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WYDEN, BARBARA: Papers, 1944-1945

Accession 01-19

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The papers of Barbara Wyden, author, were deposited in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library in June, 2001. On July 20, Mr. Harold Woodman, Ms. Wyden's brother and conservator, executed an instrument of gift for these papers. Barbara Wyden and Harold Woodman have assigned to the United States of America, all literary property rights in their own writings that may be among these papers. Literary property rights of others whose writings are found among these papers are presumed to lie with the writers or the writers' estates.

Linear feet shelf space occupied:	-1
Approximate number of pages (manuscripts):	1,000
Number of items	3

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1. Papers and other historical materials the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of a living person
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SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Ms. Barbara Wyden and her brother Mr. Harold Woodman discovered the 1944 and 1945 desk diaries of Supreme Allied Commander Dwight D. Eisenhower, along with related items, among Ms. Wyden's personal effects when she recently moved from her Connecticut home. Recognizing the historical significance of the documents, Ms. Wyden and Mr. Woodman contacted the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library and generously offered to deposit the diaries in the Library's archives. The Library formally accepted the gift on July 24, 2001.

Barbara Wyden is an author who has served as a writer and editor with Newsweek, the Chicago Sun-Times, the New York Times, and Simon & Schuster. She also has written, shared bylines for, or ghost-written a number of books including A Rich Wife, The Black Child, Widow, Special People (with Julie Nixon Eisenhower) and (with Kay Summersby) Past Forgetting.

The desk diaries were maintained principally by the General's secretary, Kay Summersby. Although Eisenhower occasionally entered notes in the 1944 diary, Summersby penned the remainder of the 1944 entries and all of those in the 1945 diary. These "headquarters" diaries traveled with the Supreme Commander and his staff from England (Grosvenor Square, Bushy Park, Advance Command Post at Portsmouth) through the Allied drive across Europe (Tournieres, Granville, Versailles, Reims) and the occupation of postwar Germany (Frankfurt).

The diaries served as logs of appointments, trips, meetings, and other official activities. They also contain Eisenhower's and Summersby's candid observations about the events and personalities with which the Supreme Commander had to deal as he orchestrated the defeat of Nazi Germany. Planning for the invasion of Europe, D-Day, the Allied breakout in Normandy, the Battle of the Bulge, the Allied crossing of the Rhine and, finally, the surrender of Germany in May 1945 are only a few of the events documented by the diaries. Winston Churchill, General Bernard Montgomery, General George Patton and King George VI are among the historical actors who march across the diaries' pages.

Kay Summersby was born Kathleen Helen McCarthy-Morrogh in County Cork, Ireland, in 1909. As a young woman she moved to London where she worked as a film studio "extra," dabbled in photography and eventually became a fashion model. She married and divorced. When Great Britain declared war on Germany in September 1939, Summersby joined the British Motor Transport Corps, a civilian emergency rescue service. For almost a year, she and the other women comprising the Corps had little to do. Then, in August 1940, Adolph Hitler unleashed his formidable *Luftwaffe* in the bombing "blitz" of England. From the beginning of the blitz to its end in the summer of 1941, Summersby drove an ambulance through the rubble and carnage of London's streets.

After the blitz ceased, Summersby volunteered to serve as a chauffeur for the small contingent of U.S. Army observers in London. In May 1942, an officer dispatched her to Paddington train station where she was to pick up two visiting U.S. Army Major Generals. Summersby had never heard of either Dwight D. Eisenhower or Mark W. Clark but she became acquainted with both officers while she chauffeured them during a week of high-level Allied military meetings. When

Eisenhower returned a month later as Commander, European Theater of Operations, he asked Summersby to join his headquarters staff as a driver and *ex officio* member of his Women's Army Corps secretarial contingent.

Summersby served on Eisenhower's staff throughout the remainder of the war—from England to North Africa, to Italy, back to England for D-Day preparations, and then to France and Germany. Tragically, in June 1943 a German land mine in Tunisia killed her fiancé, American Colonel Richard Arnold. Eisenhower offered her a release from service at the time but she chose instead to remain with the Supreme Commander's staff. Eventually Eisenhower obtained a commission for her as a lieutenant in the WAC's. By the end of the war, Summersby had become Eisenhower's principal receptionist and secretary.

When the war ended and Eisenhower returned to the United States to assume the post of Army Chief of Staff, Summersby moved to Berlin where she worked as an aide to General Lucius Clay, Deputy Military Governor of occupied Germany. While there, she received orders from Eisenhower to prepare a typescript of the diaries for June through December 1944. The former Supreme Commander wanted the material for his memoir of the war that would be published in 1948 under the title, Crusade in Europe. The typescript Summersby prepared, which actually covers June 1944 through April 1945, has been available for research at the Eisenhower Library for thirty years. Comparing this typescript with the original diaries, however, reveals that the typed version is not a *verbatim* copy of the diaries for the eleven-month period it covers. When Summersby prepared the typescript, she frequently paraphrased or summarized the original text, omitted entries or portions of entries and even added new material--presumably from memory--to the typed version.

When Summersby left Berlin for the United States in late 1946, she took the desk diaries with her. Shortly after returning to civilian life in 1947, Summersby used the volumes as reference material for her memoir, Eisenhower Was My Boss. Twenty-five years later, Summersby gave the diaries to her ghostwriter, Barbara Wyden, whom Summersby had asked to assist her with a second wartime memoir. Summersby died in January 1975, before the book was finished. The following year, Simon and Schuster published Past Forgetting. Both the 1947 and 1976 books contain quotations drawn from the diaries.

The diaries capture in a compelling way, the wartime drama surrounding the Supreme Commander and his staff. On July 4, 1944, General Eisenhower visited Allied positions in Normandy, France. His entries for that day include the following: "Went with Brad [General Omar Bradley, First Army commander] to Art.[illery] battery while he pulled the lanyard on a Long Tom as part of a scheme for celebrating July 4. The orders were for every gun to be fired at German positions (1 round) at exactly noon Went to VIII Corps and to 79th and 90th Divs. Attack going slowly Visited VII Corps which put its 83d Div[ision] . . . into the attack today In fairness to all troops it must be said that swamp, hedges and weather all combine to make great difficulties Went up in P-51 this evening. Escorted by fighters. I was glad of chance to see country from air."

Summersby's entries are equally engaging. On May 4, 1945, as the German military machine disintegrated, Summersby made the following entry from the Supreme Commander's

headquarters in Reims, France: “Call from P.M. [British Prime Minister Winston Churchill] – He is much disturbed over the fact that the Russians are landing in Denmark. There is supposed to be a large communistic element in Denmark . . . Call from Monty [British General Bernard Montgomery, commander of the Allied First and Ninth Armies], 7 pm, the Germans are surrendering, North, West, Germany, Holland, Denmark including Norway the news of the surrender was announced at 8 o’clock on the BBC “

Two additional items accompanied the diaries. One is a copy of My Three Years with Eisenhower, given to Summersby by its author, Eisenhower’s naval aide Harry Butcher. The book is marked up, as though Summersby might have relied on it heavily for her memoirs. The other item is a small 1944 notebook in which Eisenhower occasionally jotted “action” notes for staff officers or scribbled personal notes that he would later enter into the official desk diary. Only seven pages contain copies of action notes or diary entries; the remainder of the volume is blank. The diary notes are dated July 2 through 4, 1944 and cover the Supreme Commander’s brief visit to Normandy. Comparing the entries with those in the desk diaries suggests that Eisenhower took the notebook rather than the desk diary with him to France and later copied the notebook entries into the headquarters diary.

CONTAINER LIST

Box No. Contents

- 1 Typescripts of Eisenhower's 1944 Diary Entries
- D.D.E. [notebook, 1944]
- Diary [1944]
- Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower [Diary, 1945] (1) [January 1 – February 28]
- Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower [Diary, 1945] (2) [March 1 – April 30]
- Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower [Diary, 1945] (3) [May 1 – June 30]
- Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower [Diary, 1945] (4) [July 1 – August 31]
- Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower [Diary, 1945] (5) [September 1 – October 31]
- Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower [Diary, 1945] (6) [November 1 – December 31]
- [Items transferred to book collection]

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