

# COUNTRY & SERVICE



“The best flag under the sun,” reads the caption under a cutout of the American flag Mabel glued into her album as an expression of her gratitude and patriotism. As a volunteer for the Red Cross, Mabel met many servicemembers during World War I (including future husband Arnold O. Beckman), and the images she captured from military parades illustrated her love of country and appreciation for service.





*Gen. Lejeune*



*Old Glory*



*5th Marines*

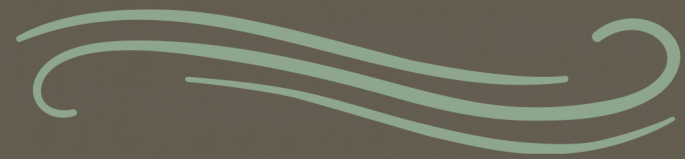
## 2ND DIVISION PARADE



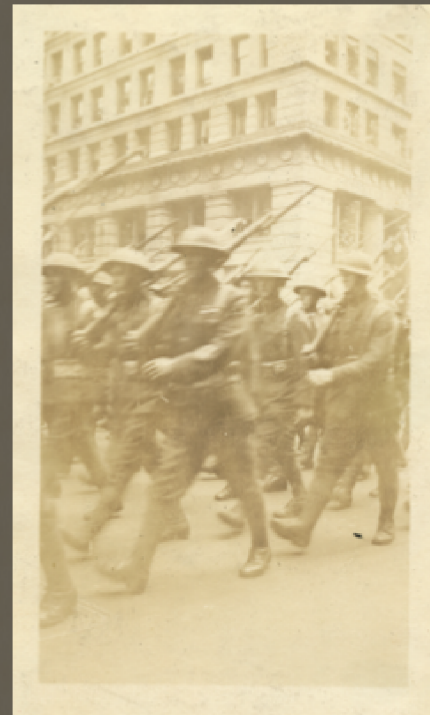
In 1919, the U.S. Army Parade of the 2nd Division took place in New York City, traveling up 5th Avenue. Mabel spotted General John A. Lejeune, who went on the serve 40 years and was awarded France's Legion of Honor, as well as Distinguished Service Medals from both the U.S. Army and U.S. Navy.



## 2ND DIVISION PARADE



From Mabel's vantage point, she observed soldiers marching, on horseback, in cars, and carrying flags. Each photo in her album was labeled, an indicator of the esteem she held for those that had served in the war.



*6th Marines*



*Doughboys (23rd)*



*Recruiting*





*Victory Arch*

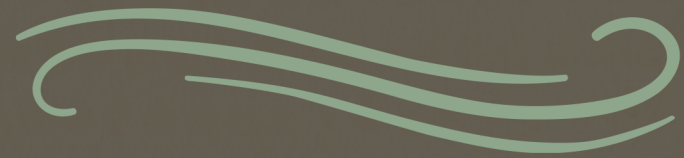
## 27TH DIVISION



Although most of Mabel's entries were photographs, she did include some images cut out from newspapers and other publications, including this one of the 27th Division making its way through the Victory Arch.



# THE AMERICAN FLAG



Mabel was born during the start of the Progressive Era of America, just after the Gilded Age. During her teen years, she saw the country at war, and even met Private Beckman, the man who would become her husband. To Mabel, the American flag was the ‘best flag under the sun.’



*The best flag under the sun*

