



## General Joseph W. Stilwell Papers, 1901-1946

GOGA 26980



Golden Gate NRA, Park Archives, General Joseph W. Stilwell Papers, GOGA 26980.

**Golden Gate National Recreation Area**  
ATTN: Park Archives and Records Center  
Building 201, Fort Mason  
San Francisco, CA 94123  
[Mailing Address]

**Park Archives and Records Center**  
Presidio of San Francisco  
Building 667 McDowell Ave.  
San Francisco, CA 94129  
[Physical Address]

[www.nps.gov/goga/historyculture](http://www.nps.gov/goga/historyculture)

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Susan Ewing Haley, Park Archivist

# **Introduction**

## **Golden Gate National Recreation Area**

### **Park Description**

Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), a unit of the National Park Service, was established by an Act of Congress on October 27, 1972. The 80,000-acre park encompasses a great diversity of cultural and natural resources in and around the Bay Area of San Francisco, California. It includes Muir Woods National Monument and Fort Point National Historic Site.

The park holds almost five million three-dimensional and documentary artifacts dating from the time before European contact to the present. They are preserved and maintained for the public by the Division of Cultural Resources and Museum Management, which includes the Park Archives and Records Center (PARC).

### **Park Archives and Records Center (PARC)**

#### **Historical Note**

GGNRA and the sites within it have been collecting records since their inception. The PARC was established in 1994 to receive records and archival collections from the U.S. Army and the Presidio Army Museum after the closure of the Presidio of San Francisco as an Army base. The collections continue to grow through the donation of materials by private individuals, transfer of inactive park records by staff, and acquisition of relevant documentary materials.

#### **Scope of Collections**

The archival collections in the custody of the GGNRA document the history and activity of the various sites and groups associated with the park, described in the park's Scope of Collection Statement (2009).

The PARC contains U.S. Army and National Park Service facility records for the Presidio of San Francisco, forts and coast defense sites in the area, and various GGNRA sites. Subjects and sites documented include the United States Army (Bear Flag Revolt, Civil War, Spanish-American War, Mexican War, World War I, Army Air Service, Coast Artillery, Army medical facilities and issues, World War II, Army support during natural disasters, Viet Nam War, and Operation Desert Storm); Alcatraz Island (Army fortress, Army Disciplinary Barracks, U.S. Penitentiary, and Indian Occupation); the natural resources conservation movement resulting in the establishment of Muir Woods National Monument; agriculture in the Marin Headlands; Point Reyes Peninsula and Bolinas Lagoon areas; U.S. Lifesaving/Coast Guard Services; San

Francisco Earthquake and Fire of 1906; Panama Pacific International Exposition of 1915; natural resources and environmental issues; and preservation of open space in the Bay Area. Also included in the PARC are many of the GGNRA administrative records that document the development and expansion of this park.

### **Visiting the PARC for Research**

The PARC is located in an historic brick building, formerly a cavalry stable, on the Presidio of San Francisco. Collections and archives support services are available for walk-in research during open hours or by appointment. Please contact the PARC (see below) for the current schedule of reference hours.

### **Copy Services**

Black and white photocopy services for standard and oversize materials are available on-site. Color photocopying, photographic duplication, and duplication of other media are available by special arrangement. Researchers are charged for all duplicates on a cost-recovery basis.

### **Rights and Publications**

Copies are provided under the Fair Use provisions of the Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.). Researchers must complete a Permission to Publish Contract form with the Park Archivist for any other intended use of these materials (such as publication or exhibit). Researchers should consult with staff regarding their needs for commercial or public use of materials.

### **Legal Status of Holdings**

Many holdings of the PARC were acquired/transferred prior to the establishment of the archives program, and have little documentation on their provenance (source/chain of custody). All materials received after 1994 have been accessioned and documented. If provenance cannot be determined, the PARC assumes that it owns the property rights, but does not own the copyright. Staff will provide assistance, but it is the responsibility of the researcher to acquire permission from the copyright holder to cite, quote, or reproduce collection materials.

Collections developed by or for government organizations or operations are in the public domain and may be used, cited, and quoted without restriction, provided they are properly credited to the PARC. The archives contain no national security classified materials.

### **Donations to the Collections**

The PARC welcomes donations of a variety of historic materials that meet the criteria in the Scope of Collections Statement and do not duplicate existing holdings. Collections are maintained for research use in perpetuity; there is no guarantee that items will be exhibited. If

you own materials that may be relevant to the themes of GGNRA and would like to deposit them in the PARC, please consult with an archivist.

### **How to Use This Finding Aid**

This document contains information on the contents and significance of an archival collection. It includes descriptive information; repository information; collection history; biographical or historical information on creators of the collection; and a container or folder list of everything in the collection. After reviewing the finding aid, please discuss your specific needs with the archivist who will locate and retrieve the relevant materials.

### **How to Use the Collections**

Please follow all rules and regulations regarding research, the use of the research facility, and the handling of collection materials. This will protect the collections so they continue to be available and usable for generations to come. If anything appears to be out of order or damaged, please notify a staff member.

### **Contacts**

For additional information on the use of archival collections at GGNRA, please contact the Park Archives and Records Center:

#### Mailing Address:

National Park Service  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
Attn: Park Archives and Records Center  
Fort Mason, Bldg. 201  
San Francisco, CA 94123

#### Physical Address:

Park Archives and Records Center  
Presidio of San Francisco  
Building 667 McDowell Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94129  
Phone: (415) 561-2807  
Fax: (415) 441-1618

## General Joseph W. Stilwell Papers

### Title

General Joseph W. Stilwell Papers

### Dates

1901-1946

### Collection Number

Catalog Number GOGA 26980  
(Accession Number GOGA-1766, GOGA-1902)

### Provenance

The collection was donated to the Presidio Army Museum (PAM) in conjunction by Winifred S. Cox, daughter of General Joseph W. Stilwell, on 6 March 1974, and her sister, Nancy S. Easterbrook in June of 1974, and then acquired by the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) in 1994 when the Presidio of San Francisco was closed and transferred from the U.S. Army to the National Park Service (NPS).



### Volume

42 Items [.7 LF]

### Description

The collection consists of thirty-five [35] photographs depicting Joseph Stilwell as a young cadet at the U.S. Military Academy in 1904; at his wedding at the Presidio of San Francisco in 1910; as a young major in the Army in 1917; at the Second Cairo Conference with Generalissimo Chaing Kai-shek, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill, among others, in 1943; with Generalissimo and Mrs. Chaing Kai-shek at their home; observing maneuvers in the field; at the Japanese Surrender ceremony in the Ryuku Islands, 1945; at a barbeque hosted by his wife at the

Presidio of San Francisco; and at other events at the Presidio in the 1940s. In addition, there are two [2] photographs of Sam Berman cartoons depicting caricatures of General Stilwell.

Also included in the collection is one [1] Holy Bible that General Stilwell received as a gift for his dedication to his men, one [1] copy negative of a program for the Dedication of Stilwell Hall at the Presidio, and three [3] newspaper clippings announcing the death of General Stilwell in 1946, and discussing his career and legacy in 1963.

## **History**

Joseph W. Stilwell was born on 19 March 1883 in Palatka, Florida and was known as Warren to his immediate family. He grew up in New York with his father, Doctor Benjamin Stilwell, and mother, Mary A. Peene. He attended Yonkers High School where he was a quarterback of the football team and attended post-graduate courses. While attending this course, he went through a rebellious phase—running with a group of friends that played cards and stole desserts from high school functions; the former event culminated in the punching of an administrator that led to the expulsion and/or suspension for Stilwell's friends, although he escaped unscathed as he had already graduated.

These escapades prompted Dr. Stilwell to enroll his son in the U.S. Military Academy at West Point instead of the college of his choice, Yale University. Although he missed the deadline to apply for Congressional appointment, Stilwell was awarded entry through the use of family connections that knew President William McKinley. While a cadet at West Point, Stilwell introduced basketball to the academy and was the captain of the cross-country team in addition to playing varsity football. Ever the spirited fellow, he received two demerits for laughing during drill.

In 1904, he graduated 32<sup>nd</sup> in his class and was commissioned as a 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant, stationed in the Philippines until 1906. He returned to West Point where he taught Spanish, French, and English, and coached basketball, baseball, track and football. In 1910, he married Winifred A. Smith, a boarding school classmate of his younger sister, Mary, and was sent back to the Philippines in 1911. He again returned to West Point until U.S. entry into World War I, when he served as an officer in the U.S. 4<sup>th</sup> Intelligence with which he helped to coordinate the St. Mihiel Offensive.

Following the war, he returned to the U.S. having risen to the rank of Colonel and was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for his time in France. He was appointed to study Chinese at the University of California in 1919 in preparation for a station in Tianjin, China, where he served and lived with his family from 1926 through 1929; this



would be the first of three tours in China. Colonel Stilwell was then assigned to command the tactical section of the Infantry School, where he acquired the nickname “Vinegar Joe” from a cartoon drawn by one of his students. From 1935 to 1939 he served as the military attaché to the U.S. Legation in Beijing, followed quickly by an assignment with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division and then the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division at Fort Ord, California; here he was awarded the softer nickname of “Uncle Joe” for his intimate leadership style.

As the U.S. contemplated involvement in World War II, Stilwell was selected to plan and command the Allied invasion of North Africa,

however, he was instead assigned—over his personal objections—to serve as Chief of Staff to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and his old friend, Army Chief of Staff George C. Marshall. In the China-Burma-India Theater, he commanded and was responsible for the Lend-Lease supplies going to China and later was assigned as Deputy Commander of the South East Asia Command. After a series of disagreements with Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek and other key officials, Stilwell was recalled from his command by President Roosevelt. He was promoted to the rank of General and served as the Commander of Army Ground Forces, U.S. 10<sup>th</sup> Army in the Pacific, from 1945 to 1946.

His final appointment was as Commander of the Sixth U.S. Army at the Presidio of San Francisco. On 12 October 1946, General Stilwell died in his sleep following an operation for liver cancer at Letterman General Hospital. After a private funeral, he was cremated and his ashes scattered over the Pacific Ocean; Stilwell’s personal military airplane, assigned to him in Asia, dipped its wing in tribute as it flew over his home, Lianfair, in Carmel, California. During his distinguished career, General Stilwell was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star and the Command Infantryman Badge.

### **Preferred Citation**

“Golden Gate NRA, Park Archives, General Joseph W. Stilwell Papers, GOGA 26980.”

### **Index**

Cairo Conference (1943)

Cartoons and caricatures.  
Chiang Kai-shek, 1887-1975  
Churchill, Winston, 1874-1965  
Egypt  
Marshall, George C. (George Catlett), 1880-1959  
Mountbatten, Louis Mountbatten, Earl, 1900-1979  
Presidio of San Francisco (San Francisco, Calif.)  
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945  
Stilwell, Joseph W. (Joseph Warren), 1883-1946  
Stilwell, Winifred A.  
United States. Army. Sixth  
World War, 1939-1945  
World War, 1939-1945—Surrenders—Japanese.

### **Formats**

Bibles  
Copy photograph  
Copy negative  
Newspaper clippings  
Photograph

### **Processing Information**

Processed by Davis,  
Completed in 1998.  
Re-cataloged by Nicole Meldahl,  
Completed in April 2012.  
Recataloged in December 2012.

## Item List



**Collection Number:** GOGA 26980

**Collection Title:** General Joseph W. Stilwell Papers

Box	Folder	Image #	Item Description
			<b>Series 1: Photographs</b>
1	1	.01	One [1] 8" x 10" black and white portrait (copy print) of Joseph W. Stilwell in U.S. Military Academy Cadet uniform, 1904. With one [1] copy negative.
		.02	One [1] 8" x 10" black and white photograph (copy print) depicting the wedding party of the Joseph W. Stilwell-Winifred A. Smith marriage at the Presidio of San Francisco, 1910. Also has one [1] copy negative.
		.03	One [1] 8" x 10" black and white photograph (copy print) depicting Joseph W. Stilwell as a young Major, 1917. Also has one [1] copy negative.
		.04	One [1] 8" x 10" black and white photograph (copy print) depicting Joseph W. Stilwell as a young Major, 1917. Also has one [1] copy negative.
		.04A	One [1] black and white photograph (copy print) depicting General Stilwell with Generalissimo and Mrs. Chiang Kai-shek, c. 1943.

			Also has one [1] copy negative.
		.04B	One [1] black and white photograph (copy print) depicting General Stilwell with Generalissimo, c. 1943. Also has one [1] copy negative.
		.04C	One [1] black and white photograph (copy print) depicting General Stilwell with Generalissimo and Mrs. Chiang Kai-shek, c. 1943. Also has one [1] copy negative.
		.04D	One [1] black and white photograph (copy print) depicting General Stilwell with Generalissimo and Mrs. Chiang Kai-shek, c. 1943. Also has one [1] copy negative.
		.04E	One [1] black and white photograph (copy print) depicting General Stilwell with Generalissimo and Mrs. Chiang Kai-shek, c. 1943. Also has one [1] copy negative.
		.04F	One [1] black and white photograph (copy print) depicting General Stilwell with Generalissimo and Mrs. Chiang Kai-shek, c. 1943. Also has one [1] copy negative.
		.05	One [1] 8" x 10" black and white photograph (copy print) depicting General Stilwell with President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Generalissimo and Mrs. Chiang Kai-shek, Lord Louis Mountbatten, Prime Minister Winston Churchill and other unidentified officers at the Second Cairo Conference in Egypt, 1943. Also has one [1] copy negative.
		.06	One [1] 8" x 10" black and white photograph (copy print) depicting General Stilwell with Lord Louis Mountbatten at the Second Cairo Conference in Egypt, 1943. Also has one [1] copy negative.
		.07	One [1] 8" x 10" black and white photograph (copy print) depicting General Stilwell, Lord Louis Mountbatten and unidentified officers at the Second Cairo Conference in Egypt, 1943. Also has one [1] copy negative.
		.08	One [1] 8" x 10" black and white photograph (copy print) depicting General Stilwell, Lord Louis Mountbatten, Generalissimo and Mrs. Chiang Kai-shek and other unidentified officers at the Second Cairo Conference in Egypt, 1943. Also has one [1] copy negative.
		.09	One [1] 8" x 10" black and white photograph (copy print) depicting a group of unidentified officers, with General Stilwell seated in the front next to General George C. Marshall. Also has one [1] copy negative.
	2	.09A	One [1] black and white photograph (copy print) depicting General Stilwell with an unidentified officer smoking a pipe. Also has one [1] copy negative.
		.09B	One [1] black and white photograph (copy print) depicting General Stilwell and unidentified officers observing maneuvers in the field. Also has one [1] copy negative.
		.09C	One [1] black and white photograph (copy print) depicting General Stilwell and unidentified officers observing maneuvers in the field. Also has one [1] copy negative.

		.09D	One [1] black and white photograph (copy print) depicting Japanese surrender in the Ryuku Islands, September 1945. Also has one [1] copy negative.
		.09E	One [1] black and white photograph (copy print) depicting Japanese surrender in the Ryuku Islands, September 1945. Also has one [1] copy negative.
		.10	One [1] 8" x 10" black and white Signal Corps photograph depicting General Stilwell and an unidentified officer proceeding past the 6 <sup>th</sup> Army Color Guard and followed by members of the 6 <sup>th</sup> Army Band at the Presidio of San Francisco, 1946. Also has one [1] copy negative.
		.10A	One [1] black and white photograph (copy print) depicting General Stilwell. Also has one [1] copy negative.
		.11	One [1] 8" x 10" black and white photograph (copy print) depicting a candid image of General Joseph W. Stilwell, 1946. Also has one [1] copy negative.
		.12	One [1] 8" x 10" black and white photograph (copy print) depicting a candid image of General Joseph W. Stilwell, 1946. Also has one [1] copy negative.
		.13	One [1] 8" x 10" black and white photograph (copy print) depicting General Joseph W. Stilwell, 1946. Also has one [1] copy negative.
		.14	One [1] 8" x 10" black and white photograph (copy print) depicting a candid image of General Joseph W. Stilwell laughing, 1946. Also has one [1] copy negative, and one [1] cropped enlargement of his face.
		.14A	One [1] black and white portrait (copy print) of General Stilwell, c. 1946. Also has one [1] copy negative.
		.14B	One [1] black and white portrait (copy print) of General Stilwell, c. 1946. Also has one [1] copy negative.
		.15	One [1] 7.5" x 9.25" black and white photograph depicting wounded soldiers with Mrs. Winifred Stilwell, 1946.
		.16	One [1] 8" x 10" black and white photograph depicting Mrs. Winifred Stilwell hosting an outdoor barbeque, at which General Joseph W. Stilwell is eating with other soldiers, 1946.
		.17	One [1] 8" x 10" black and white photograph depicting Mrs. Winifred Stilwell hosting an outdoor barbeque, at which General Joseph W. Stilwell is eating with other soldiers, 1946.
		.18	One [1] 8" x 10" black and white photograph depicting General Joseph W. Stilwell as he is served by his wife, Winifred, at an outdoor barbeque, 1946.
		.19	One [1] 8" x 10" black and white photograph depicting Mrs. Winifred Stilwell and a young soldier grilling hamburger patties at an outdoor barbeque, 1946.
		.20	One [1] 8" x 10" black and white photograph depicting Mrs. Winifred Stilwell hosting an outdoor barbeque, at which General Joseph W. Stilwell is eating with other soldiers, 1946.

		.21	One [1] 8" x 10" black and white photograph depicting soldiers playing cards at an outdoor barbeque hosted by Mrs. Winifred Stilwell, 1946.
			<b>Series 2: Papers</b>
	3	.22	One [1] black and white photograph (copy print) of a Sam Berman cartoon depicting General Stilwell, 1944. Also has one [1] copy negative.
		.23	One [1] black and white photograph of a Sam Berman cartoon depicting General Stilwell, 1944. Also has one [1] copy negative.
			One [1] black and white photograph (copy print) of a program for the Dedication of Stilwell Hall. Also has one [1] copy negative.
			One [1] clipping, San Francisco Chronicle, "'Vinegar Joe' and the '--- Little Dummy'" by Seymour Korman, 3 March 1963.
2 (20x24)	1		One [1] clipping, front page of The San Francisco News, "Stilwell Dead," 12 October 1946.
			One [1] clipping, "General Stilwell Dies: Sixth Army Commander Succumbs at 12:48 P.M.—Funeral is Private; Ashes to Be Scattered Over the Sea at Carmel"
3			One [1] "The Holy Bible containing the Old and New Testaments translated out of the Original Tongues being the version set forth A.D. 1611 Compared with the Most Ancient Authorities and Revised A.D. 1881-1885" (NY: Thomas Nelson & Sons, 1901). The front cover is embossed "Joseph W. Stilwell" in gold, and a plate on the front page reads, "This volume is presented to Joseph W. Stilwell In Memory of the One who greatly desired to promote the happiness and spiritual welfare of the Young Officers of the U.S. Army and Navy." [PAM 657

**Processing Information (internal use only)**

(April 2012) The photographs and newspaper clippings were accreted to the previously cataloged GOGA 26980: Stilwell Bible and re-cataloged, increasing the volume from Item to 25 Items / .7 LF. To date, there are still photographs and other items inventoried in the original donation list which, if found, should be accreted to this collection as well; see the PAM Donor Files for Winifred S. Cox and Nancy S. Easterbrook for a complete listing of known items.

(December 2012) The collection was recataloged after materials in GOGA 35256, the PAM Negative Collection, were identified with Stilwell and accreted, increasing the volume from 25 Items / .7 LF to 42 Items / .7 LF. One [1] duplicate copy negative was weeded.