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SUPREME HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE:
Selected Records, 1943-45

Accession 69-14

The SHAEF Selected Records were received from the Modern Military Records Division of the National Archives in June and September 1968. A second accession, described at the end of this inventory, was received in November 1971.

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Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force G-2 and G-3 Divisions, and the following SHAEF components; Sixth (including 7th U.S. Army), Twelfth and Twenty-first Army Groups; the Allied Naval Commander-in-Chief of Expeditionary forces; IX Troop Carrier Command; and the First Allied Airborne Army.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The records described below, received from Modern Military Records Division in the National Archives, are duplicates of records created within the various components of Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force. The records, though coming to the Library in separate shipments, have been combined with records of similar origin to comprise this accession. Types of records include: G-2 Digests (intelligence notes issued weekly giving German troop movements and intelligence re German troops in Germany) June 7, 1944-May 12, 1945; G-2 War Diaries (reports on, and plans for intelligence operations) December, 1943-January, 1944; G-2 Weekly Intelligence Summaries (summaries of intelligence) April 1, 1944-May 6, 1945; G-2 Intelligence Notes (notes on enemy troop movements, weapons and equipment) June 29, 1944-May 12, 1945; G-2 FATHERLAND (reports presenting matters of primary interest for the period of occupation of Germany) October 19, 1944-May 17, 1945 (not inclusive); G-2 SCAVENGER (reports, similar in content to FATHERLAND, and also their successor) May 14, 1945-June 24, 1945; G-2 Reports (chronicle Allied air, ground, and sea actions and enemy troop locations, movements and actions primarily in the ETO and Russia, but also, periodically, in the Far East) July 4, 1944-June 6, 1945 (not inclusive); G-2 Ground Checking Notes (compilations of photographs of newly captured German defenses in Western Europe, the purpose of which was to assist interpreters in the identification of enemy installations on subsequent air missions) November, 1944-January, 1945; G-2 Neptune-Argus (daily issuance of current intelligence re enemy defenses and topography for Operation Neptune) April 28, 1944-May 19, 1944, not inclusive; Miscellaneous G-2 (Counter Intelligence Division) reports re German booby traps, tanks, intelligence services, labor, concentration camps, police (and KRIPO officials), the SA, and the Hitler Youth; G-3 War Room Daily Summaries (reports of Allied air, ground and naval operations and order of battle for Allied troops in the ETO) June 6, 1944-July 12, 1945; G-3 War Diaries (compilation of cables, letters, maps, memos, plans for Operation Eclipse, handbook, minutes of meetings and plans and progress reports for Allied Operations) November, 1944 - April, 1945; 12th Army Group weekly intelligence summaries; 21 Army Group operational plans; Allied Naval Commander-in-Chief Expeditionary Force war diaries and reports; memoranda re Operations Neptune and Eclipse; and miscellaneous reports of IX Troop Carrier Command and 1st Allied Airborne Army Operations in Northwest Europe.

The term European Theater of Operations came to be used during the war to designate the area of Operations of the United States air, ground, naval and supply forces that joined the British forces after December 7, 1941. The Theater area eventually stretched from the British Isles to Eastern Germany and from the Scandinavian countries south to the Pyrenees, the Mediterranean, the northern border of Italy, and the Balkans. On June 8, 1942, the European Theater of Operations United States Army (ETOUSA) replaced a command, termed the United States Army Forces in the British Isles, which had been formed in January 1942 to combine planning, supply, and tactical activities of American groups in the British Isles.

Until June 6, 1944, ETOUSA was concerned primarily with building up ground and supporting forces for the invasion across the English Channel.

In April 1943 the previously informal British-United States collaboration in the European Theater was strengthened by the establishment in London of a formal planning headquarters called Chief of Staff Supreme Allied Command, or COSSAC, and in February 1944 this headquarters was replaced by the final interallied headquarters for the Theater--Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF). Under SHAEF, headed by General Dwight D. Eisenhower, the elaborate activities of planning, supply, training, and military-diplomatic consultation went forward to prepare for the forthcoming invasion. Although General Eisenhower also became (in January 1944) the commanding general of the European Theater of Operations United States Army, the staff organizations of SHAEF and ETOUSA were distinct.

Each headquarters as a rule had its own staff sections manned by separate personnel. The staff organization in SHAEF was headed by the Chief of Staff and had as an important officer the Secretary of the General Staff. The G-2 and G-3 divisions of SHAEF, which comprise a portion of this accession, functioned according to the United States War Department General Staff pattern.

Three interallied ground commands known as Army Groups had operational control, under SHAEF, of the British, French, and United States Armies in the European Theater--the Twenty-first Army Group, the Twelfth Army Group, and the Sixth Army Group.

The Twenty-first Army Group, which consisted of the British and Canadian forces in the United Kingdom that were assigned for the invasion of Europe, was established in London in July 1943. In December 1944 General Sir Bernard L. Montgomery was designated as its commander. On June 6, 1944, General Montgomery directed the seaborne and airborne assault on the Continent. Under his command were the British Second Army, with the British 6th Airborne Division attached, and the United States First Army, with the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions attached. Subsequently he commanded these two Armies and the United States Third Army and the Canadian First Army during the battle of Normandy and the advance to the Seine. On September 1, the Twenty-first Army Group was relieved of operational control of the United States Armies, and these Armies became the chief components of the new Twelfth Army Group. The Twenty-first Army Group, also called the Northern Group of Armies, operated in Northern France, Luxembourg, Belgium, Holland and Germany.

The Headquarters of the Twelfth Army Group was established in London on July 14, 1944, and was given operational control of the United States First and Third Armies on August 1. Its commanding general was Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley, who was also commanding general of its predecessor, the First United States Army Group. This Army Group had been established on October 19, 1943, to plan United States participation in the forthcoming invasion, and although its staff was largely transferred to the Twelfth Army Group in July 1944, it continued to exist on paper as a deception device until its inactivation on October 18, 1944. On September 5, 1944, the United States Ninth Army was assigned to the Twelfth Army Group. For a short time in late 1944 and early 1945 the First and Ninth Armies were detached for duty with the Twenty-first Army Group. In the midst of the Ardennes counter-offensive the United States Fifteenth Army was assigned to the Twelfth Army Group. It remained with that Group until the end of the combat period. Twelfth Army Group Headquarters, also known as the Central Group of Armies, was entirely American in composition.

The Sixth Army Group, also known as the Southern Group of Armies, was commanded by Lt. Gen. Jacob L. Devers. It consisted of the French First Army under General de Lattre de Tassigny and the United States Seventh Army under Lt. Gen. Alexander M. Patch. Its headquarters, activated on August 1, 1944, by Allied Force Headquarters of the Mediterranean Theater of Operations, was at first responsible for completing plans for the invasion of southern France. On September 15, 1944, a month after that invasion was launched, Headquarters Sixth Army Group was made responsible to SHAEF and was give tactical control over the Allied ground and service forces in southern France. The Group's operations progressed into the area of the High Vosges, across the German frontier, and finally to Western Austria, and the Lake of Constance.

SHAEF (A69-14)

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- Air Action in Support of the Battle of the Rhine. Headquarters 21 Army Group (Germany, May 1945) (2 copies)
- 21 Army Group ADM Bulletin No. 346 (10 copies)
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Supply By Air. Headquarters I Troop Carrier Command Volume 1, November 20, 1944 (3 copies)

Air Invasion of Holland. II Troop Carrier Command. Report on Operation Market. (3 copies --1 of which is a photocopy)

Operations Repulse. Resupply by Air, Belgium, December, 1944 Headquarters IX Troop Carrier Command (2 copies)

1st Allied Airborne Army. Operations in Holland, September-November, 1944.

44 Allied Airborne Operations in Holland. September-October, 1944. (2 copies)

1st Allied Airborne Army-Operation Varsity (2 copies)

SHAEF, Use of Heavy Bombers in a Tactical Role (Theater Lesson) (four Photocopies)

Dispatch by Air Chief-Marshal Sir Trafford Leigh-Mallory, Air Commander in Chief, AEF, to the Supreme Allied Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force.

END OF CONTAINER LIST

The additional selected records of SHAEF consist of 12th Army Group Weekly Intelligence Summaries #18, 19, 22, 24, 35, 36, and 37 (December 1944-April 1945 - incomplete) and 12th Army Group G-2 Periodic Reports #211-240 (2-31 January 1944).

The Weekly Intelligence Summaries include a general summary of the week, summaries of enemy operations, troop dispositions, estimates of strength on the Western front, supplies and transportation, defense trends, visual reconnaissance and air force activity with additional intelligence notes on particular subjects. Also included are annexes to the summaries consisting of maps, diagrams of German weapons, interrogation reports, and essays on specific subjects dealing with Germany. Examples are: "The Edelweiss Youth Movement in Germany," "V-2" (German supersonic rocket), "Terrain Appreciation, The Elbe", "Mines and Booby-Traps," "The Russian Winter Offensive of 1945," etc.

The G-2 Periodic Reports are daily intelligence summaries of all data collected and evaluated concerning immediate and potentially significant military operations. These periodic reports discuss enemy activity in 21st and 6th Army Group areas as well as those in 23th Army Group area.

12th Army Group, commanded by Omar Bradley included 3rd U.S. Army (Patton), 1st U.S. Army (Hodges), 15th U.S. Army (Gerow) and 9th U.S. Army (Simpson).

Related Records: U.S. Army: After Action Reports, Principally 1941-45
Hodges, Courtney H., Military Associate: Papers, 1904-65

CONTAINER LIST

Box No. Series: 12th Army Group:

Weekly Intelligence Summary #18 for week ending 9 Dec. 1944

Weekly Intelligence Summary #19 for week ending 16 Dec. 1944

Weekly Intelligence Summary #22 for week ending 9 Jan. 1945

Weekly Intelligence Summary #24 for week ending 23 Jan. 1945

Weekly Intelligence Summary #35 for week ending 11 Apr. 1945

Weekly Intelligence Summary #36 for week ending 17 Apr. 1945

Weekly Intelligence Summary #37 for week ending 24 Apr. 1945

G-2 Periodic Reports #211-240 (2-31 Jan. 1945)

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