

# **Paul M. Robinett Papers**

## **A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**

**Prepared by Michael J. McElderry and Charles Cooney**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

**Washington, D.C.**

**2012**

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/mss.contact>

**Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2012**

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms012126>

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Paul M. Robinett Papers

**Span Dates:** 1915-1972

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1943-1957)

**ID No.:** MSS38018

**Creator:** Robinett, Paul M. (Paul McDonald), 1893-1975

**Extent:** 3,000 items ; 10 containers ; 4 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Repository:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**Abstract:** Army officer. Personal and official correspondence, writings, military papers, and other material relating to Robinett's career as combat commander, commandant of the Armored Force School of Fort Knox, Ky., and chief, Special Studies Section, Office of the Chief of Military History.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### People

Biddle, William S. (William Shepard), 1900-1981--Correspondence.

Bradley, Omar Nelson, 1893-1981--Correspondence.

Chaffee, Adna Romanza, 1842-1914.

Craig, Malin, 1875-1945--Correspondence.

Frendall, Lloyd R. (Lloyd Ralston), 1883-1963--Correspondence.

Robinett, Paul M. (Paul McDonald), 1893-1975.

Robinett, Paul M. (Paul McDonald), 1893-1975. Armor command; the personal story of a commander of the 13th Armored Regiment, of the CCB, 1st Armored Division, and of the Armored School during World War II. 1958

Streett, St. Clair, 1893-1970--Correspondence.

Vanaman, Arthur W. (Arthur William), 1892-1987--Correspondence.

Ward, Orlando, 1891-1972--Correspondence.

White, Isaac D. (Isaac Davis), 1901- --Correspondence.

### Organizations

Armored Force School (U.S.)

United States. Army--History.

United States. Army. Cavalry--History.

### Subjects

Cavalry--History.

Cold War.

Military education.

Military history.

Military policy.

World politics--1945-1989.

World War, 1939-1945--Africa, North.

World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns--Tunisia.

### Places

Fort Knox (Ky.)--History.

United States--Armed Forces--Armored troops.

United States--History, Military.

United States--Military policy--20th century.

### Occupations

Army officers.

# Administrative Information

## Provenance

The papers of Paul M. Robinett, army officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress by Robinett in 1957-1959 and converted to a gift in 1960. Robinett donated additional material in 1970-1972, and files were added by transfer from the Department of the Army in 1973.

## Processing History

The papers of Paul M. Robinett were processed in 1968 and expanded with an addition in 1975. The finding aid was revised in 2012.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Paul M. Robinett is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Paul M. Robinett are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Paul M. Robinett Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

# Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1893, Dec.19	Born, Mountain Grove, Mo.
1917	B.S., University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo.
1917-1942	Commissioned second lieutenant in the 1st Cavalry, and advanced to brigadier general
1922	Graduated, Cavalry School, Fort Riley, Kans.
1922-1923	Instructor, Cavalry School, Fort Riley, Kans.
1925	Special student, University of Paris, Paris, France
1927-1932	Aide-de-camp to General Malin Craig
1934	Service in Command and General Staff School
1937-1941	Service in General Staff of War Department
1942-1943	Commanding officer, 13th Armored Regiment
1943	Commanding general, Combat Command "B," 1st Armored Division
1944-1945	Commandant, Armored School, Fort Knox, Ky.

1946	Retired from the army
1948-1957	Chief, Special Studies Section, Office of the Chief of Military History
1958	Published <i>Armor Command</i> . [Washington, D.C.]
1975	Died

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Paul McDonald Robinett (1893-1975) span the years 1915-1972, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1943-1957. The collection consists of personal and official correspondence, reading copies and drafts of speeches, research notes, typescript drafts of articles, and the typescript draft of his book *Armor Command*. The periods 1943-1945, when Robinett was combat commander and commandant of the Armored Force School in Fort Knox, Kentucky, and 1948-1957, when he was chief of the Special Studies Section of the Office of the Chief of Military History, are well documented in the collection. The papers are organized by type of material including a large addition received by transfer from the Department of the Army in 1973.

The papers reflect Robinett's interest in military history in general and the history of the cavalry in particular. Although he served the War Department in several capacities, he saved only those papers that might shed light on the functions of the armored divisions in World War II. As commander of the 13th Armored Regiment, and later of Combat Command "B" of the 1st Armored Division, General Robinett participated in several battles in the Tunisian Campaign. The papers, particularly the group of North African notes, are comprehensive for this campaign.

The addition contains correspondence and other material relating chiefly to the period when Robinett served as chief of the Special Studies Section of the Office of the Chief of Military History. Bound volumes of personal papers include speeches and writings relating in part to efforts to upgrade the military's educational system and to research the official military history of World War II. The material reflects Robinett's thinking on political and military strategy during the middle phases of the Cold War period. Also included in these volumes are personal letters and letters of solicitation and congratulation.

A file of general correspondence in the addition contains letters to and from Malin Craig, a friend of long acquaintance for whom Robinett served as aide-de-camp from 1927 to 1932. Summaries of directives to and from Adna Romanza Chaffee concern armored warfare, 1938-1943. There is also an appointment book and diary containing abbreviated notes and remarks entered on a random basis.

Prominent correspondents include William S. Biddle, Omar Nelson Bradley, Malin Craig, Lloyd R. Fredendall, St. Clair Streett, Arthur W. Vanaman, Orlando Ward, and Isaac D. White.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material.

# Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	Personal
BOX 1	1943-1944
BOX 2	1945, Jan.-Aug.
BOX 3	1945, Sept.
BOX 4	General, 1951-1957
BOX 4	Notes
BOX 4	North African notes, 1943-1952
BOX 4	Research
BOX 5	Training
BOX 5	Speeches, 1943-1957, undated
BOX 6	Writings
BOX 6	Articles
BOX 6	“The Battle of Sidi Bou Zid, Tunisia”
BOX 6	“Comments on Kasserine Pass by Martin Blumenson”
BOX 6	French campaigns
BOX 6	“The Strategical Role of Armor”
BOX 6	“Tunisian Campaign”
BOX 6	Miscellaneous
BOX 6	Book, <i>Armor Command</i>
BOX 7	Addition
BOX 7	Personal papers
BOX 7	Vols. 1-4, 1948, July-1952, Nov. 8
BOX 8	Vols. 5-8, 1952, Oct.-1956, Apr.
BOX 9	Vol. 9, 1956, Mar.-1957, May
BOX 9	Vol. 10, general correspondence and printed matter, 1950-1954
BOX 9	General correspondence, 1915, Jan.-1972, Aug.
BOX 9	Memoranda, 1918-1957
BOX 9	Miscellany
BOX 9	Newspaper clippings and printed matter
BOX 9	Notes and fragmented material
BOX 9	Speeches and writings
BOX 9	By Robinett
BOX 9	By others
BOX 10	Appointment book, 1956
BOX 10	Diary journal, 1955