

Prepared by: EWH
Date: 2/15/96

GRUENTHER

GRUENTHER, ALFRED M. OH-113 97 pgs. w/ Index PRRCQ

Military associate; Supreme Allied Commander in Europe (NATO forces), 1953-56

DESCRIPTION: PART I:

Early association with Eisenhower (incl. anecdote regarding assignment to Gen. Walter Krueger's Third Army staff, working with Eisenhower during the Louisiana maneuvers, serving as Deputy Chief of Staff to Eisenhower in 1941); effects of Pearl Harbor (incl. Eisenhower's transfer to Washington, preparations for war, appointment to Eisenhower's European headquarters, anecdote regarding Gen. Walter Bedell Smith and Operation Torch); the London headquarters (incl. anecdotes related to Gruenther's lack of information on Operation Torch, planning for Operation Torch); problems connected with Operation Torch (incl. missing plans, the map incident, logistical difficulties, the French opposition); Eisenhower's duties as Third Army Chief of Staff; stories concerning Eisenhower's career prior to 1941 (incl. anecdote involving Gen. Fox Connor, anecdote involving Gen. Douglas MacArthur and President Manuel Quezon); Eisenhower's political training (incl. association with MacArthur, Eisenhower's interest in industrial/economic affairs, as a learner, as an idea man, as a military-diplomatic figure in North Africa, as a military-political leader in Europe during his NATO command); Gruenther's association with Eisenhower (incl. the period from the North African campaign through V-E Day, the post-war period from 1945 through 1948, observations concerning Eisenhower's tobacco and coffee habits); the Eisenhower-Churchill relationship (incl. comments about the drinking habits of both, anecdote concerning Churchill's brandy consumption, Eisenhower's rapport with Churchill); Eisenhower's hobbies; early efforts to persuade Eisenhower to run for the Presidency; making the decision to run.

DESCRIPTION: PART II:

General comments (incl. Eisenhower's becoming involved in the political process, Eisenhower's continuing commitment to NATO, the Eisenhower-Gruenther correspondence on NATO affairs, anecdote regarding Pierre Mendes-France, Eisenhower, and fishing, other comments about Mendes-France, Gruenther's appointment as head of the American Red Cross); concerns about impact on NATO of Eisenhower's departure; preparing reports for Eisenhower (incl. the military way, oral vs. written, Eisenhower's handwriting); Eisenhower's communication process (incl. oral style, writing competency, anecdote regarding Gen. Krueger, Eisenhower, and Gruenther); European crises (incl. the Hungarian Revolution, the Suez Canal invasion, the role of SHAPE); the dual role of the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe; Gruenther's military assignments with NATO; dealing with the press (incl. anecdote concerning Gruenther and the 1956 Russian missile threat, general consequences in responding to press queries); the Suez crisis (incl. effects of Eisenhower's stance with Britain and France, reaction of other NATO members); contacts with the National Security Council; the East German uprising in 1953; other European concerns (incl. the French/Indochina question, the proposed European Defense Community); reasons for Gruenther's retirement; Eisenhower's enthusiasm for hobbies (incl. anecdote

regarding Eisenhower, Gruenther, and a bridge game, Eisenhower's approach to a hobby, importance of the Eisenhower hobbies); Presidential advisors (incl. Gruenther's comments about the influence of Eisenhower's friends, the importance of Milton Eisenhower, Gruenther's relationship with Eisenhower); Eisenhower's interest in the Red Cross; Mamie Eisenhower's interests; Gruenther's military connections through the Red Cross and Defense Department committees; study groups (incl. the Draper Committee, time commitment required for study groups, the President's Goals Committee, Eisenhower's interest in the Goals Committee); comments about a Gruenther visit to Gettysburg (incl. anecdotes involving Eisenhower's interests and character, Eisenhower's belief in the necessity for supporting the President); Gruenther's analysis of Eisenhower's character.
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[Columbia University Oral History Project, interviews by Ed Edwin, Part I, April 20; Part II, Sept. 7, 1967]