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BARKER

BARKER, RAY W. (OH-331) 97 pages Open

Assistant Chief of Staff, War Plans Division, U.S. Forces in the British Isles, 1942-43; Deputy Chief of Staff to Supreme Allied Commander (COSSAC), 1943-44; Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1, SHAEF, 1944-45.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1. Observations by Barker and the interviewer as they examined Barker's manuscript collection for deposit in the Eisenhower Library (see Ray W. Barker: Papers, 1943-45). Short comments on how he chose his post military career, DDE's ability to plan military operations carefully, and Walter Bedell Smith's service as DDE's Chief of Staff.

Interview #2. Career developments, late 1941 and early 1942. Service as Assistant Chief of Staff, WPD, U.S. Forces in the British Isles: working with British officers in planning for build up of American troops in Britain; recommending officers to DDE for Operation TORCH. Service with COSSAC and planning for the Allied invasion of Europe: working with British General Frederick E. Morgan; Barker's ability to get along with the British; a "typical" day at COSSAC headquarters, and organizing the staff for a team effort; comments on various British and American officers at COSSAC headquarters; briefing Washington officials on COSSAC plans before the Quebec Conference. Observation on George C. Marshall's expectation of being named Supreme Allied Commander for the cross-channel invasion. Short notes on his career after the successful invasion at Normandy.

[Eisenhower Library Oral History Project Interview by Maclyn Burg, 1972]