

EDMUND C. WADDILL COLLECTION

Introduction

The Edmund C. Waddill Collection consists of class notes, memos, a yearbook, maps, and orders, most all of which deal with Waddill's career as a military officer during World War I, and later as a professor of military science. The collection contains 231 pieces, filed in twelve folders, contained in one document box. The items were donated by Waddill's step-daughter, Miss Ida May Esmond, in 1968.

There are no restrictions in the use of the collection.

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Biographical Sketch

Edmund C. Waddill, distinguished member of an old Virginia family whose roots lie deep in the 1600's, is of French Huguenot and early American origin. He was born on July 11, 1883, in Richmond, Virginia, and the son of Judge Edmund Waddill, Jr., and Alma Conway (Mitchell) Waddill. His early school days were spent in Miss Nolley's private school and later with a tutor. When ready for college he entered Virginia Military Institute at Lexington, where he graduated in 1903 with a degree in Civil Engineering. Several years later, he took advanced courses in Infantry School and attended Command and General Staff School in 1926. He was married on March 15, 1922, to Elizabeth Archer Esmond of Austin, Texas, who was the mother of one daughter, Ida May Esmond.

Colonel Waddill spent two years, 1903-1905, as a Civil Engineer in Norfolk, after which time he was commissioned Second Lieutenant in the United States Army, serving in the Philippine Islands, 1905-1907, and again in 1910-1912. His military record reads like an adventure story. In 1914 he served in the occupation of Vera Cruz, Mexico; was an instructor and Inspector in the Maryland National Guard, 1915-1917; on September 2, 1917, in the early days of World War I, he sailed for France with the 23rd Infantry, 2nd Division. There he was Instructor in Tactics, First and Second Corps School, from October 1917 to March 1918. He rejoined the 23rd Infantry in March 1918 and served continuously at the front until the Armistice, in action on battle lines in the Troyon, Verdun, Toul, and Pont-a-Mousson sectors. He participated in the Chateau Thierry defensive, Soisson offensive, and Saint Mihiel offensive as a major, 23rd Infantry, 2nd Division; and the Meuse-Argonne offensive as Lieutenant Colonel, 357th Infantry, and Adjutant, 179th Brigade, 90th Division. He also served with the Army of Occupation in Germany as Colonel, 358th Infantry, 90th Division, until June 1919 when he was returned to the United States. He was then assigned to Fort Slocum in New York, 1919-1920; from there to duty in the 2nd Division at Camp Travis, Texas, 1921-1922. In 1923-1925, he was Assistant Professor of Military Science and Tactics, University of California. After training in the Command and General Staff School, 1925-1926, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, he was assigned to the 9th Corps Area Staff from July 1926 to January 1931 as Officer in charge of the Reserve Officers Training Corps, which included the states of California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, and Nevada. He was recruiting officer, North Carolina District, January 1931 to November 1933; was then made Executive Officer, 34th Infantry, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, 1933-1935; from there he was transferred to Tientsin, China, as Lieutenant Colonel and Colonel, 15th Infantry, 1935 to date of retirement, March 1, 1936, for disability in line of duty.

He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Social fraternity, the American Legion, Sons of American Revolution, Charlotte Country Club, and Princess Anne Country Club. He was Co-Ordinator for Civilian Defense for the Virginia Beach and Princess Anne County area from 1936 to February 1942. Colonel Waddill holds the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary

heroism in action near Chateau Thierry and Soisson, France, in 1918; the French Croix de Guerre with gilt star "for distinguished gallantry in the attack on Vaux-Castille and Vierzy," recommended with a citation from the Commanding General, 20th French Army Corps. He was also given a citation from his Commander-in-Chief, General John H. Pershing for "Conspicuous service as Adjutant, 179th Brigade, American Expeditionary Forces," for which he was awarded the Purple Heart Decoration with an Oak Leaf Cluster on April 19, 1919, for wounds received in action.

Colonel Waddill was a member of the Presbyterian Church. His hobbies have included home projects, horesback riding, swimming, fishing, dogs, birds, and travel. He died 1964.

[Information taken from: Morton, Richard Lee. Virginia Lives by The Old Dominion Who's Who. Hopkinsville, Kentucky: Historical Record Association, 1964.]

Waddill(Edmund`C.)Collection

Inventory

Box 1

- F-1 Copy of Advanced Officer's Course (1922-23) on the first phase of the Meuse Argonne Offense, Ft. Benning, Ga. (32)
 - F-2 Letter from F.B. Hayne- 1968 and class notes under heading: Preparation of Map Problem and Field Maneuver. Ft. Leavenworth, Kn. (34)
 - F-3 Papers concerning Detached Corps- Command and General Staff course, Ft. Leavenworth. (46)
 - F-4 Attack orders for Command and General Staff Course, Ft. Leavenworth. (83)
 - F-5 Notes on Leavenworth or "Art of War without Tears" (4)
 - F-6 The Horseshoe, Class of 1926 yearbook, Command and General Staff School, Ft. Leavenworth, Kn. (1)
 - F-7 Special Order No. 51, proceedings-board of officers from Captain A.P. Sullivan; memorandum to Ft. George G. Meade, Md. January 13-March 2, 1934 (6)
 - F-8 CWA work projects, Ft. George G. Meade December 15, 1933 (25)
 - F-9 Cross Reference Sheets for oversize material (2)
 - F-10 Biography of Edmund Waddill
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- F-1 Road map, Leavenworth, Valley Falls
 - F-2 Map of Tientsin, China