

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers of Major General Ray W. Barker span the years 1942-1946. During this period, General Barker served in the European Theater of Operations. He was ordered to London by General Marshall in 1942 to work with British planners for the upcoming cross-channel invasion of the European continent. During the next two years he was attached to the combined United States-British group, which became known as COSSAC (Chief of Staff to Supreme Allied Commander), and planned "Operation Overlord." Especially valuable within this collection are the documents which cover various aspects of planning for the June 1944 invasion.

The first series, approximately one-fourth of the collection, deals with planning "Operation Overlord." Deliberations of the Combined Commanders, the British planning organ for the cross-channel invasion, are included. Of special importance is the review of factors which could affect the return to the continent. This review was prepared by Generals Barker and Sir John Alexander Sinclair; it became in large measure the basis of "Operation Overlord." Some 1943-44 minutes of COSSAC staff meetings are also included. Within the folder entitled, "Papers pertaining to COSSAC, October, 1943-44", are materials on psychological warfare used against the Cherbourg garrison, and information on the civil government of France during the war years. Also included in this folder are the initial directive to COSSAC and the first directive relating to planning for operations in northwest Europe. An item of major importance is the three-part final draft of "Operation Overlord Administrative Appreciation", which details policies for handling administrative aspects of the planned invasion. The "Operation Overlord Appendices" include valuable information on plans for the construction of artificial harbors that were necessary for a successful European invasion.

The second series, approximately one-eighth of the collection, contains miscellaneous documents which for the most part cover the period following "Operation Overlord." Included are 1945 cables between SHAEF and the War Department in Washington. The great majority of these are classified Top Secret and deal with operational situations and orders pertaining to the European war effort. The correspondence is sparse and of limited historical value. Also included is a report of the ETOUSA Judge Advocate which details the activities of his service in Europe from April 4, 1942 until April 3, 1946. A few newspaper clippings covering the German surrender and other war subjects are included. Of considerable importance in this series is a collection of leaflets identical to those dropped by the Western Allies into German-occupied nations.

The third series consists of a photographic record of the Allied air effort in support of the invasion of Europe. The photographs are varied, but give good coverage of several aspects of air power in the invasion and the ensuing battles. The original photographs have been transferred to the Dwight D. Eisenhower Audio-Visual Collection, but reproductions remain in the manuscript collection.

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The fourth series consists of maps of the French beaches in the Normandy area. These were originally gifts from Napoleon to one of his marshals, Marshal McDonald. They came into General Barker's possession by way of gift from T. Bentley Mott, who was utilized in a mission to save marshal Petain's life at the time of the Allied victory in France. These maps are detailed and valuable but fragile; therefore, care must be exercised in their use.

The collection's arrangement and folder titles were devised by a staff archivist.

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Dec 10, 1889	Born, New York state
1910	Enlisted U.S. Cavalry as private
1913	Commissioned 2nd lieutenant
1917	Transferred to Field Artillery
1920	Graduated Cavalry School
1927	Graduated Advanced Field Artillery School
1928	Graduated Command and General Staff School
1940	Graduated Army War College
1942-43	Assistant Chief of Staff, War Plans Division, U.S. Forces in British Isles
1943-44	Deputy Chief of Staff, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3, European Theater of Operations
1944	Deputy Chief of Staff, SHAEF
1945	Director of Army division to supervise demilitarization of Germany
Jun 28, 1974	Died

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DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

Box No. Series

- 1 Planning, Operation Overlord, September 1942-March 1944. Minutes of SHAEF staff meetings, Combined Commanders meetings, Joint Chiefs of Staff meetings, and COSSAC meetings. Varied COSSAC documents. Directives for administrative policy. Appendices to Operation Overlord. Arranged Chronologically.
- 2 Miscellaneous, 1944-46. Less than one container. Operations cables. Psychological leaflets. Judge Advocate's report. Miscellaneous newspaper clippings.
- 3 Photographic Album, ca. 1945.
- 4 Maps, ca. 1800

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CONTAINER LIST

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SERIES I: PLANNING, OPERATION OVERLORD

- 1 Combined Commanders Meetings, September, 1942
- Review of Certain Factors Affecting Preparations for a Return to the Continent,
 March 18, 1943
- Joint Chiefs of Staff Corrigendum to Minutes of J.C.S. 105th August 26, 1943
- Amend Directive to COSSAC as to its mission, 1943
- Operation Overlord Administrative, Part III, Third Draft, Oct. 25, 1943
- Operation Overlord Administrative, Part III, Third Draft, Oct 27, 1943
- Operation Overlord Administrative, Part III, Third Draft, Nov 6, 1943
- Operation Overlord Administrative, Parts I and II, Final Draft, November 24 and
 December 14, 1943
- Operation Overlord Administrative, Part III, Final Draft, Jan 7, 1944
- Operation Overlord Appendices
- Minutes of COSSAC staff meeting, 1943-44
- Papers pertaining to COSSAC, October 1943-44
- SHAEF Minutes of Chief of Staff meetings, March, 1944

SERIES II: MISCELLANEOUS

- 2 Leaflets dropped into occupied countries
- Newspaper Clippings dealing with surrender May 9, 1945
- Miscellaneous clippings

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- 2 Operations Cables, 1945
(cont.) Correspondence 1945-46 (scattered badly)
- Report of the Theater Judge Advocate ETOUSA April 4, 1942 thru April 3, 1946
- Interview of General Barker by Dr. Maclyn Burg regarding the papers

SERIES III: PHOTOGRAPHIC ALBUM

- 3 Photographic record of the Allied Air Effort in Support of the invasion of the
Continent of Europe

SERIES IV: MAPS

- 4 Maps of Normandy Coastline, Napoleonic Period

END OF CONTAINER LIST