



Momentous Times At Marshall

Editor's note: Today, we're bringing you two intertwined stories that relate to a significant milestone in the history of the George C. Marshall Foundation.

An event in June at the foundation marked the completion of the Marshall Papers project that was begun in 1977 to create the written record of George C. Marshall's life, career and times, specifically more than 50 years in service to his country. The Marshall Papers were produced primarily for scholars.

Seeing the conclusion of the Papers project approaching, Marshall Foundation officials began the Marshall Legacy Series in early 2015 to extend Marshall's legacy more broadly and give the highlights and examples of it a popular appeal with its many events and programs.

Frank Settle, who taught at both Virginia Military Institute and Washington and Lee University, talked at the Marshall Foundation last August on the 70th anniversary of the dropping of the first bomb on Hiroshima as a part of the Legacy Series sequence on the "Weapons of War."

Settle is the author of the new book, "George C. Marshall and the Atomic Bomb," reviewed here by Matt Paxton, publisher of The News-Gazette.

Settle will talk again at the Marshall Foundation Aug. 4 about the race to develop the atomic bomb, also as part of the Legacy Series, and sign copies of his book that attendees can purchase in the shop that evening. Reservations for that event can be made by calling 463-7103, ext. 138.

MARSHALL PAPERS PROJECT WRAPS UP

Vol. 7 Covers Last Decade Of His Life

The George C. Marshall Foundation this spring released volume seven of "The Papers of George Catlett Marshall." Publication of volume seven concludes the multi-year, multi-award-winning documentary editing project that details the official written record of one of the most influential Americans of all time.

"Even today George Marshall's portrait graces many walls in Washington, serving as an inspiration for leaders from administration to administration. The publication of this volume, and indeed of the entire seven volumes, reminds us again of why he was so important to our country and would order them and now," said Dr. Rob Havers, president of the Marshall Foundation.

"Marshall is a key figure during many of the world events of the first half of the 20th century. These papers, now concluded, and the recently begun Marshall Legacy Series that complements the Papers project present Marshall's greatness for all to understand and appreciate," he added.

The seventh volume, "The Man of the Age," dated Oct. 1, 1949, to Marshall's death on Oct. 16, 1959, covers the final years of Marshall's life when he served as secretary of defense from September 1950 to September 1951 following a year as American Red Cross president and other periods when the so-called retired Marshall was still very active publicly.

Dramatic swings in fortune for U.S. and U.N. forces in Korea consumed him as defense secretary, yet Europe remained Marshall's strategic focus and with it the establishment of a NATO military command, efforts to convince the French to accept German rearmament, congressional approval for a major U.S. military buildup, and a Mutual Security Program for America's allies. Marshall also participated in the decision to relieve Gen. Douglas MacArthur in Korea, an action that sparked public uproar and a Senate investigation.

In 1953 he led the U.S. delegation to the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II and then became the first professional soldier to win the Nobel Peace Prize, which is a tribute to the Marshall Plan. Through it all, he maintained an extensive correspondence with national and international leaders. When he died on Oct. 16, 1959, Marshall was hailed by many as the nation's greatest soldier-statesman since George Washington.



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE George C. Marshall (left), along with President Harry Truman (second from left) reviews the Armed Forces Day Parade in Washington, D.C., on May 19, 1951. (all photos courtesy of the George C. Marshall Foundation)



MARSHALL FOUNDATION President Rob Havers holds up Volume 7 of "The Papers of George Catlett Marshall" during an event last month celebrating the conclusion of the project. The project was begun under the leadership of the late Dr. Larry Bland (seen in inset).

U.S. secretaries of defense and other high ranking civilian and military leaders who followed remain respectful of the Marshall legacy and all that he accomplished.

"But, more often than not, on the big things — those that really mattered — Marshall's strategic vision yielded profound wisdom: about his country, about the world, about the nature of man," said Secretary of Defense Robert Gates in 2009 when receiving the Marshall Foundation Award in Washington.

"In the immediate aftermath of World War I, he knew already that the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month signified only an interlude

between great and furious storms. So he started writing down the names of all competent officers he had met in his various posts. Years later, those officers would lead the American Army in World War II.

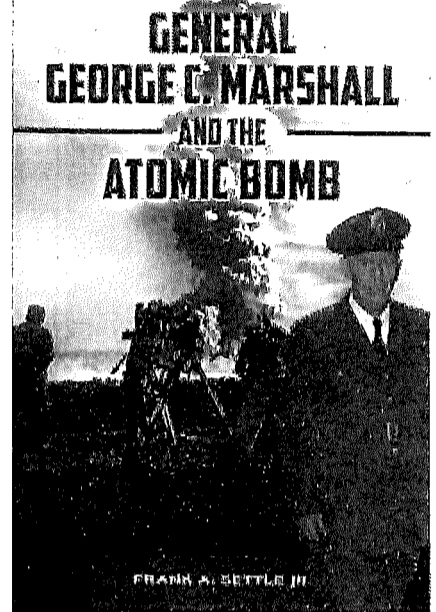
"His foresight was, I believe, rooted in his acceptance of man as a flawed creature, and an international landscape that reflected that stark and unfortunate reality — truths we can still absorb today ... In his willingness to serve America and the world throughout the great travails of the 20th century, George Marshall more than affirmed the purposes to which he devoted himself. And in persisting in this affir-

mation for all his living days, he made of himself an ideal that we should all aspire to emulate," he added.

An event was held on June 23 in the Marshall Library to celebrate the completion of the Marshall Papers project and the work of the current editorial team to conclude the Papers project that were begun by the late Dr. Larry Bland in 1977. Bland and Sharon Stevens, associate editor, completed five volumes. They were working on volume six when he died in 2007. Marshall biographer Mark Stoler was then named the editor and over time assembled most of the team that completed the project.

Publication of "The Papers of George Catlett Marshall" has been supported by grants from National Endowment for the Humanities and National Historic Publications and Records Commission among many generous donors to the project, including the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Andrew Mellon Foundation, the Miller Family Fund, FedEx Corporation, Dr. Scholl Foundation, Furthermore Grants and the J.M. Kaplan Fund, the Ambrose Monell Foundation, BAE Systems, Mark Baruch and the Baruch Family Foundation, Susan and Jack Rudin, May and Samuel Rudin Family Foundation and L.F. "Gerry" and Marguerite Lenfest and the Lenfest Foundation.

As with the first six volumes, the current volume was published by Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore and London. Volume 7 and the other volumes can be purchased in the Marshall Museum Shop or online at www.marshallfoundation.org.



New Book Tells Lesser-Known Story Of Marshall

Settle Explores General's Role In Atomic Bomb

BY MATT PAXTON

Rockbridge area residents are undoubtedly more familiar with Gen. George C. Marshall than most Americans, and much has been written about the man that many regard as one of the greatest public servants of the 20th century. But, occasionally, a book comes out that adds to the understanding of Marshall and his contributions.



An N-G Review

Frank Settle's new book, "General George C. Marshall and the Atomic Bomb," explores Marshall's role as Army chief of staff in the development of the bomb during World War II. After the war as secretary of state and defense, he had a role in determining U.S. policy for the stockpiling and use of the bomb, and in diplomatic efforts to control the spread of atomic weapons.

Marshall's role in the Manhattan Project, which developed and tested the first atomic bomb, was that of overseer and facilitator of the project. He was not involved in the minutia of the technical or managerial issues. Instead, Marshall did what he did best — he identified capable people, vested in them the authority needed to complete the job, and made sure that resources were available and roadblocks removed. He was not a micro-manager.

General Marshall had a gift for recognizing exceptional leaders, and often used his au-

thority to promote them and move them into key positions. He had met then-Maj. Leslie Groves in 1939. Marshall was impressed with Groves, and when Groves was proposed to head the Manhattan Project, Marshall quickly approved the appointment. Groves had an abrasive personality but his organizational skills and ability to manage huge projects were traits shared by Marshall.

Possibly Marshall's most important contribution to the successful outcome of the Manhattan Project involved funding for the project. In early 1944, it became apparent that an additional \$600 million in appropriations was needed — this equates to over \$8 billion today. Marshall, Secretary of War Henry Stimson, and noted scientist Vannevar Bush, head of the Office of Scientific Research and Development, met with Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn and the House majority and minority leaders. Because of the requirement for secrecy, Rayburn told the group that if Marshall would provide him with a detailed list of the uses of the funds, he would see to it that those details were not discussed in the Appropriations Committee. Such was the respect for Marshall that the members of the committee agreed to this and committed the government to spending the money without knowing exactly what it was for. President Truman later noted Marshall's role in obtaining the necessary funding for the project, "well knowing that failure would be his full responsibility."

After the war, from 1946 to early 1949, Marshall served Truman as secretary of state. The Marshall Plan, for the re

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