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BULL, HAROLD R.: Papers, 1943-68

Accessions: A69-36, A70-93, A80-21

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The World War II papers of Lt. Gen. Harold R. Bull, U.S. military officer and Assistant Chief of Staff (G-3) at SHAEF, were donated to the Eisenhower Library by General Bull in 1969 and 1970. Additional papers covering the post-war period were received from General Bull's daughter, Mrs. William Jameson, in June 1980.

Linear feet: 1
Approximate number of pages: 2000
Approximate number of items: 1500

An instrument of gift for these papers was signed by Mrs. Jameson in August 1991. Literary rights in the unpublished writings of General Bull in these papers and in other collections of papers at the Eisenhower Library have been donated to the public. Under terms of the instrument of gift the following classes of documents are withheld from research use:

1. Papers which constitute an invasion of personal privacy or a libel 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

This collection contains correspondence, reports, memoranda and diaries pertaining to the World War II service of General Harold Bull. A graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Bull served as Assistant Chief of Staff (G-3) at Dwight D. Eisenhower's headquarters (SHAEF) in Europe from October 1943 until SHEAF was dissolved in July 1945. He later served as Deputy Chief of Staff and Chief of Staff of U.S. Forces in Europe (USFET) until returning to the War Department in September 1946.

As head of the Operations (G-3) section of SHAEF, Bull had a major role in the planning of military operations in Europe. His office prepared most of the periodic situation reports to the Combined Chiefs of Staff and the SHAEF Operational Directives which were issued by Eisenhower's headquarters. Bull's office included the SHAEF meteorological staff which compiled weather reports for use in planning military operations. A favorable weather report by Bull's staff helped General Eisenhower decide to launch the invasion of Normandy on the morning of June 6, 1944.

Most of Bull's papers pertain to his service in Europe between October 1943 and September 1946. Documents from this period were donated to the Eisenhower Library by General Bull in 1969 and 1970, and include two extensive correspondence files labeled "Miscellaneous Military Letters" and "Personal Letters." The Military Letters relate to Bull's official duties and consist mostly of transmittal letters and memoranda on the work of the G-3 staff. They include many comments on significant military operations such as the planning of the Normandy Invasion and military support of OSS and SOE activities. The Personal Letters contain Bull's social correspondence with his family and friends, although scattered documents of an official nature are sometimes included.

The World War II files also include lengthy reports on the Normandy Invasion and military operations in Western Europe, biographical information on Bull, and a diary by Bull and his aide Edwin Culver regarding their inspection trip to North Africa in the spring of 1943.

The remainder of the collection, which dates largely from the post-World War II period, was donated to the Eisenhower Library by Bull's daughter in 1980. This material also relates to Bull's service in Europe, although in a retrospective manner. Of particular importance are drafts of an unpublished article by Bull in which he describes the work of the SHAEF meteorological staff. The material also includes an account of Bull's trips to Moscow, Malta and Yalta in early 1945, and his correspondence with historians, particularly John Toland, regarding his role in the war. Some of the comments concern Bull's reaction upon learning of the capture of the Remagen Bridge across the Rhine River in March 1945.

Although Bull's service in Europe and North Africa is well documented by this collection, it contains no material on other periods of his military service. The Military History Institute at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, holds papers of General Bull which cover the remainder of his military career. Bull's SHAEF office files are held by the National Archives in Washington, DC, although microfilm copies of a few selected files are at the Eisenhower Library, under the title "SHAEF, Office of G-3: Records, 1943-46."

CHRONOLOGY

- Jan 6, 1893 Born in Springfield, Massachusetts
- 1914 Graduated from U.S. Military Academy
- 1941-1942 Assistant Chief of Staff (G-3), War Department General Staff
- 1942-1943 Commanding General, Replacement and School Command, Army Ground Forces,
 Birmingham, Alabama
- 1943-1943 Special Field Observer, AFHQ, North Africa
- 1943-1943 Commanding General, III Corps
- 1943-1945 Assistant Chief of Staff (G-3), COSSAC and SHAEF
- 1945-1946 Deputy Chief of Staff and Chief of Staff, USFET
- 1952 Retired from the Army
- Nov 1, 1976 Died in Washington, DC

CONTAINER LIST

Box No. Contents

ACCESSION 69-36

1 Diary, Recollections, Biographical Sketch, Travel Orders [inspection tour of North Africa, March-May 1943]

Miscellaneous Military Letters 25 Oct. 1943 - 10 Feb. 1944 (1)(2)

Miscellaneous Military Letters 11 Feb. 1944 - 31 May 1944 (1)(2)

Miscellaneous Military Letters 1 June 1944 - 20 Dec. 1944 (1)(2)

Miscellaneous Military Letters 31 July 1945 - 5 July 1946 (1)(2)

The Normandy Invasion (1)(2)

Personal Letters 14 Oct. 1943 - 16 Sept. 1944 (1)-(3)

Personal Letters 16 Sept. 1944 - 25 Jan. 1945 (1)(2)

2 Personal Letters 2 Feb. 1945 - 15 June 1945 (1)(2)

Personal Letters 2 July 1945 - 21 Aug. 1945 (1)(2)

Personal Letters 23 Aug. 1945 - 26 Aug. 1946 (1)-(3)

Post-Hostilities - Personal Correspondence Jan. 25 - Apr. 26, 1945

ACCESSION 70-93

Additional Papers 1944-48

ACCESSION 80-21

Clippings

Correspondence (1)(2) [John Toland re The Last 100 Days; Johns Hopkins University; Eisenhower Library]

Diary Pages and Other Notes (1)(2) [statistics on landing craft and harbors]

3 General Papers 1943-52 [memo re Bull's reaction to Remagen Bridge capture]

Box No. Contents

3 Memorabilia
(cont.)

Trip to Moscow, Malta, Yalta 1944-45

Weather Pre-D-Day (1)-(3) [draft article by Bull re SHAEF meteorological staff;
Arthur Nevins; Truman Smith re Readers Digest, Gary Powers]

END OF CONTAINER LIST