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ABILENE, KANSAS

WEBB, JAMES R.: Material re Lloyd R. Fredendall and
the Tunisian Campaign, 1942-43 (photocopies)

Accession 70-82
Processed by: BSR
Date Completed: March 1970

The James R. Webb collection was loaned to the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library by Mr. Webb in February 1970. The original papers were returned to Mr. Webb after being copied by the Eisenhower Library staff.

Linear feet: -1
Approximate number of pages: 105
Approximate number of items: 34

Mr. Webb placed no restrictions on the collection. Documents written by U.S. Army officers in performance of their official duties are in the public domain.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

James R. Webb was born on October 4, 1909 in Denver, Colorado, and graduated from Stanford University in 1930. During the 1930s he was a fiction writer for a number of national magazines, including Colliers, Cosmopolitan and Saturday Evening Post. He also became a screenwriter for a number of Hollywood movies.

Webb was commissioned an army officer in June 1942 and became a personal aide to General Lloyd R. Fredendall who was commander of the Second Corps. Webb accompanied Fredendall to England in October 1942 and participated in the invasion of North Africa in November 1942 when the Second Corps captured the city of Oran. The Second Corps then attacked eastward into Tunisia. In February 1943 the German army launched a counterattack at Kasserine Pass which repulsed the Second Corps and nearly broke through the Allied lines. The Supreme Commander Dwight D. Eisenhower relieved Fredendall of command in March 1943 and sent him back to the United States where he became deputy commander of the Second Army at Memphis, Tennessee. Webb returned to the U.S. with Fredendall and later served in the European Theater. After the war Webb left the Army and returned to Hollywood, California, where he continued his work as a screenwriter. He died on September 27, 1974.

The James R. Webb Collection consists of electrostatic copies of material he collected relating to General Fredendall and the Tunisian campaign. Most of the material consists of newspaper and magazine articles reporting on the campaign, some of which were written by Webb. There is also an after action report by General Fredendall giving his account of events in Tunisia. Of particular importance are copies of Webb's notes that he made while he was with Fredendall. These give accounts of their flight to England, their activities in Africa, and their return flight to the United States. Webb strongly supported General Fredendall in his writings, although later military historians have criticized Fredendall for his handling of the attack at Kasserine Pass.

CONTAINER LIST

Box No. Contents

1 List of Items

Collection on Gen. Fredendall and the Tunisian Campaign (1) (2)

END OF CONTAINER LIST