1939	Instructor, Marine Corps School, Quantico, Virginia

July 1939- October 1940	Commander, Marine Fighter Squadron 2, Second Marine Aircraft Group
October 1940- October 1943	Executive Officer, U.S. Naval Aviation Mission, Peru
November 1943- October 1944	Chief of Staff, Third Marine Aircraft Wing
October 1944- September 1945	Commander, Provisional Air Support Command, and Chief of Staff, Air Support Control Units, Pacific Fleet
October 1945- August 1946	Member, Joint Amphibious Operations and Doctrines Committee, Marine Corps Headquarters
August 1946- December 1946	Instructor, National War College, Washington, DC
December 1946	Promoted to Brigadier General
January 1947- August 1949	Chief of Staff, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic
August 1949- January 1950	Assistant Director of Marine Corps Aviation
January 1950- August 1951	Member, Joint Staff, Department of Defense
August 1951	Promoted to Major General
August 1951- February 1952	Commander, Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, North Carolina
February 1952- January 1953	Commanding General, Aircraft, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, El Toro, California
January 1953- January 1954	Commander, First Marine Aircraft Wing, Korea
January 1954- June 1955	Deputy Commander, Fleet Marine Force Pacific, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
July 1955- December 1955	Commanding General, Aircraft, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic, Norfolk, Virginia

January 1, 1956	Promoted to Lieutenant General
January 1956- December 1957	Assistant Commandant and Chief of Staff, Marine Corps
December 1957- November 1959	Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Pacific, Honolulu, Hawaii
November 1, 1959	Retired from the Marine Corps
1961-1963	Graduate student at University of Texas
1964-1988	Superintendent and Chairman of Board of Trustees of Marine Military Academy, Harlingen, Texas
January 14, 1992	Died in Albuquerque, New Mexico

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	Series I: Military Service File Military Correspondence [201 File] 1919-32 (1)-(4) [report on hunting bandits in Nicaragua, June 1930] Military Correspondence [201 File] 1932-37 Military Correspondence [201 File] Oct. 1943-Nov. 1945 (1)-(3) Military Correspondence [201 File] 1945-49 (1)-(3) Paris Island Training Station 1919 China 1927-28 [report on testing of motor vehicles] Nicaragua 1929-30 West Indies 1936 Air Corps Tactical School 1937
2	San Diego 1939-40 (1)(2) Peru 1940-43 Correspondence Peru 1940-43 Invitations Peru 1940-43 Memorabilia Peru 1940-43 Notes on Peru Flights Peru 1940-43 Passports Peru 1940-43 Printed Material (1)-(4) [tourist literature] World War II [Iwo Jima campaign] Promotion to Brigadier General Dec. 1946 (1)(2) [congratulatory letters]
3	Korea 1953

Honolulu 1954-55

Change of Station 1954-55 (1)(2) [W.O. Brice re assignment of major generals, promotions, combining Air and Ground Fleet Marine Forces]

Personal Expenses Aug.-Nov. 1955

Assistant Commandant Letters Nov. 1955 (1)-(3) [congratulatory letters; Ormond Simpson re use of autopen at Marine Corps headquarters]

Naval Review June 1957

Inspection Trips 1958-59 (1)(2)

Newspaper Clippings 1958 (1)(2)

Newspaper Clippings 1959

Retirement Ceremony Oct. 1959

Retirement - Clippings

4 Retirement Letters 1959 (1)-(3)

Retirement Orders 1959

Series II: Subject File

Article - An Aerial Blitzkrieg in Miniature 1942 [Peru-Ecuador conflict]

Article - Aircraft Squadrons 1933

Article - An Andean Interlude 1948 (1)(2) [hunting trip in Peru]

Article - The Aviatin' Vaqueros 1931

Article - Buckshot Ballistics 1968 [published title The Round Ball Bounces Back]

Article - Casual Bucks 1931 [hunting trip in Nicaragua]

Article - The Combination Gun 1979

Article - Crater Deer 1929-31 [hunting trip in Nicaragua]

Article - Effect of Barrel Rest on Impact and Accuracy 1970

Article - Effect of Bore Fouling on Accuracy 1970

Article - Five Hunting Stories 1930-33

Article - The Genesis of Air Support in Guerilla Operations 1965 [anti-guerilla operations in Nicaragua, 1927-31]

Article - Lever Action Rifles 1962

Article - Midrange Loads With Ball Powders 1969

Article - A Modern Small Game Pest Rifle 1973

Article - The Most Versatile Cartridge 1968

Article - Range Testing the Browning Single Shot Rifle 1974

Article - Range Testing the Ruger Single-Shot 1969

5 Article - Small Game Rifles 1970

Article - The .30-.30 for Plinking 1964

Article - The .32 S and W Long as a Rifle Cartridge 1970

Article - The Versatile .243 1965

Article - Wanted: A New Small Game Rifle 1965

Article - Why the Ten Shot Group 1948

Article - Yesterday's Small Game Rifle 1966

Awards and Certificates

Biographies

Birth and Marriage Certificates

Clippings (Miscellaneous) (1)(2)

- Correspondence (1)-(3) [1953 letter from released Korean War POW; selection of new Marine Corps commandant, 1959; 1964 comments re advantages of civilian vs military career]
- Correspondence - Ellis O. Briggs
- Correspondence - Marlin Firearms
- Correspondence - Ruger Firearms
- Correspondence - Winchester Firearms
- Death 1992
- Exposure to Radiation 1985 [health survey of military personnel exposed to radiation in 1950s]
- 6 Flight Log Books 1 and 2 1920-33
- Flight Log Books 3 and 4 1933-38
- Flight Log Books 5 and 6 1938-50
- Flight Log Books 7 and 8 1950-59
- Iwo Jima 25th Anniversary 1970
- London Souvenirs 1950 [George VI birthday celebration]
- Marine Corps Memorial Dedication Nov. 1954
- Marine Military Academy
- Marksmanship Score Book Sept. 1954
- Memoirs Chapter 1 and 2 [family background; early life; joining Marine Corps, 1919; early training; commission 1922]
- Memoirs Chapter 3 [training in Virginia; service in Haiti, 1923-25; work as transport officer; service in China 1927; Nicaragua 1929-30; hunting guerillas; flight training]
- 7 Memoirs Chapter 4 and 5 [flight training; fleet maneuvers on USS Saratoga and Yorktown; aviation mission to Peru, 1940-43: living conditions, Peruvian air force, border dispute with Ecuador, impact of Pearl Harbor attack]

Memoirs Chapter 6, 7 and 8 [Third Marine Air Wing, Cherry Point, NC and Ewa Field, Hawaii, 1943-44; attack on Peleliu Island, Sept 1944; Iwo Jima, Feb 1945]

Memoirs Chapter 9 and 10 [Okinawa; service in Washington and Norfolk, 1945-51; planning for air support of ground operations; Congressional hearings on role of Marine Corps; Joint Intelligence Board; Korean War; El Toro station, California; court martial of officer; promotion board and problems with commandant]

Memoirs Chapter 11, 12, 13 and Epilogue [Korea 1953; U.S. officers held by North Korea; service at Pearl harbor 1954-55; inspection trips; VIP guests; Assistant Commandant, 1956-57; Commandant Pate; drowning at Parris Island; opposition to marine aviation officers; Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, 1958-59; inspection trips; selection of David Shoup as commandant; decision to retire]

Memorabilia

National Rifle Association

Notebooks #1 and #2 [truck convoys, Aug.-Sept. 1923; Nicaragua, Jan. 1929; hunting bandits, June 1930; lists of motor equipment used in China, 1927]

Notebooks #3 and #4 [1939 notes; travels in Peru, 1941-42; Feb. 1947 notes]

Notebooks #5 and #6 [1947 notes; May 1948 training exercises; notes from Russian history course, Oct. 1949]

Notes on Civil War Ordnance 1964 (1)(2) [historical articles]

Oklahoma AandM College [completion of B.S. degree, 1949-50]

Oklahoma Aviation Hall of Fame 1986

Panama Canal Cruise 1940

- 8 Printed Material (1)-(3) [lists of Marine Corps officers, 1919 and 1947; procedures for control of aircraft in joint amphibious operations; 1985 National War College alumni directory]

Speeches 1947-48

Speech - NATO War College, Paris 1955 [theory of amphibious operations]

Speech - Retirement of O.P. Smith 1955

- Speech - Retirement of Frank Schilt 1957
- Speech - Oklahoma A&M May 7, 1957
- Speech - Veterans Day, Honolulu Nov. 11, 1958
- Speeches 1958 and 1964 [Veterans Day and Marine Corps birthday]
- Speech - NCO Academy Feb. 12, 1960
- Speech - MOWW, La Jolla, Calif. March 15, 1960
- Speech - Rotary, Dillon, Mont. Sept. 1960
- Speech - The Panama Problem, MOWW Feb. 26, 1964
- Speech - Marine Corps Birthday, San Antonio Nov. 10, 1964
- Speeches 1966-73
- Speech - Marine Corps Birthday Remarks
- Target Data (1)-(3)
- University of Texas 1961-63
- USS Oklahoma City Commissioning 1960
- 9 Oversized Material (half-suit box)

END OF CONTAINER LIST