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HALL, GEORGE: Papers, 1976-99

Accession 03-14
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The papers of George Hall were deposited in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library by his wife Carol-Ann Hall in May 2003.

Linear feet:	-1
Approximate number of pages:	400
Approximate number of items:	100

Mrs. Hall signed an instrument of gift for the papers on June 16, 2003. Literary rights in the writings of George Hall in this collection and in all other collections of papers received by the National Archives have been donated to the public. Under terms of the instrument of gift, the following classes of items are withheld from research use:

1. Papers which constitute an invasion of personal privacy of a living person.
2. Papers which are required to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy, and are properly classified.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

George Hall was a Professor of English at the University of Maine at Presque Island. In the mid-1970s he began to collect information for a biography of his aunt Mattie Pinette. Miss Pinette (1903-1999) graduated from the University of Maine and worked as a secretary for the National Bureau of Standards and the Civil Aeronautics Administration in Washington, DC. In 1942 she joined the Women's Army Corps and was assigned to Allied Force Headquarters in North Africa. On her way to Africa the British troop ship on which she was sailing, the Strathalan, was torpedoed by a German submarine. Pinette and several other WACs spent ten hours in a lifeboat before being rescued. At AFHQ Pinette worked for Robert McClure, head of the psychological warfare office, and also assisted the U.S. delegation to the Casablanca Conference. She was later assigned to the personal staff of Dwight D. Eisenhower and served as one of his secretaries in England. She was present at his headquarters on D-Day and compiled a detailed account of the events surrounding the invasion. After the liberation of France, Pinette, who was fluent in French, was assigned to the staff of Major General John T. Lewis, who was head of the SHAEF mission to the French government. After the end of the war she traveled to Palestine and Greece with U.S. diplomats to study local conditions. In 1946 she resigned from the Army and became a personnel officer at the Atomic Energy Commission, from which she retired in 1964. In later years she was active in the American Association of University Women.

In preparation for his biography, Hall interviewed Miss Pinette and persons who had known her. He obtained a copy of her D-Day narrative, and also an account she had written on the sinking of the Strathalan. Hall eventually wrote three short articles on Pinette's World War II service which were published in Echoes, a popular Maine magazine. Hall died before completing his full-length biography and his widow donated his research notes to the Eisenhower Library.

This collection consists of George Hall's research notes. It includes copies of his interviews with Miss Pinette, copies of his articles in Echoes, correspondence and drafts of his writings.

CONTAINER LIST

Box No. Contents

1 Items Transferred to Audiovisual

Articles – Echoes (1)-(3) [issues of a Maine magazine, 1998-99, containing articles by Hall on Mattie Pinette; includes a short biography; transcript of 1944 diary; account of sinking of troop ship Strathalan, Dec 1942]

Articles by Mattie Pinette (1) [draft speech re Atoms for Peace, ca 1957; draft speech in French re Strathalan sinking]

Articles by Mattie Pinette (2) [work for National Bureau of Standards; civil aviation; political appointees; airline companies; Charles Lindbergh; Hindenburg disaster; airmail contracts; social life in Washington; temporary job in Miami]

Articles by Mattie Pinette (3) [World War II experiences in England & France; transfer to DDE's staff; Jimmie Gault; Tex Lee; Harry Butcher; Kay Summersby; taking dictation from DDE; Bushey Park; living quarters; inspection trips by train and car; V2 rocket attacks; bomb shelters; burden of command; advance headquarters; move to France; encoding messages; John Moaney; DeGaulle, Juin & French commanders; transfer to General Lewis's staff]

Correspondence 1976-77 (1) (2) [John T. Lewis; Louise Locke re sinking of Strathalan, Kay Summersby; John S. Minary; Denis Mulligan; Mattie Pinette re Kay Summersby; Arthur Tackman re AEC; Katherine York]

Diary 1944 [typed copy of Pinette diary re activities at DDE's headquarters, June 2-14 and Aug. 5, 1944; preparation for D-Day; social activities; visits by Churchill & DeGaulle; DDE's visit to Normandy beach; typing reports to the Combined Chiefs of Staff; a transcript of the diary was published in Echoes]

Interview – Alene Drezmal, 1977 [WAC service; sinking of Strathalan; George Marshall and Casablanca Conference; replacement of personal items lost in sinking; social activities; living conditions; bombing raids on England; Ruth Briggs; Kay Summersby]

Interview – Mattie on Several Things Jan. 5, 1977 [AAUW: blacks, conventions; other retirement activities; Catholic church; WACs: reasons for joining, training; opinions on women in combat, need for standing military, foreign policy, Kennedy assassination, bomb threats, school discipline, Omar Bradley and George Patton]

Interview – Mattie on Casablanca [surrender of Germany: Soviet officers, press coverage, Edgar Kennedy, celebration in Paris; Maxwell Taylor and surrender of Italy; Algiers: living conditions, restaurants, bombing raids, life aboard ship after

rescue from Strathalan; AFHQ: work for Col. McClure, news of Darlan assassination, stockings, mail from home; Casablanca conference: secretarial services, staff, living conditions, Elliott Roosevelt & Ruth Briggs, FDR, Churchill and VIPs at conference, Capt. Durno, Carter Burgess, Mark Clark, French officers, food, British officers, comments on romance and marriage, support of relatives, family home]

Interview – Mattie on Greece and Palestine [psychological warfare: Hazeltine, Crossman, propaganda leaflets, infiltration of village in Sicily; study of Palestine by Ambassador Grady, action on Grady report; Bangor Daily News and aid to France; conclusion of Palestine study; Greece: Ambassador Grady, conditions in Greece, Greek interpreter, Crete; French theater; actors put in concentration camps; work for AEC: disposal of classified material, misplacing secret document; purchasing cigarettes in Greece; purchasing flowers for Gen. Patton's funeral; work for Gen. Lewis in Paris: social functions, friction between State Dept. and military mission personnel]

Interview – Mattie – Miscellaneous [vacations]

Miscellaneous Drafts by George Hall [outlines and drafts of proposed biography; notes re WAC history]

Newspaper Clippings

END OF CONTAINER LIST