

LESLEY J. McNAIR

A Working Bibliography of MHI Sources

Regrettably, no scholarly study or satisfactory biography of this builder and trainer of the WWII army has yet appeared, probably because of the absence of any substantive body of his personal papers. The Library of Congress does hold a 1,000-some item collection of McNair memorabilia & scrapbooks, but these are reportedly peripheral to his significant contributions. See:

Assembly (Oct 1946): p. 11. Per.
Memorial obituary.

Cullum, George W. Biographical Register of the Officers and Graduates of the US Military Academy...
Boston: Houghton, 1891-1950. U410.H53.
Vol. 5, p. 718; Vol. 6A, pp. 1077-78; Vol. 7, p. 616; Vol. 8, p. 153; Vol. 9, p. 92

Detzer, Karl, editor. The Army Reader. NY: Bobbs-Merrill, 1943. Pp. 85-91. UA25.D44.
Collection of articles from popular magazines & military journals of 1942-43.

Gorman, Paul F. The Secret of Future Victories. Ft Leavenworth: CSI, 1992. ca 250 p. U408.3.G67.
Visionary training as exemplified by Marshall, McNair, DePuy. See Chap 2.

Infantry Journal. Ceremony of Acceptance of the General McNair Plaque, 25 May, 1945, Headquarters, Army Ground Forces, Army War College, Wash, DC/Infantry Journal. Wash, DC: The Infantry Journal, [1945?]. 16 p. U353.I54.

Jacobs, Bruce. "Tensions Between the Army National Guard and the Regular Army." Military Review
(Oct 1983): pp. 5-17. Per.
Explores historic roots.

Kahn, E.J., Jr. McNair: Educator of an Army. Wash, DC: Infantry Journal, 1945. 64 p.
E745.M34.K33.
Tribute with numerous photos.

Kirkpatrick, Charles E. "Lesley J. McNair: Training Philosophy for a New Army." Army History
(1990-91): pp. 11-17. Per.

Kleber, Brooks E. "The Educator of the Army." Army (Jul 1980): pp. 50-54. Per.

_____. "Report of a Board of Officers on Powers and Limitations of Coast Artillery and Air Service." HQ, HI Dept, 1924. 1 vol. U167.R46.

New York Times (28 Jul 1944): pp. 1 & 3 and (3 Aug 1944): pp. 1 & 3. Microfilm.
Earlier issue reports his death by "enemy action." The later one by American bomb.

Palmer, Robert R., et al. The Procurement and Training of Army Ground Forces. In USA WWII series. Wash, DC: Hist Div, Dept of Army, 1948. 696 p. D769.A533v1pt2.
See index.

Shrader, Charles R., editor. Reference Guide to United States Military History, 1919-1945. NY: Facts on File, 1993. pp. 188-89. E181.R44.

Spiller, Roger, editor. Dictionary of American Military Biography. Vol. II. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 1984. pp. 695-99. U52.D53.

Whitaker, John T. "Lieutenant General Lesley James McNair." These Are the Generals. NY: Knopf, 1943. pp. 123-135. D736.T44.
Word portrait originally appearing in Saturday Evening Post.

See also:

- Biographical sketch file.
- Writings by McNair at: U167M2, UA42M31, UG630U43.

ENDNOTE: McNair was killed in Normandy, France, having gone forward to witness firsthand the results of Army Ground Forces training programs. On the morning of 25 Jul 1944, US aircraft dropped bomb loads short of the target area and on US positions, causing about 600 casualties, including the death of General McNair. See:

Blumenson, Martin. Breakout and Pursuit. In USA WWII series. Wash, DC: OCMH, 1961. pp. 234-36. D769.A533v3pt5.

Bradley, Omar N. A Soldier's Story. NY: Holt, 1951. pp. 348-49. D756.B4.

Kahn, E.J., Jr. McNair: Educator of an Army. Wash, DC: Infantry Journal, 1945. pp. 1-2 & 64. E745.M34.K33.

New York Times (28 Jul 1944): pp. 1 & 3, and (3 Aug 1944): p. 1 & 3. Microfilm.

Price, Frank J. Troy H. Middleton: A Biography. Baton Rouge: LSU, 1974. pp. 184-85. U53.M5.P75.