

● PSF: F.D.R.: (Pertaining to Museum Objects) c. 1949.
Subject File.

Box 177.
181

Within a few days after Nov 11 1918
President Wilson decided to go to France with
the American Delegation to the Peace Conference.
I was asked to arrange for ship, etc.

There were only Transports available. The
U.S.S. Geo. Washington was luckily in port, and
was hastily refitted for the President's party.
Furniture & rugs were needed for his suit and
I found out that a replica of Geo. Washington
desk at Mt. Vernon was available at an N.Y.
dept. store. It was put in Pres. Wilson's study
on board.

On the way over he used it for the preliminary
draft of the League of Nations, and when I
returned to the U.S. with him in Feb. he used
it every day, as he did again on his 3rd &
4th trips.

In the summer of 1919 King Albert of Belgium
used it coming & going.

Later, the Geo. Washington was put out of

Commission & the furnishings were sold at
auction at the N.Y. Navy Yard. I
notified the White House of this sale but
Pres. & Mrs. W. put in no bid. Therefore
I bid \$100 for the desk & chair & they
were sent to me at Hyde Park. I have
used them ever since, first in the little den
in the big house & since 1941 in my room in
the Library.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

written by F.D.R. at the desk in question, in his room
in the F.D.R. Library at Hyde Park, May 28th 1943
H. L. S.

This Desk and Chair were used by
President Wilson
on the U.S.S. "George Washington" in the
two trips to France, 1918-1919.
Drafts of the Treaty of Peace and of
the League of Nations Covenant were
written by him on this desk.

In the autumn of 1919 the desk and
chair were used by King Albert
of Belgium when he and the Queen
visited the United States as guests
of the Nation.

This Bronze Cannon, made for Louis XVI of France in the Royal Arsenal of Rochefort, was mounted by the French in Fort Riviere, Hayti, a strong work on the top of a mountain 4,000 feet high. It passed into the possession of the negro Republic which gained its independence in 1804. The fort was many times besieged in the frequent revolutions, but was never captured till 1916, when General Medley Butler and twenty other Marines took it in an attack against a defending force of 300 "lacos", or hill bandits.

These Helmets, intended for Dress
Parade of the Kaiser's Bodyguard
were found by the Marines when
they occupied Coblenz on the Rhine
They were packed in boxes marked
"Paris" and were meant for the
triumphal procession when the
German Army entered the French
Capital.

These Spanish Swords were brought to
America by the cavaliers of the Army
of Diego Columbus, Son of Christopher,
about 1510, and were found by F.D.R.
in Santo Domingo in 1917 when the
U. S. Marines were policing the Island.

German helmets, & picked up by F.D.R.
in Belleau Woods, near Chateau Thierry
soon after the battle in June 1918 in
which the Marine Brigade helped stop
the last German drive on Paris.

So far as is known, this German machine gun is the very last gun captured by the American forces in actual fighting during the World War.

It was taken at 9 a.m. on Nov. 11th 1918, two hours before the Armistice went into effect, about a mile North of the River Meuse, ~~East~~ East of Sedan, by the Marine Brigade, forming part of the 2nd Division A.E.F. The Marines had crossed the River at daylight. Five dead Germans were found beside the gun.

This Bell, cast in Spain
in 1814, hung in a
Monastery in the Philippines
for over a Century, was then
presented to the Spanish
warship "Island de Cuba", which
vessel was sunk by the Fleet
of Admiral Dewey in the
BATTLE OF MANILA BAY

MAY, 1898.