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ABILENE, KANSAS

DEVERS, JACOB L.: Papers, 1939-49 [microfilm]

Accession 69-32 & 84-15
Processed by: TB
Date completed: June 1984

The microfilm of the papers of General Jacob L. Devers was sent to the Eisenhower Library by the Modern Military Records Division of the National Archives in August 1969. One additional reel was received in June 1984.

Number of reels of microfilm: 10

The original papers of General Devers are at the Historical Society of York County, Pennsylvania. Permission to publish any of the documents must be obtained from the Historical Society.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

General Jacob L. Devers (1887-1979) was born at York, Pennsylvania, and graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1909. He held a number of field and staff positions in the U.S. Army and also taught for several years at West Point. In July 1941 he became commander of all U.S. armored forces and was responsible for preparing the tank corps for battle. One of his subordinates was General George S. Patton, who had been his classmate at West Point.

In May 1943 Devers was sent to England where he became commander of U.S. forces in Europe and helped make initial preparations for the Normandy Invasion. After Dwight D. Eisenhower became Supreme Allied Commander in January 1944, Devers was transferred to the Mediterranean Theater where he served as Deputy Supreme Commander under General Henry Maitland Wilson. In September 1944 Devers became commander of the Sixth Army Group, which was responsible for the invasion of southern France. The Sixth Army Group attacked northward up the Rhone Valley and joined with Allied forces in northern France in mid-September. It then attacked eastward into southern Germany and Austria. After the war Devers returned to the United States and served as chief of Army Ground Forces until his retirement in September 1949.

General Devers loaned his papers to the National Archives in the early 1960s where they were microfilmed and reviewed for declassification. The original papers were then deposited at the Historical Society of York County, Pennsylvania. This collection consists of a copy of the microfilm prepared by the National Archives. The papers appear to have been filmed in the order in which they were received at the Archives with no attempt made to devise an arrangement scheme. As a result the files are disorganized.

The papers of General Devers pertain primarily to his service in Europe and the Mediterranean from 1943 to 1945. The material consists of his personal correspondence, and a number of reports on Allied and German military operations. There are also two files on the investigation of the Stuttgart incident in 1945, when black troops from Africa under French command, while occupying the city of Stuttgart, were accused of mistreating German women.

The collection also includes material from Devers's service as chief of Army Ground Forces after the war. This consists of correspondence and reports on army strength levels, proposals for universal military training, and early U.S. support for NATO. There are also reports on various conferences Devers attended that explored military cooperation with private industry.

Only a small quantity of material is from the period prior to May 1943. This consists primarily of Devers's personal correspondence, his personnel file, and a report of an inspection trip he made to Europe and the Mediterranean Theaters in January 1943.

CHRONOLOGY

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Sept. 8, 1887 | Born at York, Pennsylvania |
| 1909 | Graduated from U.S. Military Academy, West Point, New York |
| 1909-1936 | Held various military command and staff positions |
| 1936-1939 | Instructor at U.S. Military Academy |
| 1939-1940 | Chief of Staff, Panama Canal Department |
| Oct. 1940- July 1941 | Commander, 9th Infantry Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina |
| July 1941- May 1943 | Commander, U.S. Armored Forces, Fort Knox, Kentucky |
| May 1943- Jan. 1944 | Commander, European Theater of Operations, U.S. Army |
| Jan.-Sept. 1944 | Deputy Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean Theater |
| Sept. 1944- June 1945 | Commander, 6th Army Group, Western Europe |
| June 1945- Sept. 1949 | Chief of Army Ground Forces |
| September 1949 | Retired from U.S. Army |
| 1951-1952 | Advisor to United Nations on Kashmir dispute |
| 1951-1959 | Officer, Fairchild Engine and Airplane Corporation |
| Oct. 15, 1979 | Died at Walter Reed Army Hospital, Washington, DC |

CONTAINER LIST

| <u>Box No.</u> | <u>Reel No.</u> | <u>Contents</u> [frame numbers] |
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| 1 | 1 | Personal Correspondence [1-292] Letters to French by C/G [294-502] Stuttgart Data [504-631] [alleged rape of German women by French troops] Eisenhower, Handy, Lemnitzer, McNair, Patch, Truscott [633-886] [correspondence] French [888-1184] Gen. DeLattre [1186-1269] |
| | 2 | [Messages re First French Army] [1-28] Miscellaneous Papers [31-86] [reports re German aircraft industry, Marshall Islands, Sicilian campaign] Barnes, Barr, Campbell, Clark, Eaker [88-115] [correspondence] General Marshall [117-220] [correspondence, mostly 1943-44] Gen. Devers' Personal Correspondence File, June 1945-December 1945 [222-319] Gen. Arnold [321-350] [correspondence, 1943-45] Miscellaneous Correspondence, A-G [352-462] Miscellaneous Correspondence, H-M [464-707] Miscellaneous Correspondence, N-R [709-834] Miscellaneous Correspondence, S-Z [837-992] [Personal correspondence, July 1941-April 1943] [994-1408] |
| | 3 | [Official Correspondence, 1947-49] [1-113] [Omar Bradley re NATO, military personnel; General Wen Ying-hsing of China; General Herbert Holdridge] |

Press Conference, Releases and Transcripts [115-190] [1944-45]

Lodge, Henry Cabot [192-300] [1947-48; re Universal Military Training, complaints of General de Lattre]

Material from Captured Documents [302-390] [translation of German documents, 1944-45, re Ardennes campaign, Hitler's speeches and meetings with advisors]

4 Correspondence - B - File 2 [1-170]

Correspondence - P [172-213]

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Correspondence - W [247-296]

CG Section, General [298-319] [1944-45 correspondence re 6th Army Group headquarters staff, awards, personnel]

[Promotion, evaluation and reassignment of officers, 1945] [321-407]

Gen. Devers, Personal, Miscellaneous [409-666] [1943-45]

Stuttgart Notes and Copies [668-796] [behavior of French troops in Stuttgart, 1945]

Letters Signed by C/G [798-1073] [1943-45]

5 WD Command Installations Board [1-254] [1946 report on Air Force bases in US]

Gen. Devers - 201 File [256-473] [1940-48]

Genealogy Data - Devers (from Col. Lodge's files) [475-542]

Hanson Baldwin [544-570] [NY Times editor, 1949]

Civilian Components [572-737] [1948 Congressional committee studying civilians in military organizations]

Invitations [739-859] [Oct 1943-Apr 1945]

Invitations (up to 1 Jan 46) [861-1009] [July-Dec 1945]

- 1 6 Invitations (up to 1 Nov 46) [1-244] [Oct 1946-June 1947]
- Messages of Congratulations [246-498] [re Devers promotion to 4-star general, March-May 1945]
- Documents, Pamphlets, etc. [500-779] [World War II photos, clippings & printed material; personal documents]
- 201 Devers, Jacob L. (Off.) Personal 12 Mar-25 Apr 1942 [781-785] [personal correspondence]
- 201 Devers, Jacob L. (Off.) - Personal - 25 Apr-11 July 1942 [787-791] [personal correspondence]
- Report of the Mission Headed by Lt. Gen. Jacob L. Devers to Examine the Problem of Armored Force Units in ETO [793-926] [inspection trip to England & Africa, Dec 1942-Jan 1943]
- Operations Data [928-1147] [organization of 6th Army Group; lists of key officers]
- 2 7 Mediterranean Allied Air Force Operations in Support of Shingle Jan.-Feb. 1944 [1-161]
- Army Ground Forces Training Objectives for 1948-1950 [163-200] [1947 report re Universal Military Training]
- Lt. Gen. Devers from Brig. Gen. Sibert, AC of S G-2, ETOUSA [202-347] [reference material re North Africa & Mediterranean]
- Flexible Plans for Training Army Ground Forces Units [349-373] [charts used for presentation on universal military training]
- Estimate of Fighter Strength of German Air Force on 1 Apr 1944 [375-455]
- Battle Experience July 44 to April 45 [457-507]
- Summary of Activities, NATO [1 Apr 1944] [509-535] [statistical reports from North African Theater of Operations]
- Summary of Activities, NATO 1 May 44 [537-580]
- Summary of Activities, NATO 1 June 44 [582-631]
- Summary of Activities, NATO 1 July 44 [633-684]

- 2 7 Summary of Activities, NATO 1 Aug 44 [686-745]
- Summary of Activities, NATO 1 Sept 44 [747-812]
- Summary of Activities, NATO 1 Oct 44 [814-942]
- 8 Origins of the Army Ground Forces, General Headquarters US Army, 1940-1942, Study No. 1 [1-129] [1946 historical report; paper copy is in Dwight D. Eisenhower Library Collection of 20th Century Military Records, Series III]
- The AAF in the Invasion of Southern France [131-165]
- Statistical Summaries [167-172] [lists of World War II historical reports]
- German Training Methods [174-348] [May 1946 study]
- German Operational Intelligence [350-488] [Apr 1946 study]
- German Army Quartermaster and Finance Organization [490-598] [June 1946 study]
- Proposed Organization of an Assault Division [599-629] [report by Norman Cota on Operation Husky, 1943]
- The Effectiveness of Third Phase Tactical Air Operations in the European Theater, May 5, 1944-May 8, 1945 [631-1037] [Aug 1945 study]
- 9 General Staff Data Book No. 2 [0-151]
- Eversharp [153-230] [return of officers to US, May-June 1945]
- Visit of Colonel Jacques de la Boisse to Ft. Monroe 5 January 1949 [232-242]
- Williamsburg, Va. - 15-16 May 1947 Aircraft Industries Conference [244-364]
- Williamsburg, Va., Trip - Aircraft Industries Conference 29-31 July 1946 [366-545]
- Trip to Fort Robinson, Nebraska, et al (Cancelled) 18 Aug. 1945 [547-593]
- Armor Panel - Artillery Panel 7 Feb 1949 [596-603]

- 2 9 AAF Advisory Panels on Armor and Field Artillery - Key Members Conf.
 - 24 Jan 49 [605-663]
- Williamsburg, Va. 18-20 May 48 Aircraft Industries Assoc. Conf.
 [665-693]
- Louisville, Ky; Detroit, Mich; Saginaw, Mich; Philadelphia, Pa.
 Conference on Tank-Automotive Development Materiel 4-14 Mar 48
 [695-885]
- Fort Knox, Ky. Trip Armored Conference 15-16 May 1946 [887-1196]
- 10 Correspondence - S [May-Aug 1944] [20 pp] [archives of Allied Control
 Commission]
- Reduction of New Infantry Division to Peace Strength [Jan 1947] [7 pp]
- Personal File - Col. Jacob L. Devers, Aug. 14, 1939-Mar. 7, 1940 [17 pp]
- 201 - Devers, Jacob L. (Off.) - Personal March 12-April 25, 1942 [47 pp]
 [George Patton, Alvin Gillem Jr; Ben Lear; Willis Crittenberger]
- 201 - Devers, Jacob L. (Off.) - Personal April 25-July 11, 1942 [19 pp]
 [George Patton; Willis Crittenberger; Lesley McNair]

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