

Processed by: DJH  
Date: 9/23/85

LUTES

LUTES, LEROY

(OH-408)

197 pages

OPEN

Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations, United States Army Services of Supply, 1942-1945.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1. Early background; his father's move to Washington state and return to Illinois; Lutes' service in Washington National Guard; his attendance at military school in Illinois; failure to obtain appointment to West Point. Early military career: his command of company in Illinois National Guard and subsequent service on Mexican border; his receiving commission as 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant in infantry. Transfer from infantry to coast artillery. Talks about coast artillery and its replacement by anti-aircraft artillery. Discusses duty stations in Panama and at Ft. Monroe, Virginia and describes social life at those posts. Talks about his military schools: Coast Artillery School at Ft. Monroe; General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, and Army War College; describes problem-solving courses at War College. Talks about Louisiana Maneuvers in 1941 and their impact on his career; describes briefly first meeting Dwight D. Eisenhower during Louisiana Maneuvers; gives considerable details about the maneuvers.

Interview #2. Mentions briefly command of 37<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade and his being ordered to Washington, D.C. after Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Talks about meeting with General Brehon Somervell and Lutes' selection to be assistant to General Somervell in logistics. Describes Somervell: his personality and his concept of vertical control. Lutes tells how the Louisiana Maneuvers prepared him for commanding large supply organization. Some mention of staff selection. Discussion of delays in General Staff supplying G-4 with plans and G-4's need to maintain plans for possible invasions in many parts of world; cites case involving plan for invasion of Southern France. Lengthy description of trips: his trip to England to discuss with British various supply matters and his trip to Southwest Pacific and meeting with General Douglas MacArthur. Comments at length on Douglas MacArthur: his reaction to Eisenhower being selected as head of Allied forces in Europe in 1942 and Lutes' discussions of strategic priorities with MacArthur; comments on supply problems in Pacific; discusses problems with the Navy and mentions Admiral Nimitz. Describes operation of maritime transport systems.

Interview #3. Discusses inspection of system for supply of troops overseas. Comments further on planning process and difficulty in knowing what General Staff plans were. Detailed discussion of trip to China-Burma-India Theater: comments on Joseph Stillwell and Claire Chennault and their lack of cooperation; cites difficulties in keeping India supply lines open. Mentions Lutes' latitude for decision-making under General Somervell. Brief discussion of Italian campaign and Mark Clark. Talks about George Patton and slapping incident. Briefly talks about trip to Europe to discuss supply plans with Dwight D. Eisenhower.