

Notes 58N, Copy 2

Thomas R. Gowanlock

Chicago, Illinois

April 25, 1958

THIS INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT MAY BE USED FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES ONLY. IT MAY NOT BE QUOTED FROM, CITED OR PUBLISHED EXCEPT BY PERMISSION OF THE GEORGE C. MARSHALL FOUNDATION.

Thomas R. Gowanlock, at Racquet Club, Chicago, April 25, 1958 by F C Pogue.

(Gowanlock was G-2 of 1st Division in WWI after Gen Marshall had left the division but knew of him then. Was C of S of 33d Division when Gen M came to Chicago. Gowanlock's memory is not always trustworthy but his comments on McCormick and his recollections of WW I may be of some value).

I arrived at 1st Division after Marshall left, so Gen Whiting didn't have it quite right yesterday when he said I served with Marshall. But I heard a great deal of Marshall. He was a perfect G-3 and had a brilliant mind. He went through the Cantigny battle; the first all American attack. That area was occupied first by the Germans, then by the French, then by the Germans. Preliminary to the battle, Marshall had everything to do with training the division. Bullard was commanding general at time of Cantigny. Attack was May 17, 1918. Next big operation was Soissons. Division moved on July 16. That operation lasted until 21 July. (I had the impression that he was probably accurate on this early type of thing). On our right was the 2d Moroccan Div and on their right the 2d Division with the Marine Brigade.

I came to the division at Soissons. I reviewed Marshall's ops and training and learned of his work from Gen Summerall who commanded V Corps and was later Chief of Staff of the Army.

Marshall had a fine military mind; analytical mind. He figured out tactics better than anyone I had known.

I was asked to be C of S of 33d Division. I didn't want it but agreed to work awhile. I wanted someone with reputation as instructor. I went in and told Gen Summerall if we wanted a good division we needed Marshall. He said I feel I can't send him. He has lost his wife and I am going to send him to Hawaii. (Here is a place his memory seems wrong--at least if he is going to suggest that Summerall had anything to do with Marshall's coming out. Summerall and the loss of the wife suggest 1927--five years before Marshall came).

I stayed as C of S until I felt that my usefulness was over. I resigned, Shortly afterwards I heard they were sending Marshall. I kept in close contact with the division and know what a good job he did here. I recall one meeting. He laid out a proper ideal training program for the division. It was very complete and concise. I don't know anyone who could have done better. Marshall was still a Lt Col and I was a colonel. I could tell he was depressed or felt chagrined or something. He felt someone had held him back. However, Craig came in. He knew Marshall and his ability. I felt things would change. He was transferred to Vancouver Barracks. Promotions started. They were well deserved.

I followed his career as C of S. He couldn't have been better.

He picked Ike and was responsible for a lot of strategy and tactics in WWII.

When he was here first he lived on north side; then moved to Wayne, 40-50 miles out. Horse community. We took a little house there one summer and I saw quite a little of him. It was an

area where they had terrible storms. One night they thought they were going to be crushed. They had a dog which hid.

Mrs. Marshall was very helpful to him.

I wrote articles on combat intelligence and also a book. Sent a copy to him. When WWII approached I wanted to go back into service/ Marshall said I was too old. I realized he was right. He suggested things in Washington. Then he said why not take charge of security of State of Illinois, so I did for 3 ½ years. Police, sheriffs, FBI, Army, Navy, etc under me/

With the 1st Division everybody liked Marshall. He was a positive thinking and acting person. There was never any loophole, never any vacillation. All positive, definite and right. Everyone had complete confidence in him. He never said this or that, but this is the way it should be done. Always successful.

A National Guard division is very difficult to develop because of turnover of personnel. You lose men and replace them by others; not a stable thing; turnover great. Two week camp contributes a great deal.

Milton Forman commanded the Guard after the war. I recommended Roy Keehn for Judge Advocate. Forman was senile. He and his group had been to legislature without success. Keehn was good in politics. Small was governor; they needed money. I said how about Keehn for commander. My friends said Tom how you could suggest him. Keen wanted me by his side. He got armories, equipment, appropriations, everything Guard needed. There were finer military men. When I heard Marshall was coming I went to Keehn and said this man knows more military than you will ever know. You listen to him. He was fond of Marshall and they got along well together. Marshall once wanted me to give something on intelligence. I didn't want to do it because Keehn had put Bill Spencer in as head of intelligence. Spencer knew and admitted I knew a great deal more about it than he did.

I was probably one of McCormick's closest friends. I was the only one outside his immediate family mentioned in his will. Gave me \$1000. He held picnic for 1st Division men once a year. Several hundred at first at Cantigny Manor. When Marshall came here he was invited to one of these. McCormick had never met Marshall. I called George and he went out. One amusement was a baseball game. Instead of sitting like a stuffed shirt, Marshall played the whole game, slid into bases and the like. Those who had known him remarked on it. Following year he was gone; a number came up and asked about him.

With all his positive nature, Marshall was a man of short sentences and short speeches. He just fitted in. If he had commanded a rgt or bn he would have led his men; not pushed them into battle.

I was always invited in to McCormick's place after the parties.

I took Marshall with me (McCormick had just been polite and that was all). I told him what I thought of Marshall. I said Bert you apparently don't know Marshall as I do. He should be at

least a Major General. McCormick's criticism of Marshall had to do with Marshall Plan. I can't go along with Marshall on that. That Plan has become a Frankenstein.

I used to stand up to McCormick. Eisenhower came back here. A reporter showed him attacks in the TRIBUNE. Eisenhower came to Chicago for a luncheon at the Chicago Club and after that he talked to Chauncey McCormick and myself. He said what about these attacks on me for being too friendly to the British. I said I agree. He said I can't understand. I was put in command of forces in Europe to accomplish result as expeditiously as possible and if giving in to Montgomery helped accomplish my purpose, I was doing my duty. He wanted to talk with McCormick. I said he gave a good answer. But when I told that to McCormick he said to hell with him.

McCormick wasn't best described as an isolationist. He was an All-American man. Anything but an internationalist. Became strong against Marshall when he announced Marshall Plan.

T. E. Shaw (Lawrence of Arabia) was a friend of mine after first WW. I was stationed in Paris during conference. Shaw with King Hussein and three sons and surrounded by French officers at the Continental. Shaw came to Whitelaw Reid hospital in Latin Quarter to see men. He asked if when I recuperated I would go to Bagdad and organize intelligence section for Feisal. I wanted to do it but my father had died in 1914 and my mother depended on me (I was an invalid for 3 ½ years, wounded, gassed and shell-shocked). I had to make a living for the family. I met Feisal--he was ascetic (said esthetic), Christlike in appearance--sensitive and fine. One of his brothers became king of Jordan. I went to Continental and ate with them. Hussein had trouble with Saud of SE Arabia and lost territory. The British double-crossed Lawrence as far as Arabs were concerned. He resigned as colonel, gave back his decorations, enlisted as private in tank corps. Killed on a motorcycle. I think he was fed up and got on motorcycle and drove it until he crashed. I thought for a longtime it was a cover story and he was in Middle East incognito.

It is sometimes said that Shaw was a homosexual. I saw nothing of that. He was an intelligent, sincere, two fisted man. I liked him very much. Arabs wouldn't have followed him if he had been effeminate. I asked him once about these stories. I said they tell me you are peculiar. He said I tell you how it started. I had some fine, clean Arab soldiers. A bunch of ditty, diseased women began to hang around. I said I had rather they would have relations with each other--(you know these practices are more common in the Middle East)--than with such women. They attacked me (that is Lawrence). G. said of course Lawrence didn't deny the charge exactly. However, you remember he describes in one of his books being beaten by a Turk when he wouldn't submit to his advances.

I want to take my son and go to Middle East sometime and see the young Hussein. Feisal died of TB. Highly sensitive; health apparently very bad.

When Summerall was in Hawaii in WWI, he and Nimitz worked out a plan for defense. They said no capital ship should stay in Pearl Harbor over night. Roosevelt ordered the Pacific fleet in there for some time. Japs sent enough to hit it. I had McCormick send Jack Thompson down to the Citadel to interview Summerall. They never did print this. (Jack Thompson a good man; you should ask him about this).

I think Marshall Plan has grown into a monster. Some foreign aid necessary, but this is entirely overdone.

I am completely against the draft. We should reduce the ground forces more. They are horse and buggy. There's probably no place for ground troops. They are keeping ground troops in countries where they are not useful. Russia can overrun them any time they want to. They say it encourages NATO members.

It is disrupting the lives of young men. I have recommended a raise in pay. The more you reduce the services the less use you have for generals. Secy Wilson was right in suggesting they not wear the uniform.

McCormick a patriot. But he had an interesting background.

He was not wanted. His mother and father put him off in school. Medill was the one they pushed. Sent McCormick to an English school where he was miserable and thought he was badly treated. Never forgave the British. Didn't like Groton. I tried to get him to give them some money once. He said not a damn cent. May have influenced views against East. But he loved this area. Liked to think of himself as expert on military things. Had limited military knowledge but he wanted to be recognized. His mother was an alcoholic.