

Processed by: DAD
Date: 11/28/75

SIMPSON

SIMPSON, WILLIAM H. (OH-314) 127 pages Open

Military associate of General Eisenhower; Commanding General, 9th Army, European Theater, 1944-45.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1. Personal background. Impressions of DDE while both were students at the Army War College, 1928. Service as an observer during the Louisiana maneuvers, 1941. Observations on his and other officers' evaluations of DDE's reputation as an army officer in the interwar years. Contacts with DDE during an observation tour of North Africa, April 1943. Coming to Europe as Commanding General, 9th Army: Being briefed in mid-May 1944 by DDE on the invasion of Europe; first meeting with Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery; comment on serving with Generals George Patton and Omar Bradley. Battle of the Bulge: being put under Montgomery's command; attitude towards Montgomery.

Interview #2. Capture of Brest, summer of 1944. Battle of the Bulge: the strategic implications of having his 9th Army positioned next to the British armies; being put under Montgomery's command; his decisions on use of his troops and Montgomery's relationship with DDE. Single thrust versus broad front controversy. Comment on the possibility of his American troops crossing the Rhine first, and how Montgomery handled the situation. Crossing the Elbe in April 1945, and his opinion regarding the possibility of Americans capturing Berlin.

[Eisenhower Library Oral History Project interview by Maclyn burg, 1972]