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LEONARD

LEONARD, JOHN W.

(OH-327)

107 pages

Open

Military associate of General Eisenhower; graduate of United States Military Academy, 1915; Commander, 9th Armored Division, 1942-45.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1. Observations on DDE when he was a cadet at West Point. Sidelights and anecdotes on some of DDE's early assignments (including comments on Mamie Doud Eisenhower and Fox Conner). Comments on promotions in the U.S. Army between the two world wars. Service as Commander, 9th Armored Division, 1942-1945: being assigned the command; comment on George Patton and the Battle of the Bulge; assignment of American troops to Bernard Montgomery during the Battle of the Bulge; observations on the assignment of officers to the European war theater, and the 9th Armored Division.

Interview #2. Comments re various combinations of American troop units during and after the Battle of the Bulge. Capture of the bridge over the Rhine River at Remagen: drive on the bridge, and importance of William Hoge; protecting the bridge and bridgehead; example of flexibility of American unit organization. Observations on Bernard Montgomery. Action by the 9th Armored Division after Remagen, and comment on meeting the Russians at the Elbe River.

[Eisenhower Library Oral History Project, interviews by Maclyn Burg, 1972]