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HEILBRONN

HEILBRONN, KURT

(OH-518)

36 pages

OPEN

Pilot for Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1945.

DESCRIPTION: Personal background. Pilot training; instructor pilot in Bennettsville, South Carolina; transfer to McKeller Airport in Jackson, Tennessee; Steerman airplane; Air Transport Command, Memphis, Tennessee; ferrying of planes to various parts of world trips to India; transfer to European Command; transfer to Eisenhower air crew, 1945; tour of duty with DDE in Frankfurt, Germany; promotion to Second Lieutenant; types of aircraft flown; DDE in cockpit; DDE and western novels; DDE and "Purple Heart" GIs; DDE and punctuality; DDE's consideration of staff; duties when not flying; translation of German within Eisenhower household and among staff; German reaction to "U.S.A." graffiti; Moaney's job; trip to Schongau, Bavaria—mountain goats; stand-by train in Frankfurt for when weather would not allow flying—"Hitler's Train"; impressions of Sergeant Moaney. Trip to German hometown—Plettenberg; visit with childhood doctor, release of Doctor's son from Russia through efforts of Tex Lee; restoration of Jewish cemetery in Plettenberg. Impressions of Tex Lee; Farber Building; trip with DDE to Lucky Strike POW Camp; trip with newspaper people to atrocity camps; career as a pilot for the Philadelphia Bulletin after the war; impressions of Kay Summersby; Harold Stassen; association with DDE after Heilbronn returned to the U.S.—Columbia University, Washington D.C.; candy replica of White House.

[Eisenhower Library Oral History Project, interview by Martin M. Teasley, 1993]