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ABILENE, KANSAS

PANTUHOFF, OLEG JR.: Memoirs, 1944-46

Accession 85-9
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The memoirs of Colonel Oleg Pantuhoff Jr., who later changed his name to John L. Bates, were deposited in the Eisenhower Library by Mr. Bates in January 1985.

Linear feet: -1
Approximate number of pages: 260
Approximate number of items: 1

Colonel Bates signed an instrument of gift for his memoirs on January 11, 1985. Literary rights in the unpublished writings of Col. Bates in this collection and in all other collections of papers received by the United States were retained by Col. Bates during his lifetime. Upon his death on September 20, 1995, such rights passed 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 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

Colonel Oleg Pantuhoff Jr. was born in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1910 and immigrated to the United States with his family in 1922. He joined the army in the early 1930s and eventually rose to the rank of colonel. During World War II, because of his knowledge of Russian, he served as a translator during meetings with Russian officials at various Allied conferences, including the Tehran and Yalta conferences. Following the Yalta conference Pantuhoff was assigned to U.S. forces in France which were planning for the occupation of Germany. In May 1945 he accompanied Dwight D. Eisenhower to Berlin where he translated during meetings with Russian Marshal Zhukov. Pantuhoff remained in Berlin where he worked with General Floyd Parks and General Lucius Clay at U.S. occupation headquarters. He served as a translator at the Potsdam Conference in July 1945 and during meetings of the Allied Control Council. He returned to the United States in May 1946. Pantuhoff later changed his name to John L. Bates, but continued his military service until retiring in 1957.

Pantuhoff had kept diaries during his military service and also retained many family letters. In the early 1980s he used this material to compile his memoirs. Pantuhoff had refrained from recording anything sensitive in his diaries. As a result, his memoirs contain no information on the actual proceedings of the Allied Control Council or Eisenhower's meetings with Zhukov. Instead, Pantuhoff discussed his travels, living conditions in Germany, and his impressions of important persons whom he encountered. He also included extensive abstracts of letters from his family and articles from Stars and Stripes and other newspapers on military events in other parts of the world.

Upon completing his memoirs, Bates donated copies of selected chapters to various repositories. The Eisenhower Library received chapters 17-21 covering 1944 to 1946 when he had frequent contacts with Dwight D. Eisenhower. Additional chapters are at the U.S. Army Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Contents</u>
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- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Memoirs (1) [Dec. 28, 1944-Feb. 15, 1945] [Yalta Conference] |
| | Memoirs (2) [Feb. 15-June 14, 1945] [work in Paris; travel to Berlin with DDE; meetings with Zhukov] |
| | Memoirs (3) [June 14-Nov. 9, 1945] [Floyd Parks; Allied Control Council in Berlin; Potsdam Conference; Lucius Clay] |
| | Memoirs (4) [Nov. 17, 1945-May 5, 1946] [life in occupied Berlin] |

END OF CONTAINER LIST