

## THE WORLD WAR I SCRAPBOOKS AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF MAJOR GENERAL EDWARD MARTIN

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**ABSTRACT:** Edward Martin (1879–1967) had both an exemplary military career and a very successful political career in Pennsylvania. Seventy-nine scrapbooks detailing his life are included within his papers at the Pennsylvania State Archives. Martin's World War I career is discussed along with examples of images from his scrapbooks.  
**KEYWORDS:** Edward Martin, World War I, 28th Infantry Division, Pennsylvania, governor

Edward Martin (1879–1967) was born in a log cabin in the village of Ten Mile, Washington County, Pennsylvania, and graduated from Waynesburg College in 1901. He studied law thereafter, and passed the Pennsylvania Bar in 1905. His legal training pales in comparison to his army career, for he participated in almost every military action undertaken by Pennsylvania troops from the Spanish-American War to World War II. Martin began his military service as a private in 1898 and was promoted through the ranks over a span of more than forty years to major general of the Twenty-Eighth Division (see fig. 1). He later served as Pennsylvania's governor from 1943 to 1947 and as a US senator from 1947 to 1959. He is buried in Greene Mount Cemetery in Waynesburg.

The Edward Martin Papers at the Pennsylvania State Archives (Manuscript Group 156), part of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC), came into the commonwealth's possession after State Historian Sylvester K. Stevens was notified in early 1947 that Martin was planning to destroy his gubernatorial papers. Stevens implored then-US Senator Martin to allow him to send a team to survey and review the material and determine which were worthy to be saved and preserved for the historical record. Stevens was successful in halting their destruction, but the collection itself



**FIGURE 1** A 1919 photographic portrait of Colonel Edward Martin, as commander of the 110th Infantry Regiment, NGP. Courtesy of the Pennsylvania State Archives, MG-156, Edward Martin Papers (hereafter PSA, MG-156), Photographs, Military, Box 1, Folder 3.

was not donated to the PHMC until a few months after Martin's death in June 1967. Martin's son, Edward Scott Martin, donated approximately forty-five cubic feet of material at that time. The Martin family periodically donated additional material to the PHMC through 1990. The Edward Martin Papers now comprise 120.5 cubic feet.

Martin enlisted in Company K, 10th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry on May 11, 1898, the beginning of the Spanish-American War. After participating in American military actions during the Philippine Insurrection in 1898–99, he returned home with the rank of sergeant to finish his collegiate studies. He re-enlisted in Company K, Tenth Infantry of the National Guard

of Pennsylvania (NGP), in 1900 and was promoted to the ranks of first lieutenant in 1901, captain in 1905, and major in 1910. In 1916 Martin again saw active service, this time with the Pennsylvania Division along the US border with Mexico.

Federalized on August 5, 1917, due to the United States' entry as a combatant in World War I, the NGP relocated to Camp Hancock, Augusta, Georgia, in August and September 1917. While training for overseas service, the unit reorganized October 11, 1917, from the Seventh Division into the Twenty-Eighth Division.

The Twenty-Eighth arrived in England in May 1918. Most of the division crossed the English Channel and passed through Calais, France, where British officers gave the division instruction. Martin served in France during World War I as an officer of the Twenty-Eighth Division in both the 109th and 110th Infantry regiments. The Twenty-Eighth was in a number of major campaigns in Europe throughout 1918 (see fig. 2). Martin was wounded twice, once by shell fragments and once by German mustard gas, and received both the Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Clusters.



**FIGURE 2** A large group of dead German soldiers are depicted here being hauled off the battlefield by a horse-drawn cart, 1918. Courtesy PSA, MG-156, Photographs, Military, Box 1, Folder 2.

Martin earned the Distinguished Service Cross twice, the first time on July 29, 1918, while leading inexperienced troops of the 110th Infantry Regiment in an attack against the German line, near Courmont, France, with “coolness under heavy fire and utter disregard for personal danger.” The second Distinguished Service citation came after he was wounded July 30, 1918, when he helped direct “the successful attack against a strong enemy position, remaining in command of the regiment until its relief” (see fig. 3).<sup>1</sup>

Martin’s July 30 wound occurred when he received injuries from shell fire that destroyed regimental headquarters near Courmont, earning him his first Purple Heart Medal. Promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel on September 5, Martin, while temporarily commanding the 109th Infantry Regiment from September 6–9, sustained exposure to German mustard gas north of the Vesle River, earning him his second Purple Heart. Back in command of the 110th Infantry Regiment by September 10, Martin led that unit during fierce fighting along the Ourcq River and in the Argonne and remained with them in the field until November 2, 1918.



**FIGURE 3** Wounded soldiers of the Twenty-Eighth and Seventy-Seventh divisions lie on stretchers at a train station in Chateau-Thierry, France, awaiting transport to a base hospital on August 15, 1918. Most of these men were wounded August 13, 1918, at Fismes from a German mustard-gas attack. Courtesy PSA, MG-156, Photographs, Military, Box 1, Folder 2.



Returning home later that month, Martin continued to serve in the NGP (see fig. 4). He was promoted to full colonel on October 16, 1919, and given command of the reorganized 110th. He became a brigadier general August 17, 1922. In 1939 Martin received promotion to major general in command of Pennsylvania's Twenty-Eighth Division. At the beginning of the United States' involvement in World War II, Martin was still at the head of the 28th when it federalized. He oversaw preparation and training of the division in North Carolina, until he left active duty due to his age in April 1942.

Martin's political career was just as successful as his military one. He ran for public office on fifteen different occasions, winning every election. At various times Martin held the statewide offices of: auditor general, state treasurer, state adjutant general, in addition to being governor of Pennsylvania and US senator.

There are seventy-nine scrapbooks related to Edward Martin's impressive military and political careers within his papers at the Pennsylvania State



FIGURE 4 On May 15, 1919, Philadelphia welcomed home the Twenty-Eighth Division with a grand parade. This image, made on that date, shows part of the estimated 2 million people who viewed this parade. PSA, MG-156, Photographs, Military, Box 1, Folder 4.

Archives (see fig. 5). The majority are leather-bound books with black pages. Photographs and documents are pasted therein. Currently, some of the photographs have become detached from the books due largely to the deterioration of the original paste. Contents range from official US Army Signal Corps photographs to personal snapshots, from battlefield to family images, and from visages of famous officers to unidentified privates. The subjects range from 1876 to 1967. Many of the photographs in the military scrapbooks appear in Martin's book *The Twenty-Eighth Division: Pennsylvania's Guard in the World War* (1924). Due to archival considerations, some of the scrapbooks have been disassembled over the years and their contents placed in acid-free folders and boxes. An inventory of his papers is available on the State Archives website at <http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/mg/mg156.htm>. A selection of images from the photographs (series 156m.15) and scrapbooks (series 156m.17) are presented here.

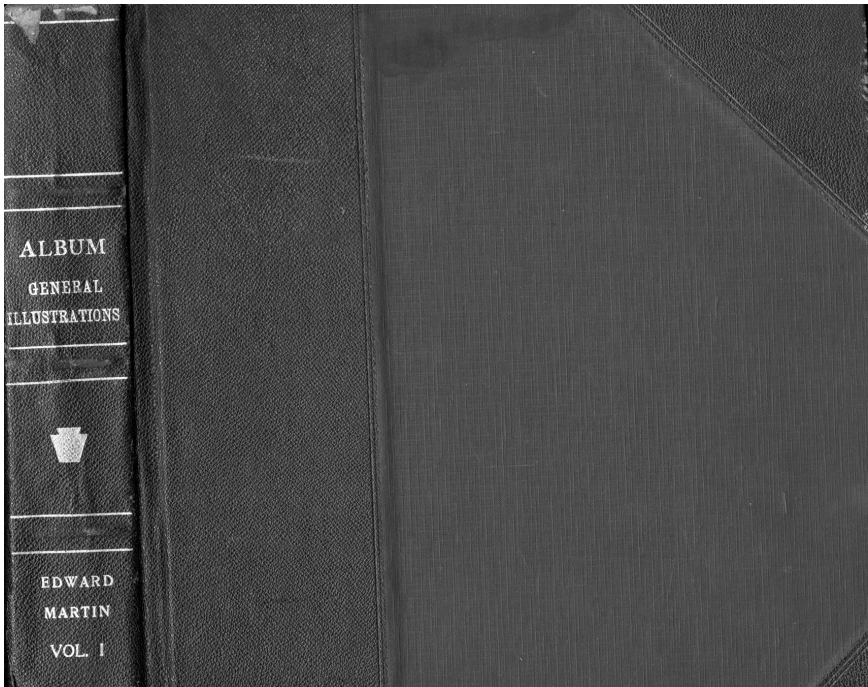


FIGURE 5 The exterior cover of volume 1 of Edward Martin's seventy-nine scrapbooks. PSA, MG-156, Pictures, 1916–22.

The archives' sister bureau, the State Museum of Pennsylvania, holds approximately 300 objects associated with Edward Martin. Highlights include medals, badges, uniforms, flags, and political campaign items. A selection of Martin material is currently on display in the museum's *Pennsylvania Icons* exhibit.

RICHARD C. SAYLOR has been employed by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission since 1991. He is currently a reference archivist in the Pennsylvania State Archives. Earlier PHMC duties included: assistant curator of military, political, and industrial history at the State Museum of Pennsylvania; assistant registrar for PHMC; and head of the Appraisal and Acquisitions Section of the State Archives. He is the author of numerous articles about Pennsylvania military, political and sports history, and film censorship. His first book, *Soldiers to Governors: Pennsylvania's Civil War Veterans Who Became State Leaders*, published in August 2010, won an Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History. He holds a BA in history from Elizabethtown College and a MA in American studies from the Pennsylvania State University.

#### NOTE

1. United States Adjutant General's Office, *Congressional Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross, and the Distinguished Service Medal Issued by the War Department Since April 6, 1917 Up to and including General Orders, Number 126, War Department, November 11, 1919* (Washington DC, 1920), 633.