MARBHALL IN

30 OBJECTS
Strategic Vision for Emerging Leaders
MARSHALL IN
30 OBJECTS

Curator: Cathy DeSilvey

Exhibition Design: Glen Carpenter
Themes explored in this exhibit include:

Military and Civilian Leadership

Items on display include correspondence about his opinion on voting, his support of the Tuskegee Aviation program, the Women’s Army Corps, the five-star rank, and his speech to the Harvard Alumni Association, known as the “Marshall Plan” speech.

Reverence toward the Virginia Military Institute

Marshall credited VMI as the institution that gave him his strident belief in the citizen-soldier, and personally, the base from which he was able to become one of America’s greatest leaders. VMI also has recognized Marshall as its most accomplished graduate by dedicating Marshall Arch and the bronze statue on Post. Images and information are on display.
Importance of work-life balance

Marshall realized that in order to be productive and focused it was important to relax and enjoy oneself outside of work. Marshall read and was an avid fisherman and a devoted equestrian. Items never displayed before including his Harnell fishing rod, loaned from the George C. Marshall International Center, and the Pariani saddle he purchased in 1930.

Tributes to Marshall

Though Marshall did not want or need recognition for his life’s work, he was still recognized for his strength of character throughout his life, first by his VMI Class of 1901 brother rats, then later by General Pershing, President Truman, Kappa Alpha Order, and the Nobel Prize Committee. Items related to these events are also part of the exhibit.
By solid recommendation of his Virginia Military Institute (VMI) tactical officers, four cadet captains, the adjutant, and the quartermaster, Marshall was named first captain for his final year.

I tried very hard, he said afterward. I was very exacting and very exact in all my military duties as I gradually developed from the mild authority—almost none—exercised by the corporal to the pronounced authority of the first sergeant. Ambition...had set in.
This institution gave me not only a standard for my daily conduct among men, but it endowed me with a military heritage of honor and self-sacrifice.

The cadets of Company A presented this VMI saber to Marshall at graduation.
This weathered briefcase was one of the prized possessions of General George C. Marshall. It traveled with him through most of his career, from World War I until his appointment as Army chief of staff.

Marshall’s handwritten note inside read:

*Dispatch carried by General Marshall from the day of his departure from New York with first (sic) convoy (first division) for France, June 14, 1917 until 1940.*

George C. Marshall Collection
Briefcase, 1917–1940

“U.S. Chief of Staff Prizes Battered Brief Case”
October 11, 1940
Marshall was General John J. Pershing’s aide-de-camp from 1919-1924.

Marshall first attracted Pershing’s attention at Gondrecourt in 1917, when the younger officer vigorously defended the First Division against what he considered the general’s unjust criticisms. Thereafter, Pershing made it a point to talk to Marshall whenever he visited the division.

In 1924, after his time as aide-de-camp was over, Marshall wrote to Pershing and expressed:

*My five years with you will always remain the unique experience of my career. I knew I would treasure the recollection of that*
service, but not until I actually landed here and took up these new duties—not until then did I realize how much my long association with you was going to mean to me and how deeply I will miss it.

Marshall later pinned the insignia on Major Edward C. Applegate at Vancouver Barracks in 1937. Major Applegate said that Marshall was the one who told him: No one ever had an original thought after 3:00 P.M.
Marshall was appalled by the high casualties of World War I caused by what he thought was insufficient training. He was determined to prevent a lack of preparation from costing more lives in future conflicts.

As assistant commandant of the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia, Marshall drew on his World War I experience to change class curriculum from textbook theory to hands-on tactical improvisation. Within a few years Marshall and staff remade the Infantry School into an institution that developed flexible, effective leaders for the modern battlefield. He and his subordinates, some considered nonconformists, overhauled both the method and the content of the instruction at Fort Benning, that developed flexible, effective leaders for the modern battlefield.
He and his subordinates, some considered nonconformists, overhauled both the method and the content of the instruction at Fort Benning. Based on the staff’s recommendations, Marshall advocated a major shift of instructional hours to tactics including an increasing emphasis on mechanized warfare.

From 1927-1932, 200 future generals passed through the school, 150 as students and 50 as instructors including Joseph Stilwell, Omar Bradley, W. Bedell Smith, Matthew Ridgway, and J. Lawton Collins.
In October 1918, General Pershing recommended Marshall for promotion to brigadier general. Congress delayed promotions until after the Meuse-Argonne offensive. When the war ended soon after, so did Marshall’s chances.

Marshall’s lack of upward mobility in the Army nearly led to his choice of a new career. It would be eighteen years before Marshall received the rank which many of his First Division comrades, some once subordinate to him, won through positions of command.

Katherine Marshall gave these stars to Gen. Frank McCarthy. The top of their container has the following written note, presumably in the hand of Mrs. Marshall:
Brigadier General Insignia, 1939

Gen. Marshall’s first stars worn by him so many years ago- May they bring you luck - K.T.M.

Frank McCarthy Collection
Marshall, an avid fisherman, felt very strongly about his recreational time and separating work from leisure. In a letter to Brigadier General Bruce Magruder in 1939, Marshall laid out his philosophy:

I counsel you to make a studied business of relaxing and taking things easy, getting to the office late, taking trips, and making everybody else work like hell.

I woke up at about thirty-three to the fact that I was working myself to death, to my superior’s advantage…From that time on I made it a business to avoid, so far as possible, detail work, and to relax as completely as I could manage in a pleasurable fashion.

Loan courtesy of the George C. Marshall International Center
Marshall was a student of history and recognized the vital importance of historical study for military officers and civilians alike. In 1947, Secretary of State Marshall told Princeton students:

*I doubt seriously whether a man can think with full wisdom and with deep convictions regarding certain of the basic issues today who has not at least reviewed in his mind the period of the Peloponnesian War and the fall of Athens.*

Marshall also read more than just history and war strategies. The library at his home in Leesburg, Virginia is filled with books on a wide variety of topics.

*Loan Courtesy of the George C. Marshall International Center*
Assistant Secretary of the General Staff Walter Bedell Smith, came into Marshall’s office with a representative from the American Bantam Car Company, whose design had been rejected by the heads of several Army departments.

Smith took about three minutes to pitch it and I said, “Well, what do you think of it?” He said, “I think it’s good.” “Well,” I said, “Do it.”

Smith handled the distribution. I remember he sent five, I think, to Fort Knox to the Tank Corps and the chief of the Tank Corps replied that he could give the reply without the test. Smith told him, well, he would have to have the test, that I ordered it. As I recall the incident, two weeks later he asked for 38,000. From that time on, the requests for the jeeps just mounted and
American Bantam Car Company “Jeep,” 1940

and mounted. The Artillery wanted some. Quartermaster, of course, wanted some. All these people who had turned it down all wanted some.
Dear George:

The Woodmont Rod and Gun Club, Woodmont, Maryland, are having their opening dinner on Friday, November 14th, and the first day of hunting on Saturday, the 15th, and am writing to extend an invitation to be with us on this occasion, as I feel two or three days of relaxation would do you a world of good.

Mr. Henry A. Roemer, President of the Pittsburgh Steel Company, is a member of the Club and is the host at the Club, but I am running a special train over the Pittsburgh & West Virginia and Western Maryland, leaving here Friday morning, the 14th, remaining at Woodmont Saturday and Saturday night, and returning on Sunday.

You probably would not care to make the two daylight trips, but if you can come, I would urge you to make at least the trip returning on Sunday, which would enable you to get back to Washington early Monday morning. The ride over the Western Maryland and our railroad is one of the most scenic in the east, and you would not only enjoy the scenery but I am sure you would enjoy the companionship of the party that will be with us.

I am inviting Wendell Willkie, and while he may not be of your political faith, he is certainly 100% for the Administration in connection with its foreign policy and am sure you would enjoy knowing him.

There are always a number of very prominent people attend this affair and have a full day’s shooting on Saturday, including wild turkey, pheasant, and wild duck. I know you would enjoy it.

With best wishes to Mrs. Marshall and yourself, and hoping you may be able to be with us, I remain

Very sincerely,

George C. Marshall
Chief of Staff - United States Army,
Washington, D.C.
September 23, 1941

Dear Charlie:

I wish it were possible for me to accept your tempting invitation to the Woodmont Rod and Gun Club's first shoot of the season on the 15th of November. There is nothing I would like better than to be a member of your party but unfortunately for me, I expect to be in Panama at that time.

Am sure that I would enjoy meeting Wendell Willkie, particularly under such informal and agreeable circumstances, and as to my political faith—I have never voted, my father was a democrat, my mother a republican, and I am an Episcopalian.

Thank you many times for asking me to join you on this alluring outing, I am indeed sorry that I cannot be with you.

Faithfully yours,


Mr. Charles J. Graham
Wabash Building
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

sgc
In February 1939, Marshall asked the Army War College to examine what would be needed to make Brazil and Venezuela safe against Nazi influence. The planners looked to the defense of Central and South America, focusing on the eastward bulge of Brazil at Natal, the most likely spot for the Axis to bridge the Atlantic.

It was decided that Marshall would visit Brazil on the warship Nashville. On the way down Marshall had told his staff that he wanted:

to get from the trip definite ideas as to [Brazil's] military capabilities, its military establishments, the military problems which concern its important ports, its physiography in relation to strategy, its air bases, and the problems with which military aviation is concerned.

That large order appears to have been largely filled. Not only were German designs frustrated – Brazilian Chief of Staff General Goes Monteiro never made his trip to Berlin - but Marshall's mission was able to arrange for American use of airfields in the Natal bulge,
which proved of considerable value in the North African campaign of 1942-43. This image features Marshall wearing the merit badges of Central & South American countries, perhaps as a warning to the Axis that America had already claimed its territory.

Guide:
1st row: Distinguished Service, Silver Star, Philippine Campaign

2nd row: WWI Victory medal, Army of Occupation, American Defense Medal

3rd row: French Legion of Honor, Croix de Guerre, Panamanian Medal La Solidaridad Second Class, Order of Military Merit Grand Cross (Brazil)

4th row: Italian Order of the Crown, Order of Saints Maurice & Lazarus (Italy), Montenegro Silver Star for Bravery, Star of Abdon Calderon (Ecuador)

5th row: Order of the Sun (Peru), Order of Ouissam Alaouit (Morocco), Cuba Military Order of Merit (Other Services), Chilean Order of Merit

Photograph by Otto Bettman, November 1, 1943, used with permission. Getty Images ®
Marshall Wearing Foreign Medals, 1943
General George C. Marshell  
Fort Myer  
Virginis  

Dear General Marshell  

Because of the many demands which were made upon our contributors during the past year, many of them have been forced to reduce their contributions to Tuskegee Institute more than half—some cannot contribute at all.  

We are trying to raise money this Fall to offset this loss. If we can get enough small contributions from old and new friends, they will take the place of large ones. Twenty-five cents or fifty cents or a dollar will help a student here.  

We shall be very grateful for any amount that you may send.  

Yours sincerely  

President  

This letter was typed by a student
October 12, 1943.

Dear Dr. Patterson,

I have received your note of October eighth which indicates the problem facing your School this year. I am inclosing a contribution, and along with it go my best wishes for your success in raising the needed funds to carry on the good work of Tuskegee Institute.

Faithfully yours,

(Sgd) G. C. MARSHALL

Incl.

Dr. F.D. Patterson,
Tuskegee Institute,
Alabama.

 Colonel Frank McCarthy, presenting the bust to VMI on behalf of the donor, E.A. Tracey, referred to General Marshall as a symbol—the highest symbol—of VMI’s participation in the war.

Loan courtesy of the Virginia Military Institute Museum System
Bust of General Marshall, 1943
WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL

6 April 1944

MEMORANDUM ON WOMEN’S ARMY CORPS:

(See distribution)

The constantly increasing shortages in manpower make it imperative for the Army to intensify its efforts to build up the strength of the Women’s Army Corps. A new drive is therefore to be launched which must be strongly supported by all concerned.

The Women’s Army Corps is now an integral part of the Army and a highly essential part of our war effort. Its units have met their responsibilities with efficiency and are rendering an invaluable service. However, reports indicate that there are local commanders who have failed to provide the necessary leadership and have in fact in some instances made evident their disapproval of the Women’s Army Corps. The attitude of the men has quickly reflected the leadership of their commanders, as always.

All commanders in the military establishment are charged with the duty of seeing that the dignity and importance of the work which women are performing are recognized and that the policy of the War Department is supported by strong affirmative action.

[Signature]
Chief of Staff.

CONFIDENTIAL

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED
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This memo was in response to Women’s Army Corps Colonel Oveta Culp Hobby’s increasing concern that the “attitude of soldiers toward women in the military services” was a serious deterrent to recruiting.

Citing a major general’s remark in a national magazine that he “fortunately” had no experience working with the WAC and did not want any ‘Wacs’ in his command, Colonel Hobby noted:

The attitude of the officers and enlisted men in the field will never change to the degree desired as long as key personnel, whose expressions can be assumed to reflect the War Department attitude, make statements such as these.

Later that month, General Marshall directed that a public relations group be formed to depict the W.A.C. program as successful. The Bureau of Public Relations was supplemented by twelve officer grades—six male and six female—to form the W.A.C. Group, headed by Colonel J. Noel Macy. Stories and photographs were to present the Women’s Army Corps as a success, showing the women performing jobs that were necessary to the war effort.
By the time he was at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, Marshall rode ...practically every day. I bought a young horse and trained it. I wanted to learn how to do that.

Marshall, a devoted equestrian, purchased this saddle while in command of the Army School at Fort Benning, Georgia, from noted Italian saddle maker Adolfo Pariani for $35.50. The innovative saddle was designed by Italian Cavalry Captain Federigo Caprilli and required the rider to adapt their movement to the horse and not the other way around, as in classical riding.

*Marshall-Winn Collection*
Pariani Pinerolo
Saddle, 1930
This happens every 3 minutes

STAY ON THE JOB AND GET IT OVER
This controversial propaganda poster required the approval of Army Chief of Staff General George C. Marshall before distribution. Marshall was extremely sensitive about sustaining the morale and energy of civilian industrial workers, and this realistic and shocking image was a reminder for workers not to “let up” or take American military gains for granted.

Recently it has appeared that as our forces have gained positions from which to strike at the heart of Germany and just as they are breaking into the last Japanese outposts, the feeling that an early victory is assured causes certain of our people to relax in the war effort and turn to other considerations.
One of the most iconic “doughboy” photos to come out of World War I depicts a group of American soldiers resting in a church in the French village of Vaux. It was November 5, 1918, a week before the Armistice, and the men were heading toward Sedan. In the image, Howard Brock plays the organ and leads the men in singing Brighten the Corner Where You Are, a traditional church hymn.

The weary men were members of the 317th and 319th Ambulance companies and the 305th Sanitary Train. All were part of the 80th “Blue Ridge” Division, a group composed of men from Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Maryland based at Fort Lee, Virginia.

General John J. Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Forces, said of the original World War I photograph: This picture exemplifies the spirit of the American Soldier and is hereby officially designated as ‘The Spirit of the A. E. F.’
The image was also Marshall’s favorite World War I image. Tired of images of American soldiers shown “drinking and carousing,” he commissioned an oil painting of the reverent photograph to hang in his office at the Pentagon.

George C. Marshall Collection
This steel and gold broadsword was presented to Mussolini on the tenth anniversary of the October 1922 March on Rome, when his National Fascist Party took control of Italy.

Twenty-three years later, as allied forces fought their way into northern Italy, Mussolini was executed by Italian partisans on April 28, 1945. Two days later the U.S. Army’s 10th Mountain Division captured his lakeside villa in a nighttime raid. The sword was one of Mussolini’s personal possessions “liberated” and was given to the commander of the 5th Army, General Lucian Truscott.

He later presented it to General George C. Marshall as a spoil of war. Whereas Mussolini received it to mark the birth of fascism, Marshall received the sword as a symbol of fascism’s defeat.

George C. Marshall Collection
After Secretary of State Marshall received his honorary degree from Harvard University on June 5, 1947, he read carefully worded remarks on the political and economic crisis in Europe.

In what has become known as the “Marshall Plan Speech,” Marshall outlined the need for an economic aid plan to help the devastated nations of Europe and their citizens to recover from the ravages of World War II. Marshall said: *It is logical that the United States should do whatever it is able to do to assist in the return of normal economic health in the world, without which there can be no political stability and no assured peace.* The Secretary of State committed the United States to consider a European recovery plan that would be developed by the Europeans and presented to the United States.

Thus was launched The Marshall Plan, for which George C. Marshall would be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.
As incentive to publish his memoirs, the Overseas Press Club of America presented Marshall with a gold-plated Royal typewriter on March 4, 1949. Marshall enjoyed using the typewriter for personal letters, but was not interested in profiting from stories of his career of public service and never wrote of his wartime experiences.

Directly related to this decision was Truman’s 1953 mandate to establish an archive to collect and preserve Marshall’s papers—the George C. Marshall Foundation.
On May 15, 1951, designated “Marshall Day,” the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) celebrated the fifty-year career of their most accomplished graduate. VMI held a ceremony dedicating the George Catlett Marshall Arch, an entranceway into a new section of the barracks.

Marshall Arch joined two arches named after Generals George Washington and Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson. The program reverently stated: Through the George Catlett Marshall Arch shall march the cadets of today and the future.

Marshall made light of the event later when asked by Pogue if he was ever “made to feel that you were a Yankee at VMI”:

I was “hazed” on my accent up to the day of my graduation. I remember that when I was called on to make a speech at my class dinner honoring the occasion of naming this arch for me, my principal twist that I gave to it was while they were these southern fellows largely, and while they pretty much kept the pressure on me on account of my northern accent and all, I happened to be the one and only one there who had an arch named for him down at the VMI.
The idea for the 5-star rank was first proposed to General Marshall by Admiral King in a message dated November 17, 1942. King wrote: We should also recognize the fact that there is need to prepare for ranks higher than that of Admiral and General.

Marshall later explained his feelings on the matter to Forrest C. Pogue:

I didn’t want any promotion at all. I didn’t need it. I didn’t think I needed that rank and I didn’t want to be beholden to Congress for any rank or anything of that kind. I wanted to be able to go in there with my skirts clean and with no personal ambitions concerned in any way, and I could get all I wanted with the rank I had.

George C. Marshall Collection
These were cast in plaster by American sculptor Bryant Baker in 1957. Baker was most famous for his Pioneer Woman bronze sculpture, located in Oklahoma.

Marshall considered sitting for portraits an impractical use of his time, so these hands are a rare sight. Marshall was known for his “expressive hands,” and Foundation staff have often wondered if it was wife Katherine, or perhaps biographer Forrest C. Pogue, who convinced Marshall to agree to this casting.

Loan Courtesy of the Virginia Military Institute Museum System
Plaster Cast of Marshall’s Hands, 1953
Marshall at the Nobel Prize ceremony in Oslo, December 11, 1953.

AP Photo, used with permission.
On December 11, 1953, George C. Marshall accepted the Nobel Prize for Peace in Oslo, Norway. The award was for the Marshall Plan, but Marshall acknowledged the controversy surrounding the awarding of a peace medal to a professional soldier and said:

I know a great deal of the horrors and tragedies of war. The cost of war in human lives is constantly spread before me, written neatly in many ledgers, whose columns are gravestones. I am deeply moved to find some means or method of avoiding another calamity of war.

Loan Courtesy of James J. Winn, Jr.
Forrest C. Pogue used this Remington Deluxe Noiseless typewriter to write the four-volume biography of George C. Marshall, working from interviews with 300 people who had known or worked with Marshall and over 40 hours of interviews with Marshall himself.

Forrest C. Pogue Collection
Forrest C. Pogue’s Remington Typewriter, 1958-1987

Forrest C. Pogue

Photo courtesy UNT Libraries Special Collections
Bar Set, 1941-1959

This monogrammed silver bar set was a gift to George C. Marshall, who upon moving to Dodona Manor, “re-gifted” the set to his longtime friend Brigadier General Frank McCarthy. Marshall often gave away his possessions to friends and assistants, and was not a collector.

Marshall’s favorite drink was champagne and he was known to enjoy the occasional Old Fashioned. He may have thought this set was a little fancier than what he needed.

Frank McCarthy Collection
From Newsweek, January 2, 1956:

George C. Marshall rejected offers of up to one million for his memoirs. He changed his mind because he found a way to tell his story without embarrassing anyone living and without profiting personally.

Publication will come through the George C. Marshall Research Foundation which will soon set up a library with the general’s private and public papers at his alma mater, the Virginia Military Institute at Lexington, Va.

Our building was dedicated on May 23, 1964, and the final volume of the George C. Marshall Papers was published in July 2017.
George C. Marshall Research Foundation
Marshall received the KA Award for Distinguished Achievement in 1948.
Kappa Alpha Order was founded in 1865 at Washington College in Lexington, Virginia.

At his VMI graduation Marshall was also initiated into Kappa Alpha, as was common, and remained involved until his death in 1959.

The community of Kappa Alpha acted to financially support the creation of the George C. Marshall Foundation, and to house within its walls the official Kappa Alpha War Memorial, dedicated on August 27, 1965. Most recently Kappa Alpha presented the Marshall Foundation with a grant for the conservation of the Kappa Alpha crest.

Gift of Kappa Alpha Order
The only ship named after General George C. Marshall, the USS George C. Marshall was a nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) built during the cold war and used as a nuclear deterrent.
The USS GCM was built by General Dynamics subsidiary Electric Boat at the Newport News Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Company. The submarine traveled the globe, patrolling areas of the Panama Canal, Mediterranean Sea, Caribbean, Holy Loch Scotland, and the Arctic Circle. The USS GCM went on to complete 77 strategic deterrent patrols in her 26 years of service.

At her launching former Secretary of State Dean Acheson described the USS George C. Marshall’s role in the cold war: ...

…the waves set up by this launching will go to the furthest reaches of our foreign relation. Far beyond the Pentagon, the State Department, and the White House she will add a new factor a new magnitude, to the correlation of forces by which the communists determine their decisions.

Gift of USS George C. Marshall Submarine Crew
The Marshall Plan volume is a one-of-kind book compiled at the request of Virginia Congressman J. Vaughan Gary. Congressman Gary served as Chairman of the Special Subcommittee on Foreign Aid of the Committee on Appropriations during the congressional hearings on the European Recovery Program.

In a letter to Forrest C. Pogue, Gary wrote:

_It was my desire to present to the George C. Marshall Memorial Library a complete copy of all the congressional documents touching the Marshall Plan._

_Gift of J. Vaughan Gary_
A seven-foot bronze statue of George C. Marshall, given by alumni of Virginia Military Institute to honor its graduate, was formally dedicated and unveiled on the Parade Ground as part of the Virginia Military Institute’s Founders Day Ceremony on November 11, 1978.

The statue was made possible by funds raised by the VMI Foundation, under the leadership of its then executive vice president, Joseph D. Neikirk.

The statue was designed and created by Augusto Bozzano, well-known Italian sculptor.
The George C. Marshall Foundation would like to express its appreciation to the following contributors who made this exhibit possible:

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Lexington, VA

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Lexington, VA

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