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ABILENE, KANSAS

COTA, NORMAN D.: Papers, 1912-1961

Accessions 69-31, 74-28, and 75-12

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Date completed: March 1977

The Papers of Major General Norman Daniel Cota, Assistant Division Commander of the 29th Infantry Division and Commander of the 28th Infantry Division during World War II, were deposited in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library by his wife, Alice Cota, in February 1969, March 1974, May 1974, and June 1975.

Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 1.75 (.55 meters)
Approximate number of pages: 3,500
Approximate number of items: 1,200

An instrument of gift for these papers was signed by Mrs. Cota on March 22, 1974. Literary property rights are retained by the donor until her death. At that time such rights pass to the United States. Under terms of the instrument of gift the following classes of documents are withheld from research use:

1. Papers relating to the family and private business affairs of Norman Cota.
2. Papers relating to the family and private business affairs of other persons who have had correspondence with Norman Cota.
3. Papers relating to investigations of individuals or to appointments and personnel matters.
4. Papers containing statements made by or to Norman Cota in confidence unless in the judgment of the Director of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library the reason for the confidentiality no longer exists.
5. All other papers which contain information or statements that might be used to injure, harass, or damage any living person.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

May 30, 1893	Born, Chelsea, Massachusetts
1910-1913	Attended Worcester Academy, Massachusetts
1917	Graduated from the U.S. Military Academy
1918-1920	Instructor, USMA
1920-1921	Assigned to the Office of Chief of Finance, Washington, D.C.
1921-1922	Assigned to Fort Howard, Maryland
1922-1923	Post Finance Officer at Langley Field, Virginia
1923-1924	Post Finance Officer, USMA
1925	Graduated from the Infantry School, Fort Benning
1925-1928	Regimental Plans and Training Officer, 35 th Inf. Regt. Schofield Barracks, Hawaii
1929	Graduated from the Advanced Course at the Infantry School, Fort Benning
1931	Graduated from the Command and General Staff School, Fort Leavenworth
1936	Graduated from the Army War College, Washington, D.C.
1936-1938	Supply Officer and Plans and Training Officer, 26 th Inf. Regt.
1938-1940	Instructor, Command and General Staff School, Fort Leavenworth
1940-1941	Executive Officer, 16 th Inf. Regt. at Fort Jay, N.Y.
1941-1942	Served in various staff positions with the 1 st Infantry Division
1942-1943	Chief of Staff, 1 st Infantry Division
1943-1944	Assistant Division Commander, 29 th Infantry Division
1944-1945	Commanding General, 28 th Infantry Division
1946	Retired, Major General
1946-1948	Philadelphia Region Director of the War Assets Administration
1949-1952	Executive Director, Philadelphia Civil Defense Council

October 4, 1971

Died in Wichita, Kansas, at the age of 78

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers of Norman D. Cota span the years of his military career, 1912-1961. The bulk of the material covers the period 1943-1948. The collection contains some material pertaining to General Cota's days at West Point, but there is a limited quantity of material for the period between World War I and World War II. About eighty percent of the collection consists of electrostatic copies of General Cota's papers which remain in the custody of Mrs. Cota. Most of the original material, comprising about twenty percent of the collection, consists of memorabilia, press clippings, certificates, commissions, photographs, and some correspondence.

The collection is divided into five series. The first two series comprise General Cota's personal files. The Personal File series contains correspondence with many of General Cota's military associates, including Generals Terry Allen, Omar Bradley, J. Lawton Collins, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Leonard T. Gerow, Courtney H. Hodges, John C. H. Lee, Willard S. Paul, and Mathew B. Ridgway. Among the more interesting items in the Personal File series is correspondence concerning the execution of Private Eddie Slovik, the only American soldier to be executed for desertion since the Civil War. Most of the Slovik related correspondence is between General Cota and William B. Huie, author of the book The Execution of Private Slovik, and pertains to General Cota's role in the Slovik execution and the final draft of Huie's book. General Cota's notebooks (1942-43) containing his notes on the landings and operations of the First Infantry Division in North Africa and Sicily are also located within the Personal File series.

The General Records series contains material pertaining to the 28th Infantry Division for the period when General Cota was the Division Commander. Included within the General Historical Material series are historical reports and publications pertaining to the Normandy campaign, the Battle of the Bulge, the execution of Private Slovik, the 28th Infantry Division, and brief historical sketches for every United States division that participated in World War II.

One of the more interesting items in the Memorabilia series is a West Point demerit book maintained for a single barracks by a succession of cadets, General Cota being the last. The bound book is a handwritten record of demerits charged against cadets of the USMA for various offences such as wearing an improper uniform, being late for formation, having dirty weapons, and talking in ranks.

Numerous photographs and a few maps have been removed from the collection and transferred to the Eisenhower Library audiovisual and map collections. A large number of items have also been transferred to the Eisenhower Museum.

DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

Box Nos. Series

- 1 I. PERSONAL FILE. 1942-1962. 1 container.
- Correspondence, memoranda, telegrams, notes, commendations, and speeches concerning the personal and professional interests and activities of General Cota. Arrangement is chronological and alphabetical thereunder.
- 1-2 II. PERSONAL 201 FILE. 1913-1950. ½ container.
- Orders, commendations, citations, certificates, reports, commissions, and correspondence concerning the military personnel records of Norman D. Cota. Arrangement is chronological.
- 2 III. GENERAL RECORDS. 1943-1946. ½ container.
- Correspondence, memoranda, orders, commendations, reports, evaluations, and regulations relating to General Cota's official duties and the operations and activities of U.S. Army units with which General Cota was associated. Arrangement is chronological and alphabetical thereunder.
- 2-3 IV. GENERAL HISTORICAL MATERIAL. 1942-1954. 1 ½ containers.
- Histories, book drafts, booklets, lists, rosters, and notes primarily concerning the Normandy campaign, the Battle of the Bulge, and the execution of Private Eddie D. Slovik. Arrangement is roughly chronological.
- 4-5 V. MEMORABILIA. 1912-1963. 1 ½ containers.
- Certificates, booklets, press clippings, programs, invitations, posters, and a West Point demerit book pertaining to General Cota's military career, the 1st Infantry Division, the 28th Infantry Division, and events and activities of personal interest to General Cota. Arrangement is roughly chronological.

CONTAINER LIST

Box No. Contents

1 Material Transferred to the Museum, Audiovisual Collection and Map Collection

SERIES I: PERSONAL FILE

General Cota's Notebook 1942-1943 [Contains notes on the landing and operations of the First Infantry Division in North Africa]

General Cota's Notebook 1943 [Contains notes on the landing and operations of the First Infantry Division in Sicily]

Personal File Correspondence 1945 A-F

Personal File Correspondence 1945 G-I

Personal File Correspondence 1945 J-L

Personal File Correspondence 1945 M

Personal File Correspondence 1945 N-R

Personal File Correspondence 1945 S-Z

Personal File Miscellaneous January-August 1945

Personal File Miscellaneous September- October 1945

Speech Material 1945- 1948

Personal File Correspondence 1944-1954 (1) (2) [Includes correspondence regarding the execution of Private Eddie Slovik and William B. Huie's book on the subject]

War Assets Administration 1948 [Xerox copies of photographs and a copy of Target]

Personal File Correspondence 1956-1962

SERIES II: PERSONAL 201 FILE

Personal 201 File 1913-1943

Personal 201 File 1944

Personal 201 File January-July 1945

Personal 201 File August-December 1945

Personal 201 File 1946-1950

SERIES III; GENERAL RECORDS

- 2 Official Correspondence 1943-1946 [North Africa; letters of appreciation; letter from Col. Hurley E. Fuller re experience as a POW; battle at Hosengin; bridging operation during river crossings; notes on supply discipline; Battle of the Bulge; combat experiences of the 110th Infantry]

Miscellaneous Records of the 28th Inf. Div. 1944-1945 [CP locations; awards, decorations, and commendations; letter of instruction re the Division's march through Paris on August 29, 1944]

28th Inf. Div. Current File January – February 1945 [Contains reports regarding offensive combat, bazooka teams, and the loss of signal equipment in Colmar area; general information on the German Army; intelligence instructions]

General Officers (of the 28th Inf. Div.) Evaluation Reports May 15, 1945

Requests For Insignia and Autographs (directed to General Cota) 1945 (1) (2)

Condolence Letters 1945 (1) (2) [Includes letters to and from General Cota and families of 28th Division personnel re deaths, men missing in action, and personal problems]

Unit and Sundry Funds of the 28th Inf. Div. December 7, 1945

Target Report on Philadelphia, Penna. January 22, 1951 [Prepared while Norman Cota was the Executive Director of the Philadelphia Civil Defense Council]

SERIES IV: GENERAL HISTORICAL MATERIAL

Lt. Jack Shea's Notes on the Normandy Campaign (1) (2)

The Siegfried Line Campaign Chapter II "V Corps Hit The Westwall" [Author's draft from the Office of the Chief of Military History, Department of the Army, Washington, D. C.]

Company Raid Near Gilrath, Germany November 24, 1944 [Historical sketch compiled from interviews with 1st Lt. John T. Wilkinson and 2nd Lt. Frank Silata of L Company, 115th Infantry Regiment]

"Fourteenth Cavalry Group And Its Work In The Counteroffensive" December 16-31, 1944 (notes by Lt. Jack Shea)

- 3 German Counteroffensive December 16, 1944 – January 1, 1945 (1) [Historical sketches prepared from group interviews with the 18th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, 14th Cav. Group]
- German Counteroffensive December 16, 1944 – January 1, 1945 (2) (3) (4) (5) [Historical sketches prepared from group interviews with the 18th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, 14th Cav. Group]
- 28th Inf. Div. Roster of Officers October 16, 1945
- List of General Officers of the U.S. Army January 1, 1946
- Division Fact Sheets June 1946 Americal-10th Mountain Division
- Division Fact Sheets June 1946 11th Airborne-35th Infantry
- Division Fact Sheets June 1946 36th Infantry-82nd Airborne
- Division Fact Sheets June 1946 83rd Infantry-106th Infantry
- Outfit, Vol. 1 No. 46 (No date) [Published by Army Service Forces and distributed without charge to hospitalized U.S. Army personnel]
- The Execution of Private Slovik, William Bradford Huie (1) (2)
- Book Reviews of The Execution of Private Slovik
- The Judge Advocate Journal, Bulletins No. 16 and 17 March and June 1954 [Contains a review of the Huie book]
- Darryl F. Zanuck's "The Longest Day," by Fred Hift
- The 9th – The Story of the 9th Armored Division
- 28th Roll On – The Story of the 28th Infantry Division
- History 28th Quartermaster Company of the 28th Infantry Division Nov. 11, 1943-Sept. 2, 1945
- Connecticut Men 28th – Bloody Bucket Division September 1945
- Pennsylvanians On the Western Front, Ivan H. (Cy) Peterman (reprinted from the Philadelphia Inquirer)

4 SERIES V: MEMORABILIA

Memorabilia 1913-1963

“The Returning Veterans,” Governor Edward Martin July 1945 [An Address by Governor Martin of Pennsylvania at the 37th Governor’s Conference, Mackinac, Michigan]

Officers of the First Division Victory Dinner May 11, 1946

The Pennsylvania Guardsman December 1946

Society of the 28th Division A.E.F. 17th Annual Convention Program July 10-13, 1947

Farewell Dinner to General Cota – Mementos September 30, 1948

Miscellaneous Press Clippings 1944-1948 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6)

The Tomahawk, Special Supplement Dec. 20, 1945

The Red Keystone April and July 1948

Press Clippings from Pennsylvania Newspapers 1948-1951 (1) (2)

Pennsylvania Newspapers 1948 and 1954

5 Certificates and Posters 1944-1946

West Point Demerit Book of Major General Norman D. Cota April 27, 1912 – August 9, 1916 [Microfilm copy; the original is in security storage]

END OF CONTAINER LIST