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DEVERS

DEVERS, JACOB L. (OH-377) 206 pages OPEN

Commander, U.S. Forces, European Theater, 1943; Commanding General, North Africa Theater, 1944; Deputy Supreme Commander, Mediterranean Theater, 1944; Commanding General, 6th Army Group, 1944-45.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1. Background information; anecdotes about West Point baseball; Thomas B. Larkin; reminiscences about early military career; Devers' philosophy about teaching at West Point; comparison of Douglas MacArthur and George Marshall to Dwight D. Eisenhower; Devers in Panama Canal zone; Devers as commander of the Military District of Washington, D.C.; Devers at the Field Artillery School in Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, as head of the gunnery department; Devers as chief of Armored Force at Ft. Knox, Kentucky; observation about German .88 gun; Devers working with Detroit to perfect tanks; Sereno Brett.

Interview #2. Devers on his command of the Armored Forces; Edmund Gruber; Adna Chaffee; problems with early tanks; Devers' staff at Ft. Knox; Secretary Henry L. Stimson; George Patton; Devers' assignment to London in May of 1943; George Marshall; Thomas Handy; Brehon "Bill" Somervell.

Interview #3. Devers' assignment to London; Devers' London staff; Ira Eaker; George Marshall; Mark Clark; Ray Barker; John Winant; Lord Mountbatten; Sir Charles Portal; Henry L. Stimson; Devers' transfer to Africa; problems with airplanes; intelligence operations during the war; communications between Devers and General Morgan; Bernard Montgomery; Jumbo Wilson; Gruenther; Cameron.

Interview #4. Re-equipping the French in North Africa during WWII; Devers' comments on French military commanders; Charles de Gaulle; Devers' working relationship with the French troops; Sandy Patch; Jumbo Wilson; Lyman Lemnitzer; personnel changes.

[Eisenhower Library Oral History Project, interviews by Maclyn P. Burg, 1974, 1975]