

GEORGE C. MARSHALL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

COLLECTION SUMMARY SHEET

COLLECTION: SEXTON (WILLIAM THADDEUS) COLLECTION  
ACCESSION NUMBER: 4  
DONOR: William T. Sexton  
DATE OF GIFT: unknown  
SIZE: 1.35 cubic feet/3 document boxes  
INCLUSIVE DATES: 1939-1944

BIOGRAPHICAL AND SUBJECT SUMMARY:

WILLIAM THADDEUS SEXTON (1901- ) graduated from the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, in 1924 and was commissioned a second lieutenant. In 1939 he authored the book, Soldiers in the Sun. From 1940-1944 Sexton served as Assistant Secretary and Secretary in the Office of the Chief of Staff. Sexton worked his way through the ranks until he was promoted to major general in 1955. During his career, he was decorated with such honors as; the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Legion of Honor, the Croix de Guerre (France), the Order of Bogdan (U.S.S.R.), and the Order of Liaquat (Iran).

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION AND ARRANGEMENT:

These papers span the years 1939-1944 and deal mainly with Sexton's terms as Assistant Secretary and Secretary in the Office of the Chief of Staff. The papers are arranged in five series: correspondence; memoranda; reports; drafts of speeches and statements; and miscellany. The correspondence includes letters to or from Marshall, Sexton or Secretary of War Stimson. The memoranda are between Marshall, Sexton and other staff members. The series of reports includes such topics as U.S. Military strength and organization. Drafts of speeches and statements by Marshall cover various topics pertinent to defense and the war effort.

RESTRICTIONS: None

LOCATION: Vault-Upper Level

COLLECTION REGISTER AVAILABLE: Yes

Mss  
4

SEXTON (WILLIAM THADDEUS) 1901- . PAPERS, 1939-1944. 3 boxes/1.35 cubic feet.

Chronology

1901, September 3      Born in Leavenworth, Kansas, the son of James William and Fannie (Davis) Sexton.

1918-1919              Attended University of Kansas.

1924                    Graduated from United States Military Academy, West Point and was commissioned second lieutenant.

1930                    Attended Field Artillery School.

1934                    Attended Signal School.

1939                    Soldiers in the Sun published.

1940                    Attended Command and General Staff School, and was made Assistant Secretary, Office of the Chief of Staff.

1943-1944              Secretary, Office of the Chief of Staff.

1950                    Married Mary Forester Lewis.

1951                    Attended Parachute School.

1955                    Promoted to major general.

Decorations:

Legion of Merit  
Bronze Star with three Oak Leaf Clusters  
Legion of Honor  
Croix de Guerre (France)  
Order of Bogdan (U.S.S.R.)  
Order of Liaquat (Iran)

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of William Thaddeus Sexton span the years 1939-1944, and primarily concern the years (1940-1944) which Sexton served as Assistant Secretary and Secretary in the Office of the Chief of Staff. The papers are arranged into five series: correspondence; memoranda; reports; drafts of speeches and statements; and miscellany.

The CORRESPONDENCE, 1939-1944, is divided into three sub-series. The general correspondence, which is arranged alphabetically by correspondent, consists mainly of outgoing letters from Marshall or Sexton, with an occasional incoming letter included. The most common topics are; offers of service, requests for commissions, invitations, requests for information of relatives, requests for favors, information on benefits to relatives, and retirement congratulations. The Secretary of War correspondence, which is arranged chronologically, consists mainly of letters giving military information or concerning administrative duties. The categorical correspondence includes distinct segments of correspondence on the following matters: replies to requests for Marshall's autograph; explanations of policy concerning the sale of liquor on military posts; birthday greetings from Marshall; letters from Sexton concerning his trip to North Africa; and letters between Sexton and the commanding officer of Ft. Bragg concerning Sexton's trip there. The first four categories are arranged alphabetically by correspondent and the final category is arranged chronologically.

The MEMORANDA, 1939-1943, are divided into four sub-series. The first three sub-series are arranged by memo writer: Marshall, Sexton, and other staff. These sub-series are further divided by memo recipient and are arranged chronologically thereunder. The fourth sub-series consists of miscellaneous interoffice notes which were, at one time, attached to correspondence.

The series of REPORTS pertain to the war effort and national defense. There are reports on; Reserve limitations, testing of the General Grant tank, army organization and Soviet requests for military aid.

The fourth series consists of DRAFTS OF SPEECHES AND STATEMENTS, 1939-1943 which are arranged chronologically. The items in this series are generally radio broadcasts, speeches before audiences, or testimonies before congress made by Marshall. The topics of the broadcasts and speeches usually concern national defense, military preparedness for war, or the need for strength in the war effort. The testimonies before congress treat the extension of the Selective Service Act, and the transfer of construction activities from the Quartermaster Corps to the Corps of Engineers.

The last series, MISCELLANY, 1941-1942 contains three items. The first is a press release of a statement for congress by President Roosevelt outlining United States relations with Japan from World War 1 to the attack on Pearl Harbor. It is dated December 15, 1941. The second item is a record of the distribution of the Joint Combined Chiefs of Staff Papers following the Arcadia Conference in January 1942.

The last item is a transcript of an interview conducted by Sexton of Captain D. J. Gause concerning the latter's escape from the Philippine Islands upon their surrender to the Japanese in 1942.

Presented by William T. Sexton, (presentation date unknown). Accession number 4.

M. Puglisi (JMU intern) - J. Jacob  
3 July 1980

## Container List

Box    Folder

### CORRESPONDENCE

#### General, 1939-1944

|   |    |   |
|---|----|---|
| 1 | 1  | Abbott-American Legion                      |
|   | 2  | American Women's Voluntary Services-Apperly |
|   | 3  | Appleman-Bechtold                           |
|   | 4  | Beck-Boyd                                   |
|   | 5  | Boyer-Calton                                |
|   | 6  | Cammerer-Clark                              |
|   | 7  | Clemens-Crimmins                            |
|   | 8  | Crittenberger-Danford                       |
|   | 9  | Daniel-Dear                                 |
|   | 10 | Delameter-Dillingham                        |
|   | 11 | Dingell-Downey                              |
|   | 12 | Doyle-Dunbar                                |
|   | 13 | Dunford-Edison                              |
|   | 14 | Edmiston-Erickson                           |
|   | 15 | Erskine-Fergus                              |
|   | 16 | Ferguson-Forbes                             |
|   | 17 | Ford-Franklin                               |
|   | 18 | Freeman, Douglas S.                         |
|   | 19 | Freeman-Fuqua                               |
|   | 20 | Galleher-Gelles                             |
|   | 21 | George-Godwin                               |
|   | 22 | Gokhale-Grace                               |
|   | 23 | Graham-Griffin                              |
|   | 24 | Griffis-Hadden                              |
|   | 25 | Hadzsits-Harden                             |
|   | 26 | Harness-Harrison                            |
|   | 27 | Harter-Hayes                                |
|   | 28 | Haynes-Heysinger                            |
|   | 29 | Heywood-Hoeppel                             |
|   | 30 | Hoffman-Holmes                              |
|   | 31 | Holsteen-Hulcomb                            |
|   | 32 | Hume-Irvin                                  |
|   | 33 | Isenberg-Johnson, Hiram                     |
|   | 34 | Johnson, James-Kantor                       |
|   | 35 | Karp-Kee                                    |
|   | 36 | Keehn, Roy D. (General & Mrs.)              |
|   | 37 | Keith-King, E. P. (Mrs.)                    |
|   | 38 | King, Ernest-Kuter                          |
|   | 39 | Labor, Secretary of-Langdon                 |
|   | 40 | Langley-Lee, Emory                          |
|   | 41 | Lee, Josh-Lesko                             |
|   | 42 | Lessnick-Long, Lee                          |
|   | 43 | Long, James-Lyman                           |

Container List (continued)

Box    Folder

|   |       |  |
|---|-------|--|
|   |       | General, 1939-1944   |
| 1 | 44    | Lyon-McClure   |
|   | 45    | McConkey-McNulty   |
|   | 46    | McSweeney-Mansfield  |
|   | 47    | Markham-Martin, Charles  |
|   | 48    | Martin, Edward-Mosby-Coleman   |
|   | 49    | Moss-Murphy, Frank   |
|   | 50-51 | Murphy, Frank  |
|   | 52    | Murphy, R. V.-Olson  |
|   | 53    | O'Mahoney-Parker, Emerson  |
|   | 54    | Parker, Fitzgerald-Parsons   |
| 2 | 1     | Patrick-Peavehouse   |
|   | 2     | Peek-Phelps  |
|   | 3     | Phillips-Plumney   |
|   | 4     | Poch-Powell  |
|   | 5     | Powers-Rigney  |
|   | 6     | Robinett-Shoposhnikov  |
|   | 7     | Sharp-Stevenson  |
|   | 8     | Stewart-Thomas, Elmer  |
|   | 9     | Thomas, John-Tracy   |
|   | 10    | Trammell-Van Swearingen  |
|   | 11    | Vanture-Wagner   |
|   | 12    | Wainwright-Wareing   |
|   | 13    | Warner-Wells   |
|   | 14    | Wemyss-White, Thomas   |
|   | 15    | White, William-Williams, James   |
|   | 16    | Williams, Roger-Wise, I. H.  |
|   | 17    | Wise, Jennings-Wright  |
|   | 18    | Wyllie-Younger   |
|   | 19    | Zacher-Zinser  |
|   | 20-22 | Secretary of War, 1940-1943  |
|   |       | Categorical  |
|   | 23    | Answers to Requests for Autographs, 1942-1943  |
|   | 24    | Re: Sale of Liquor on Military Posts, 1943   |
|   | 25    | Birthday Greetings from Marshall, 1942-1943, Baruch-McIntyre                         |
|   | 26    | Birthday Greetings from Marshall, 1942-1943, McNarney-Wells                          |
|   | 27    | Letters from Sexton on Return from North Africa, 1943 February,<br>Andrews-Gruenther |
|   | 28    | Letters from Sexton on Return from North Africa, 1943 February,<br>Hartle-Wells      |
|   | 29    | Re: Trip (November 4, 1942) to Ft. Bragg, 1942 October 30-<br>1942 November 9        |

Container List (continued)

Box    Folder

MEMORANDA

|   |       |                                 |
|---|-------|---------------------------------|
| 2 | 30-31 | Marshall<br>To Staff, 1939-1942 |
|   | 32-38 | Sexton<br>General, 1940-1943    |
|   | 39-44 | To Marshall, 1940-1943          |
|   | 45    | Briefs, 1940                    |
|   | 46    | Staff<br>General, 1940-1943     |
|   | 47-48 | To Marshall, 1940-1942          |
|   | 49    | To Sexton, 1941-1943            |
|   | 50    | Inter-Office Notes, 1941-1942   |

3        1        REPORTS

DRAFTS OF SPEECHES AND STATEMENTS

|    |  |
|----|--|
| 2  | National Organization for War, 1939 December 28                  |
| 3  | National Defense, 1940 February 16                               |
| 4  | National Defense, 1940 June 19                                   |
| 5  | Field Maneuvers, 1940 August 5                                   |
| 6  | Selective Service System, 1940 September 16                      |
| 7  | Army Morale and Discipline, 1940 October 20                      |
| 8  | Army Preparations, 1940 November 29                              |
| 9  | Pan-American Aviation Day, 1940 December 17                      |
| 10 | Restrictions on Reserve Components, 1940?                        |
| 11 | Army Preparations, 1941 January 7                                |
| 12 | Defense of Western Hemisphere, 1941 January 14                   |
| 13 | Army Day, 1941 March 5   |
| 14 | West Point Anniversary, 1941 March 15                            |
| 15 | News Conference, Army Preparation, 1941 April 17                 |
| 16 | Army Preparation, 1941 April 29                                  |
| 17 | Welfare Organizations, Citizens' Roles, 1941 May 2               |
| 18 | Trinity College, 1941 June 15                                    |
| 19 | Commissioning Officers, Before Senate Committee, 1941 July 9     |
| 20 | Dedication of Chapel, Arlington, 1941 July 27                    |
| 21 | American Legion Convention, 1941 September 15                    |
| 22 | Address to Officer Candidate School Graduates, 1941 September 27 |
| 23 | Engineer Corps, Before House, 1941 September 30                  |
| 24 | Jewish High Holy Day and New Year, 1941 September                |
| 25 | Navy Tribute, 1941 October 27                                    |

Container List (continued)

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder</u> |   |
|------------|---------------|---|
| 3          | 26            | Civilian Defense Week, 1941 November 11   |
|            | 27            | Enlistments, 1941 November 13   |
|            | 28            | Venereal Disease, 1941 November 14  |
|            | 29            | Air Force Organization, 1941  |
|            | 30            | Maintenance of Enlistment, Before Congress, 1941                                |
|            | 31            | Limitations on Reserves and National Guard, 1941?                               |
|            | 32            | Aid to Britain, Bill 1776, 1941?  |
|            | 33            | Coastal Defense, 1942 March 5   |
|            | 34            | Engineer Corps, Before Senate, 1942 September 22                                |
|            | 35            | Extension of Draft, Before House Military Affairs Committee,<br>1942 October 14 |
|            | 36            | Marine Corps Anniversary, 1942 November 7                                       |
|            | 37            | Christmas, 1942   |
|            | 38            | M4 Medium Tank Training, 1942?  |
|            | 39            | War Bonds, 1943 September 23  |
|            | 40            | Manpower in War, n.d.   |
|            | 41            | Message to Women of America, n.d.   |
|            | 42            | Industry Defense Workers, n.d.  |

MISCELLANY

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 43 | Press Release, President Roosevelt, Summary of Japanese Relations, 1941 December 15 |
| 44 | Record of Distribution of J.C.C.S. Papers, 1942 January                             |
| 45 | Interview, D. J. Gause, Escape from Philippine Islands, 1942                        |