

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER LIBRARY
ABILENE, KANSAS

RICHARDS, NELLIE EILEEN: Papers, 1931-80

Accession: 14-04
Processed by: CJA
Date Completed: May 2014

The papers of Nellie Eileen Richards were deposited in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library on February 19, 2014.

Linear feet: -1
Approximate number of pages: 150

Sharon Root signed an instrument of gift for the papers on March 18, 2014. Literary rights in the writings of Sharon Root in this collection and in all other collections of papers received by the National Archives have been donated to the public. Under terms of the instrument of gift, the following classes of items are withheld from research use:

1. Papers which constitute an invasion of personal privacy of a living person.
2. Papers which are required to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy, and are properly classified.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Nellie Eileen Richards (born September 13, 1898) entered basic training for the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) in November, 1942. In September 1943, she took the oath to join the Women's Army Corps (WAC), successor to the WAAC, and was assigned to Area Research and Requirements, European Theater of Operations, United States Army (ETOUSA). In February 1944 she was assigned to the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF), Secretary General Staff, Staff Message Control as a proofreader.

Her duties during this period (as described in her service record) were:

“Assisted in compiling and typed statistical reports as required pre D-Day planning. Became chief over 3 typists.”

“Proofread master copies for cable distribution, checking for accuracy, correctness of distribution, date time, source addresses, etc. Also assisted in typing master copies, operated ditto machine, assisted at distribution center when necessary.”

She received an honorable discharge on October 24, 1945 and reenlisted in August, 1946. By November she transferred from her position compiling worksheets for statistical reports in Wiesbaden, Germany to the Processing and Records Branch of the War Crimes Group, Judge Advocate General's Department (JAGD) in the European Theater. There she was tasked with:

“Processing and compiling cases for trial; supervising witness and suspect card files; making and maintaining case log; making and maintaining trial log; making and maintaining prison card file, case card file and others, including Landsberg Prison record file; posting from morning report; compiling monthly progress reports; info to all other branches, etc.”

She again received an honorable discharge on July 17, 1948.

The Papers of Nellie Eileen Richards contain Richards' personal journal; military service records and uniform ephemera; personal wartime and postwar snapshots (both U.S. and European locations); and personal correspondence. The items in this collection were transferred to the Eisenhower library in a single accession with no inherent arrangement. The processing archivist imposed order on the collection and created folder titles. The snapshots in the collection, however, arrived in numbered, dated envelopes including geographic references.

Richard's journal contains her poetry, a song written in 1945 relating to her service, and a narrative section she titled "Mental Meanderings." The narrative describes Christmas in Bavaria in 1946, concerns about black market souvenir sales, and other personal matters. Another narrative portion of the journal entitled "Journey Jottings" begins with Richardson's reenlistment in 1946 and discusses the personal trips she took through Europe through 1947 including a tour of Berchtesgaden. The journal continues through 1948 to discuss additional trips including a visit to Konnersreuth, Bavaria and a visit a woman who claimed to experience stigmata.

There are over six hundred photographs in this collection. They were taken during Richards' travels and include snapshots of the European countryside, other WAC members, and military scenes. Locations depicted in the photographs include Kehlsteinhaus (Adolph Hitler's "Eagle's Nest" residence); Fort Des Moines; England; Bavaria; Paris; Austria and Versailles.

The military documentation in this collection includes Richard's service records, discharge papers, inoculation records, and special orders from 1942 to 1947. Of particular interest is a SHAEF certificate of merit that was personally signed by General Dwight D. Eisenhower. The collection also includes a sizable amount of military insignia and decorations from Richards' uniforms including WAAC patches and WAC insignia, rank designation stripes, service bars and "ruptured duck" honorable discharge collar buttons and pins. These objects were transferred to the museum.

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	[Journal, 1931-80] (1) – (2) [American Legion membership, 1947-53 & 1961-67] [1957 Presidential Inauguration] [Program gifted from “Grandmother”] [Passport, 1948] [Service records and discharges, 1945-48] [Photographs, 1945-47] [Correspondence regarding death of mother, 1944] [V-Mail] [Snapshots, postcards and ephemera, 1942 – 1948] [Personal military records, 1942-47] [Army insignia] [Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces (SHAEF) certificate of merit] [Women’s Auxiliary Army Corps group photo and patches] [Originally a framed display]

END OF CONTAINER LIST